

His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos

Most Revered Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop and fellow clergymen; Distinguished honorees; Ambassador Strauss, and Chairman Schreyer; Ladies and Gentlemen. It is with great pleasure and with great gratitude that I have accepted this great invitation of our highly esteemed friend, Rabbi Schneier, to attend this dinner, given in honor of these two distinguished gentlemen, known, not only to the city, but to the world; Ambassador Strauss and Chairman Schreyer.

One of the greatest philosophers of the world, Plato, once said that, "Each word used must designate and correspond to each true meaning." In this respect, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation has responded to this challenge as no other organization I know. Since its inception, it has appealed to the conscience of dictators and tyrants of Eastern Europe, who have chosen to keep their people in darkness and under their authoritarian rule. Soviet Union, Finland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Albania, were repeatedly called upon by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation to respond to the most sensitive part of their being, their long silenced and disregarded yet God given conscience.

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation was the one and only international and inter-religious organization, which they could not ignore, or disregard. The reasonable services rendered to the cause of religious freedom in human rights, and the relax-

ation of political constraints, can be matched by no other committee, commission, or delegation. The Appeal of Conscience Foundation can be justifiably proud of its record, and we must Thank God for one of his servants, Arthur Schneier, its founder.

This evening, we pay tribute and honor to two gentlemen, Ambassador Robert Strauss, who is now to be presented to you. His name is very well-known and respected by others. And also, we pay tribute and honor to the great gentleman called William Schreyer, the Chairman of Merrill Lynch.

What we have tonight really is just a particle of what we should have done earlier. Because these two gentlemen have been always active in the light of the pure conscience, both in national and international affairs. All of us present here tonight must be, or must feel honored by their presence. And I for one, on behalf of all of us, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I offer to them my most heartfelt congratulations and at the same time, my most profound wishes that they may live for long years and they continue to act in crystal clear conscience and ethos.

Thank you.