

Mayor David N. Dinkins

Dr. Stern, thank you for your kind words and your excellent chairmanship of this dinner. I'm told it is a record and these things do not happen by accident, so my congratulations.

First, let me acknowledge the Rev. Dr. Carl E. Flemister, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York, Trustee, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation; and the Most Rev. Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark, Trustee also. The reason that I have to first acknowledge the clergy is that I need all the help I can get and I want to stay as close as I can.

The number of accomplished and distinguished people present this evening far exceeds the amount of time we have available for acknowledgements, so with your permission, I will limit myself to extending special greetings only to my fellow speakers.

May I say, ShanahTova, to my friend Rabbi Arthur Schneier, President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Senior Rabbi at Park East Synagogue and Chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of Americas Heritage Abroad.

Good friends, it's nice to be with you.

And good evening to the Honorable Angier Biddle Duke, Mr. Ambassador, always a pleasure; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation; and to the Honorable Joseph Verner Reed - where is Joe Reed - not here - here - Special Representative of the United Nations, Secretary General

for Public Affairs, and the two highly deserving award recipients of the 1992 Appeal of Conscience Foundation Awards, Edwin Artzt, Chairman and CEO of Procter & Gamble Company, and His Excellency Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President of Mexico.

As Mayor of this wonderfully diverse City of New York, I have, I think, a special appreciation of the humanistic work carried out by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. So many of our objectives are identical. For example: to preserve the rights of all religious groups and to advance tolerance religious pluralism.

While the Appeal of Conscience Foundation works to alleviate tensions between nations, and we here, in New York, focus on tensions between different ethnic, racial or religious groups, we have 178 separate ethnic identities here, United Nations is ahead of us, they have 179 countries. But we share the same vision of a world in which all people can live out their lives in peace, freedom and security.

Our great leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." As part of its efforts, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation encourages international exchange programs that provide a forum for discussion.

Edwin Artzt, who has received the Foundation's Annual Award this evening, has used his position as a leader in the American business community to encourage international cooperation

through trade, education and a shared concern for the environment. His dedication is an inspiration to us all.

In the imperfect world in which we live, unfortunately not all leaders have the best interests of their countrymen at heart; those who do and who brave many obstacles in the pursuit of justice deserve our highest respect.

I was so pleased to hear you speak about children, sir. I agree, children are our future, and a child of three or four does not know how to be a bigot, has not yet learned to hate. They get it from us. So if each of us, if we work to be superior role models, the world would be a better place. So pleased to hear you speak about children.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, is just such a leader, cultivated enlightened and truly dedicated to the economic and social prosperity of the Mexican people; for his unflagging efforts to encourage Mexico's economic development while fostering social progress; upholding human rights, and working to protect Mexico's natural ecology, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation is awarding the 1992 World Statesmen Award to the President.

Martin Luther King said that "When evil men plot, good men must plan. When evil men burn and bomb, good men must build and bind. When evil men shout ugly words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love. Where evil men would seek to perpetuate an unjust status quo, good men must seek to bring into being a real order of justice."

The two gentlemen being honored this evening have demonstrated throughout their lives, the category of men to which they belong: they are good men. And the rest of us gathered here to pay tribute to them and to the indispensable work of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation seek to align ourselves with them.

Congratulations gentlemen. God Bless everyone here. Keep the faith.