

William A. Schreyer Remarks
Appeal of Conscience Award Dinner
New York, N.Y.
December 9, 1992

Thank you, Ambassador Duke, for that wonderful introduction. And many thanks to you, as well, Rabbi Schneier, for this award. It would be an honor at any time. At this time, in this company, and from your organization, it's a uniquely special honor.

I know how dedicated your own work has been, through the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, on behalf of human rights and religious freedom throughout the world, and especially behind what used to be the Iron Curtain.

Rabbi Schneier, I particularly followed your work with the Foundation's Conscience in Action Committee last month, gathering religious leaders of all faiths to help stop the atrocities occurring in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

All of us will certainly be praying along with you on December 23rd -- the day your committee has designated as one of common prayer for the afflicted in that tragic area.

Anyone who knows tonight's dinner chairman, Dwayne Andreas, knows the energy and true passion he brings to his own personal crusade against hunger in the world.

And I've followed with great interest and admiration Bob Strauss' recent work in Moscow, as he's brought all his legendary skills to bear in helping shore up the new foundations of freedom.

At Merrill Lynch, we're in the business of promoting prosperity, both here and abroad. It's part of our job to figure out what works and what doesn't, to continually assess the prospects of companies and countries. Doing this day-in and day-out deepens our appreciation of the central importance of free institutions.

To me, being here tonight is, above all, an opportunity to take part in a celebration of freedom, at a time when its advance has been breathtaking but many of its gains are still fragile.

For the West, as we poke through the debris of the collapsed communist system, there's a lesson we should all take to heart: Political freedom, religious freedom and economic freedom all really do come in one package.

You can't have any one of them without the other two and still succeed as a nation over the long term.

From an economic standpoint, one central lesson of the 20th century is that market economies work, and command economies don't. From a political standpoint, the lesson is that a

dictatorial state and a free economy can't co-exist.

And underlying both these lessons, as the Appeal of Conscience Foundation so wisely recognizes, is the core necessity for freedom of the human spirit and conscience, as represented by religious freedom.

For the Western powers, making freedom secure in the nations of the former Soviet empire is so important it transcends any differences among us. We must help the people of those nations build the economic infrastructure they need to make free markets work. We must help those who've never experienced free markets learn how to make them work. We must invest, but even more fundamentally, we must provide the guidance to help make this investment succeed.

As has been said so often, education really is the key -- to helping people prosper and lead fuller lives and to breaking down walls of intolerance and injustice that spring up where ignorance prevails.

With each passing year, the ties that link us in a single, interdependent global economy grow stronger. The present rescue operation in Somalia illustrates how dramatically our common

humanity can present us with a moral duty, even in places seemingly remote in time and circumstance.

The work in which Bob Strauss has been engaged for the past year and a half, the work he'll continue to pursue as a private citizen, involves one of the most important challenges of this century: Helping to transform what was once the world's most dangerous totalitarian nation into a country of free people and free institutions.

Bob understands government, he understands business, and he understands how to get people of different backgrounds and perspectives to work together constructively. I can't think of anyone better suited to have been our ambassador in Moscow during this critical period. I wish him well, and, Rabbi Schneier, I wish you well, in the continuing task of extending and bolstering freedom.

There's no higher cause, and it's a great privilege to have been a part of your celebration this evening.

Thank you very much.

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