

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 25, 1990

I am pleased to send my warmest greetings to everyone gathered in New York to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. My special greetings and congratulations to your distinguished honorees, His Eminence Cardinal Agostino Casaroli and Mr. Jay Pritzker.

Throughout our Nation's history, the free exercise of religion has not only enriched the lives of individual believers but also strengthened the moral fabric of our society. The American people's faith in God -- nurtured by our houses of worship and untainted by government interference -- has inspired our efforts to defend the cause of freedom and justice both here at home and around the world.

During the past year, we have celebrated the triumph of human rights and individual liberty in lands where citizens once had no hope for freedom. Thanks to dedicated individuals like Cardinal Casaroli and Jay Pritzker, believers in Eastern Europe and elsewhere have begun to enjoy the religious freedom to which all men are heirs. They have also begun to benefit from needed humanitarian assistance.

As Honorary Chairman of this special event, I am delighted to join all of you in saluting the exceptional work of your two award winners. Their efforts reaffirm my belief that, working together -- as business, religious, and political leaders -- we can encourage the continued expansion of freedom and opportunity around the world.

Barbara joins me in sending our best wishes for a wonderful anniversary celebration. God bless you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Bush", is located at the bottom right of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "G" and a stylized "Bush".