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Ambassador Okun is a dear friend who is very biased. I'm very moved by the introduction, but for a naturalized citizen, an immigrant boy who came to these shores in 1947, to have the privilege of repaying with gratitude the opportunity that this blessed nation offered is a privilege--and working with--and working with General Walters for the United States, for humanity--is really a milestone in my life, and I thank God of the present for it.

Your Eminence, Archbishop Manoogian, Dr. David Read, our Vice President, Angier Biddle Duke, my brother, and Chairman, and colleague--Ambassador Okun spoke with glowing terms about our work, and let me say to you, it could not have been done without the support and the cooperation and leadership of all

my colleagues, representing the major faiths committed to human dignity, to human rights, and religious freedom.

Your Excellencies, the Attorney General of the United States, Your Graces, and dear friends--first, I'd like to give a great round of applause of appreciation to a great business leader, but a God-fearing business leader. We eat his food, we sleep in his hotels, and eat in his restaurants--but few of you know Bill Marriott as a church leader. I salute Bill. He has served with distinction as Chairman, and was also the past recipient of the award--Bill Marriott. (Applause)

I also wish to express my appreciation to Ambassador Ronald Lauder. Ambassador Lauder has served our nation in Austria, in the Defense Department, and now has devoted his efforts and energies and talents to humanity--to improving the lot of men and women in different parts of the world. I express my appreciation to my new friend, and dear friend, Ambassador Ronald Lauder. (Applause)

If I may just say a few things about the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. Even before Columbus, there were some people who believed, and it's a bit after Columbus, and we still salute Columbus. Some people believed that if you sail westward on the Atlantic far enough, you would reach land, and Portuguese sailors determined that they would test this theory, and sailed out fifty and a hundred miles, and then came back, and said, "In our considered judgment, there is nothing there." Mind you, all of North and South America was

there waiting to be discovered, but the conclusion by these sailors, their verdict--"Nothing there." And, as Columbus later demonstrated, there was a whole new world out there for those who have the courage, the vision, the perseverance, and the persistence. And, we are the beneficiaries of this great discovery. We are the beneficiaries of America the Beautiful. We are the beneficiaries of a continent discovered. Why? Because Columbus persisted with courage and perseverance. We go back to the days when this foundation was established--and I want to remember one of the founders, Congressman Frank Dorn--may he rest in peace--a leading prominent Catholic clergyman, congressman--and my friends of the Catholic and Protestant Churches, and Greek Orthodox and Armenian Churches. When we first arrived in Moscow in 1966, and we met with the Deputy Chairman of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and we were inquiring about our co-religionist brethren. We were told in '65 there was nothing there. "Religion? it's for old people. Young people do not believe in it." And, this April, President Gorbachev met with the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, and publicly stated that religious workers and religious believers must make, and do make, a contribution to society, and must enjoy the same benefits. The Appeal of Conscience Foundation was represented at the millennium of the Russian Orthodox Church. I'm glad to see our great Ambassador, Jack Matlock, who worked so diligently, and Mrs. Matlock, for US-Soviet relations, here with us.

Way back in the sixties, there were many skeptics and cynics on both sides that said, "Nothing there." And look what happened. The Russian Orthodox Church celebrated the millennium. We see, certainly in this last year, a recognition on the part of the new leadership that they have nothing to fear from Catholics, or Russian Orthodox, or Jews, or Moslems. These are human beings who believe in something. We persisted--and so we lived to see the changes. We have a long way to go--everywhere in the world. I am particularly pleased and honored that the Foreign Minister of Argentina, and Minister of Religious Affairs, is now the privileged President of the General Assembly, Mr. Caputo, referred to our work in Argentina. They said to us, "Political prisoners--you'll never get them out. Nothing there." But we persisted and persevered. And we can go on and on talking about our work. But Angier Duke, and Dr. Read, and Father Campion, in 1970 went to Belfast and London and Dublin trying to be conciliators. Or, our latest mission, to Cuba, because we believe that Cuba has nothing to fear from men and women who want to express their religious conviction--and they will make tremendous and good citizens, as they do.

I'm glad to see in our midst my dear friend, Ambassador Han Xu, Chinese Ambassador to the United States. We first met in Beijing when he was head of the USA division. It was just the time--after the cultural revolution. There were changes. Churches, temples--closed--converted into factories, into

schools. And then the change. And then many people said, "Nothing there." And, if you go into China today, what a difference.

And I could go on and on and on, and whether we speak about all the other nations who are represented here (I don't want to bore you too long), but my conclusion, and the conclusion of my colleagues, friends, is we need the vision, the courage, the persistence, and the perseverance as we move into the 21st century--to improve the lot of men and women everywhere, to stress human dignity and religious freedom and human rights. And, above all, I want to conclude, before I speak about, and make a presentation, to Alan Greenspan, the young lad who offered his bedtime prayer with this after-thought. "And yes, dear God," he said after he concluded the prayer, "please take care of yourself. Because if anything happens to you, oh God, we are all sunk. If anything happens to you, oh God, we are all sunk." And, we believe in that. We believe that God, indeed, gives us the guidance, the courage. He is the eternal, and we are the mortal beings--transitory. And, if we can be co-partners with him to perfect an imperfect world, then we have a mission. And Alan Greenspan is a co-partner in perfecting the world. We have been traveling all over the world, and there's one basic conclusion--there is less ideology and more pragmatism all over the world. It's bottom line. You can talk ideology if you can feed the hungry. If you cannot support the

economy, the ideology is hollow--and Alan Greenspan understands this. And so, as guardian of the monetary system of the United States of America, as guardian of the American economy, he has shown vision and understanding of the world economic order. But, not only in terms of jobs, or not only in terms of statistics, but this humble, understated human being--born in the City of New York--a child of immigrant parents who came from Hungary and Rumania to these shores, to the land of immigrants. He studied here, received his B.S. in Economics, summa cum laude, M.A. and PhD from New York University. We share our alma mater. And then, advanced in Columbia University in graduate work. He has served with distinction as Federal Reserve Chairman since August 11, 1987. He was the Chairman of the President's Counsel of Economic Advisors from '74 to '77. He served on President Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board and the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. He is not only a man of statistics and figures and money, but, above all, has the sensitivity and understands that the economic order affects the human being. And, this is why the Appeal of Conscience Foundation salutes and honors Alan Greenspan. And, I would like him to step forward to receive this award. (Applause)