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President
APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION

ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION TO GIOVANNI AGNELLI FOR
THE APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION ANNUAL AWARD
DINNER, OCTOBER 15, 1985 AT THE PIERRE HOTEL,
NEW YORK CITY

This year we extend Columbus Day with Agnelli Day. My dear friend and past recipient of the Appeal of Conscience Award Coretta King has had the experience of having a day declared for Martin Luther King. It is not easy to add a National Holiday. We, at the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, are delighted to proclaim hence forth Giovanni Agnelli Day following Columbus Day.

It is Providential that we honor Italy's foremost citizen with the Man of Conscience Award tonight.

The management of terrorism has preoccupied U.S. - Italian relations these last few days. Governments make mistakes and leaders may blunder but the friendship between people endures. It is significant that we honor Giovanni Agnelli, who has devoted his life to strengthening the bonds between Italy and the United States. Tonight, through him, we reaffirm the ties between our two nations and note with great pride the enormous contributions of the Italian community to America.

We are also gratified to observe the Twentieth Anniversary of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. It is encouraging to see this Grand Ballroom filled to capacity with men and women representing different races, religions, nationalities, ideological and political persuasions.

All of us are aware of the need to live together and strive together to assure the survival of humanity. There is the realization that we either swim or sink together. We heard this evening from Mayor Ed Koch, Senator Lugar, and we will be hearing

from Senator Kennedy. These political leaders are with us to stress the importance of conscience in world affairs. I would like to use a Biblical frame of reference. The first fratricide quoted in the Bible between Cain and Abel has an important lesson for all of us. When God questioned Cain about his brother, he replied : " I know not, am I my brother's keeper." (Genesis 4,9). The credo of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation - we are our brothers' keeper when it comes to defending religious freedom and human rights. Another lesson from the Bible - God questioned Adam why he ate the Forbidden Fruit. He offered an alibi. It was Eve my wife - the woman you created, she made me do it. And when God turned to Eve she blamed it on the serpent. It is human nature to find excuses and alibis. We affirm tonight - there cannot be nor do we accept any excuses when it comes to assuming responsibility for justice and human dignity. We reaffirm the principle that we are all responsible for one another. This is the principle of collective responsibility that has guided Giovanni Agnelli in his business, career and public life. As head of FIAT he presides not only over the destiny of an industrial giant of 400 companies but also fulfils his responsibility with compassion and concern for the world and humanity. He is a citizen of Italy but acts as a citizen of the world with a global and not fragmented view - he looks at humanity as a whole, and is determined to better the human condition.

Giovanni Agnelli lost his father at the age of 14 and his grandfather, Senator Giovanni Agnelli the founder of FIAT, became his guardian, and mentor who molded and shaped the views and philosophy of his grandson. From his grandfather he inherited much more than an industrial enterprise but a value system that had freedom, liberalism and a love for humanity at its core. These values

motivated Giovanni Agnelli to join the Allies Armed Forces Fourth Army in the Campaign for the liberation of Italy and was awarded the Italian War Cross. He and his gifted wife Marella, are patrons of the arts and culture. They have two children, Edoardo and Magherita.

The word Agnelli means lamb - a symbol of peace. The Agnelli headquarters remains in the City of Turin. Its symbol toro - the bull - represents power and strength. Giovanni Agnelli uses his industrial power to advance the cause of peace, human dignity, social justice and international cooperation. This is why we are happy to salute him as a "Man of Conscience" who in all his endeavors has not lost sight of the human dimension.

It is a great pleasure for me to present you Mr. Agnelli with this Steuben Crystal Star with the inscription

"More things are wrought
by prayer than this world
dreams of"

May God give you and your wonderful family health and happiness to go from strength to strength.