

APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE

REMARKS MADE BY RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER, PRESIDENT OF THE APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION, UPON THE PRESENTATION OF THE "MAN OF CONSCIENCE" AWARD TO AXEL SPRINGER, HOTEL PIERRE, NEW YORK, OCTOBER 23, 1979.

As a survivor of the Holocaust, the presentation I am about to make to Axel Springer, is particularly significant. He and I both saw the tragic consequences of man's inhumanity to man. Neither one of us though, has given up on man.

Axel Springer, a proud and loving son of the German people, has made reconciliation his life's mission. He has made an historic contribution to bring about a better understanding between the German and the Jewish people. He remembers Ezekiel's Valley of the Dry Bones. "...Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Israel." (Ezekiel 37, 13.)

Inspired by his mother, Ottilia, a woman of valor, and his father, Hinrich, a leader of the Liberal Party of the Weimer Republic, he inherited a sense of justice that makes him stand up when others cringe and speak out when others remain silent. They instilled in him that love for humanity that has motivated him to perform the basic task of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, the task of bridge building between people and people.

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A strong advocate of German-American friendship, he has consistently strived toward the ideals which are at the foundation of the free world and Western thought. His voice, through the written word of the Axel Springer Verlag, has championed rejection of all forms of totalitarianism and the defense of the free market economy.

He believes in the distribution of his God-given blessings, and considers himself as an instrument and catalyst for the advancement of science, the arts, and education. He has invested heavily in strengthening institutions of higher learning in his own country, the United States and Israel. Students at Weizmann Institute, Hebrew University, as well as those at Brandeis, know the name of Axel Springer as their benefactor and patron.

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, to present the award to a Man of Conscience for his commitment toward reconciliation of people and the preservation of freedom and his lasting contribution to education in different parts of the world.

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