

APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION

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REMARKS OF RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER, PRESIDENT,
APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION IN PRESENTING THE
FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL AWARD TO
HIS EXCELLENCY HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
THE PIERRE HOTEL, OCTOBER 10, 1991

Let me say something about Hans-Dietrich Genscher. He is a modern German patriarch, a convinced European, and a true believer in close Atlantic cooperation. He and I and the Appeal of Conscience Foundation have had a close working relationship for years. I remember how many years ago we spoke about the lack of religious freedom in Albania. And would you believe it, today for the first time, right here in this room is the Charge d'affaires of Albania where religious freedom does exist today? And, Father Kishkovsky, President of the National Council of Churches, who is a member of the team, and Archbishop McCarrick and his Deputy were members of the team to Albania. And, look how the world has changed. Genscher and I were worrying about believers--70 percent Moslems, Catholics, Greek Orthodox, who couldn't enter a house of worship because all those places were closed. And, on this very evening, for the first time, we see the Charge d'affaires of Albania in our midst.

So, I'd like to salute Minister Frau Ursula Seiler-Albring. And, since German is my mother tongue, I must tell you that Ms. Albring deserves certainly mileage credit. She came this afternoon, she's leaving tomorrow--(and would you believe it?)--it's her first visit to New York.

Mayor Dinkins, I think we ought to roll out a red carpet. And, what we will do on behalf of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation--not only do we present you with the award to Mr. Genscher (which I hope you will accept), but before giving the award to Mr. Genscher, if you can be his Minister, you must be an extremely wise woman. And, the wisdom symbol is an owl. So, accept from the Foundation this owl in recognition for you being here with us at this auspicious occasion.