

Under Secretary-General Joseph Verner Reed

President Salinas, Ambassador Duke, Rabbi Schneier, Dinner Chairman Stern, Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen.

It is a special pleasure, both personally and as the Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to be with you here to salute the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and to honor tonight's distinguished awardees.

A special and very personal tribute and salute to my friend, the President of Mexico.

The Secretary-General's message which I am about to present, recognizes the importance of the Foundation to the United Nations and to the cause of Human Rights. It is very gratifying to be able to convey this recognition to my old friend, Ambassador Angier Biddle Duke, the Dean of the Former Chiefs of Protocol of the United States, and my distinguished predecessor in Morocco and to my friend, Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

I would like to add my, and those of my colleagues from the Secretariat, profound thanks for your support and assistance to the United Nations -- in difficult moments in the past and for your steadfastness with us in this new time of renewed confidence and great challenge.

I now have the honor to present the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. "I welcome this chance to send my greetings to all who have gathered for the annual Appeal of Conscience Awards Ceremony. I congratu-

late Mr. President, President of Mexico, President Salinas and Mr. Edwin Artzt, they represent two essential forms of contribution to a better world - public and private. The world needs both - great statesmen; great citizens.

For three decades, your Foundation fought for freedom. With the dark days of the cold war now over, freedom of religion and human rights have proven stronger than tyranny. These two great principles are linked. Religion sanctifies the individual and the individual freedoms must include the right of free belief.

The duty to protect these rights is never ending. Today, religious groups make war on each other. Secular forces attempt to suppress religious belief and human rights are denied by those who want to monopolize speech and thought. Those who carry out such acts of aggression do so in the expectation that it may be possible to eliminate thoughts and beliefs they do not share. Free governments and free peoples must deny that option. They must make it clear that all beliefs are protected, no matter how different.

Your Foundation works to protect these rights and the United Nations Charter calls for Human Rights to be respected without distinction to race, sex, language or religion. As we work to protect these principles, remember that they protect us. If we do not stand up for them, our own beliefs will come under threat.

The dedicated work of institutions like the Appeal of Conscience Foundation is indispensable to the cause of freedom. It is not enough to try to end conflict and stop suffering

important though that is. If, as the United Nations Charter commands, the world's peoples are to live together in peace as good neighbors, the work of eliminating hate and spreading understanding and tolerance must grow and never cease.

Please accept my thanks for your success in this work, I send my thanks as well to the two awardees you honor tonight. In this work, you all have my best wishes for an inspiring occasion.