

NINETEEN YEARS AGO WHEN POPE JOHN XXIII WROTE THE ENCYCLICAL, PACEM IN TERRIS, HE WAS, EVEN THEN, CONCERNED WITH THE STOCKPILING OF CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY THE MAJOR WORLD POWERS, THEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. IN HIS GREAT ENCYCLICAL, POPE JOHN PLEADED WITH THE U.S. AND RUSSIA AND OTHER NATIONS NOT TO PURSUE THEIR OWN GOALS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SECURITY OF OTHERS. HE FORESAW THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BRING ABOUT PEACE ON EARTH WAS TO BASE IT ON MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG NATIONS.

TONIGHT WE HONOR A PERSON WHO HAS DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO SIMILAR GOALS. THROUGHOUT HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER, AS DIPLOMAT AND AUTHOR, SCHOLAR AND PROFESSOR, GEORGE F. KENNAN HAS SOUGHT BY STUDY AND ACTION TO BRING ABOUT THIS KIND OF MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG NATIONS WHICH CONTINUALLY FIND THEMSELVES IN CONFLICT. HE HAS TRIED TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENTS TO PUT ASIDE THEIR SELFISH SHORT-TERM INTERESTS AND TO WORK INSTEAD ON MUTUAL OBJECTIVES WHICH WOULD SECURE THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF ALL PEOPLES.

ONE OF PROFESSOR KENNAN'S MAJOR CONCERNS HAS BEEN THE IMPROVEMENT OF RUSSIAN STUDIES THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND AMERICAN POLICYMAKERS WITH A BETTER BACKGROUND OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION. MR. KENNAN HAS URGED AMERICANS TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE WAS "ANOTHER GREAT PEOPLE, ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST, IN ALL ITS COMPLEXITY AND VARIETY, EMBRACING THE GOOD WITH THE BAD - A PEOPLE WHOSE LIFE, WHOSE VIEWS, WHOSE HABITS, WHOSE FEARS AND ASPIRATIONS, ARE THE PRODUCTS, JUST AS OURS ARE THE PRODUCTS, NOT OF ANY INHERENT INIGUITY BUT OF THE RELENTLESS DISCIPLINE OF HISTORY, TRADITION AND NATIONAL EXPERIENCE".

IT IS MOST APPROPRIATE THEN THIS EVENING, THAT WE PRESENT TO PROFESSOR GEORGE F. KENNAN THIS 1982 PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: