歓迎レセプション

総会













フルブライト夫人インタビュー

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フルブライト上院議員生誕100周年を記念して、ハリエット・フルブライト夫人が来日し、 最近の活動、フルブライト精神、国際平和への情熱などを語って下さいました。以下は、その 要約です。

Recent Activities of Mrs. Fulbright

It came to me, that now that my husband is no longer with us, that his ideas are still every bit as important now as they were when he spoke them or wrote them. And I don't see many people today with his stature especially, who are saying those kind of, presenting those kinds of ideas. And so I started the Fulbright Center in Washington D.C. in order to heighten the visibility of those ideas, and to implement them with specific programs, so that we could make them more visible, not only through the Internet and through my speeches, but also through activity. The first thing that I have done and completed is an hour-long film on Fulbright and his ideas. And this covers his whole adult life, and the major issues that he covered, starting with McCarthy and his opposition to the House on American Activities Committee, where he was the only senator who voted against McCarthy, and it was going on into, of course, the Vietnam War. Obviously, I have a great deal about the Fulbright Program and his activities with the U.N., as well in it. The second thing that I have been promised funds for, is the digitization of his papers, so that I can put his speeches and important correspondence on the internet, so that people do not have to travel all the way to Fayetteville, Arkansas, but can actually read them on the web. That will take me longer, because the digitization



is a lengthier program. It is those kinds of activities. The third thing that I am going to do is to put a section on a web site for the center, where Fulbrighters can write in and describe the effect of a Fulbright Program on their lives, because we have done no major research on the long-term effects of this international experience. It is very costly, and we don't have that many dollars, and also we want to spend those dollars more on grants for people to travel, than this. But this web site will be a wonderful way of collecting at least the data, making it available.

Fulbright Spirit

I think the Fulbright spirit arose, partly because he also was a member of a huge

family like mine. And if you are a member of a big family, you have to learn how to get along with other people. But it was much more than that. He because a Rhodes scholar, and he spent three years in England studying harder than he had ever studied in his life. And he learned the English, who are really quite different from us, as I think you know, despite the fact that our languages are close. Then he spent another winter traveling through Europe and learned German and French. So after the World War II, he held hearings about the effect of the atomic bomb, and realized that it was horrendous, and that we could not afford a third world war. And it came to him, thanks to the Rhodes scholarship, that if we could send, if all of our countries could send, put future potential leaders to live in another country, and begin to understand another culture and another way of being and thinking, that perhaps when they became leaders, they would be much more inclined to exchange ideas instead of bullets. That's how the Fulbright Program came about, and I think the Fulbright spirit is exactly that. Let us sit down and talk, exchange our hopes and our fears, instead of delivering ultimatums to one another. And in understanding what those hopes and fears are, we are much more likely to come to compromise and consensus between people. I have spoken with several ambassadors, certainly Japanese ambassadors, who said that because of their Fulbright scholarship, they were much better able to understand where we were coming, why our ideas were arising, and why they were so different from his country, from Japanese, and was able to bring the two together because of his deep understanding of the different cultures.

Messenger for World Peace

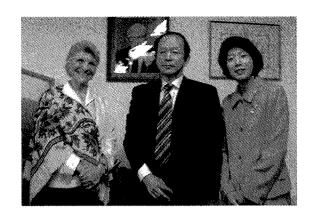
I was in Cypress earlier in October, and

then I went to California and gave three talks. Now I am here. A week after I return home, I will be in New Jersey to give a keynote speech at the NAFSA Conference, the National Association of Foreign Student Affairs. And four days after that, I will be in Akron, Ohio, to talk about citizen diplomacy. This is really important in this whole effort as I am a member of the planning committee of the Coalition for Citizen Diplomacy. That is a two-year-old organization of 35 major organizations, which are private and nonprofit. They are, for instance, like People to People, which is Mary Eisenhower's group, Sister Cities, World Learning and the World Affairs Council. Thirty-five of us all got together, decided that our country's reputation was seriously tarnished, as you know, and not enough people know about the millions of us who work hard, mostly as volunteers, for international activities. We are spending, this year, with regional and local conferences, trying to get the message out, and it will culminate next July in a national summit in Washington to spread our message, to gain more people working with us, and to make our activities more visible and better known.

I believe we are really at a critical point in our history, at a crossroads, and I'm not talking just about the United States, but about the whole world. Certainly the United States has a huge part in it because of their position. And I think that critical point has to do with a real grasp of the implications of our present day actions and on the future. I have been reading a fascinating book called Radical Evolution written by Joel Garreau. It talks about our immediate future. They feel that within this next generation, computers will be so small, thanks to nanotechnology, be hidden in walls. And robots will be so able to take messages, that it will be almost frightening. They will get closer and closer to human beings. The next parts of the book

describe a heaven scenario where we all just live in a world that is the best, unimaginable good and a hell scenario. We could easily turn to hell. And we could kill ourselves by the multimillions and end up with a planet in ashes. And then it finally gets into sort of, stumbling along for a bit, hopefully to a transcendence of these misunderstandings. I think it is the reason that I am not, sort of riding on cruise ships, and sitting drinking tea with my friends, but working as hard as I've ever worked. I think it will take all of us to work really hard, to overcome the hell scenario. It is all too real, especially as you see terrorism spreading around the world, and doing more and more damage.

Optimism has to come with understanding and empathy. Put one's self in another person's shoes. If I put myself in the shoes of many of the people who live in the Islamic world, I can well understand how frightened they must be. It is because of our culture, and because of our sort of attitudes, individualism, and freedom, and because of the vast difference in our fundamental belief systems. I think fundamentally, we believe, those of us who are religious believe in a



single, whatever you want to call it, Higher power, God, or Allah, or whatever. And I think we all would like to see peace. We would like to work towards peace and reconciliation of others. But, then you get into the finer points of daily living, including dress and relationship between men and women. Those can get to be very different. We've just got to work through an understanding of how each of us came to where we are. I don't believe in everything that happens in the United States. There are some things that I'm very opposed to. But that doesn't mean that I'm not fundamentally from that country, and that culture.