



Max M. Kampelman Papers

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REMARKS BY
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AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN LAW INITIATIVE
EXECUTIVE AND ADVISORY BOARD DINNER

Washington, DC,

April 28, 1997

We are recognizing tonight and paying tribute to two men who have chosen diplomacy as careers and as the means of serving our country. I know them both. John Menzies and I have the opportunity in the days and months ahead to be associated at the United States Institute of Peace. My particular role tonight is to honor Bill Montgomery.

Ambassador Montgomery's 23-year career and accomplishments and many talents are set forth in the brief biographical sketch already distributed to you, with emphasis on his splendid service in Bosnia and Bulgaria, and his various special relationships with the President and the Secretary of State. There is no need for me to repeat what you can read or to list the awards he has already received which reflect the high regard and respect for him shared by all who have worked with him.

Instead, I want to express a thought or two about the privilege these two splendid public servants have enjoyed. To serve our country is a special privilege. To advance the democratic values of our country, which they both have done with distinction, is an experience they will treasure for the rest of their lives. There are frustrations in life and serving your country and ideals does not exempt anyone from frustration and from frequent disappointments.

Our award tonight is a reminder that the greatest gift any of us can ever give to ourselves, to our children, to our country, to our future is to help build a spirit, a community, a structure which strengthens liberty, human dignity, democracy, the rule of law for others as well as for ourselves. That is the reason for CEELI's existence. Your energetic dedication to those objectives is the reason we honor you.

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