

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
FOR THE
TRAVEL PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Washington, D. C.
April 20, 1977

It is, indeed, a pleasure to be here today to discuss this vitally important program. It is also with a feeling of humility that I accept this gracious award which, in my estimation, should be given to those hundreds of U. S. businesses and business leaders who have made this program possible.

Since the program was established, the Travel Program for Foreign Diplomats has been financed completely from private contributions. Since that time, over 7,000 foreign diplomats have been able to see ordinary Americans at work and play in their cities and on their farms.

All too often the professional diplomat's impressions of our country are forged in the formal atmosphere of Washington's Embassy Row or at the United Nations in New York. It is within this narrow confine that perceptions are developed.

This program presents the human side of what America is all about. It allows diplomats to travel across the land, to live with Americans and participate in community life. Local businessmen show them

industry, farmers take them to plow fields or round-ups of livestock. Government officials discuss local, national and international issues. Civic leaders show them the role of community organizations. They attend the public schools of the children of their host families. They describe their countries to a range of Americans. In short, the program has introduced thousands of foreign leaders to our land, people, institutions, and economic system, while giving representatives of governments throughout the world opportunities to bring increased understanding of their countries to Americans.

Diplomacy is in itself the art of forging alliances of convenience.

Nations will achieve agreement when it is in their mutual interest to do so.

Yet, true human understanding, communications and friendship between people and nations are the vital force for peace in the world today. That is why the Travel Program for Foreign Diplomats is such an essential tool in today's world.

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