

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

FOIA Number:

S

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Davis, Mark, Files
Subseries: Subject File, 1989-1991

OA/ID Number: 13871
Folder ID Number: 13871-016

Folder Title:
Institute of International Education, 10/25/89 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	19	2	6	4

Davis/Martin
Oct. 18, 1989
Title: Study
Draft: One

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: INST. OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, Rm. 450
Wednesday, Oct. 25, 11 a.m.**

Thank you, Dick Krasno, Henry Kaufman, for this award. And I guess I should thank you for Sichan Siv, your former manager of Asian and Pacific programs, now with my Administration. Let me also say it's a delight to be among the supporters of the Institute for International Education, and so many students from so many foreign lands.

Let me tell you how I came to know your achievements, and to appreciate what you do. In the 1950s, Barb and I were raising a young family in Houston. We have many fond memories of those days: a time for cookouts, softball and tail-gate parties. But among our fondest memories is the delight of having young men and women from so many countries joining us for conversation and supper at our home.

We became involved with your Institute as a host family through a very good friend, Alice Pratt -- whose work is now being carried on in Houston by Fentress Bracewell. But it was Alice who taught us how much fun it is to show a young foreigner the way through the academic, business and social maze of a big American city. And, because of Alice, we learned that by seeing your country through another's eyes, we could be tourists at home.

Today, at the White House, when Barb and I dine with foreign visitors, our guests are rarely students. In fact, they tend to be presidents, prime ministers and foreign secretaries.\\ But we've noticed something that makes us think back to our Houston days: a very large portion of our foreign guests once worked and studied in the United States, often under the auspices of your Institute.\\ This can only be to the benefit of all countries.

But you do more than bring the world to America. You open the cultures of the world to our people as well. Mark Twain said that "broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

Thomas Jefferson, our first education president, perfected such a broad, wholesome and charitable view when he left the familiar Piedmont of Virginia to represent the American cause in France. In more recent times, many Americans have had the liberating experience of living abroad. Certainly, Barbara and I felt transformed by our China days, a time when we traveled the dusty roads of Beijing by bicycle. Days we will never forget.

Of course, we learned a lot about the Chinese people. But most of all, we learned a lot about ourselves. Every American who lives abroad returns home with a new perspective and deeper feeling for our native land.

Your Institute promotes this kind of understanding through 249 programs, assisting more than 10,000 people from 155

countries every year. Innumerable are the new friendships made; incalculable is the goodwill generated.

When your organization was founded seventy years ago, there was a belief that the exchange of students, scholars and professionals from country to country would promote peace and understanding. Some regarded that ideal as hopelessly naive. Some still do.

And it is true that the cynics can point to seventy years of conflict and suspicion. But I believe they miss the point. International exchanges are not a great tide to sweep away all differences. But they will slowly wear away at the obstacles to peace as surely as water wears away hard stone.

So I thank you for this award. Yet I can't help but feel I should be giving you an award, for all you do to promote peace and understanding. Thank you and God bless you all.

#

#

#