

Symposium Welcoming Remarks

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Dirksen Senate Office Building g-50

March 18, 2009, 1:30–5:30 PM

I. Welcome

- Welcome to the American Council on Education and Coalition for International Education's HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays 50th anniversary celebration. We are pleased to present this Symposium entitled *Critical Challenges in an Unpredictable World: Implications for U.S. Engagement* that includes a remarkable roster of speakers and panelists.

II. Appreciation

- On behalf of ACE and the Coalition, I extend our gratitude to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for their generous support and to Senator Richard Lugar and his staff for making this symposium venue possible.
- We also thank both Senator Lugar and Senator Christopher Dodd for their endorsement of this project and for their staunch support of international and foreign language education throughout their careers. We learned yesterday that Senator Dodd is not able to join us today but sends his regrets. Senator Lugar will be joining us shortly.

We are extremely appreciative of the support from the Senators and for the further support we've received by way of a letter from Secretary of State Clinton that I will share with you at this time:

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to bring greetings to each of you gathered for the American Council on Education and Coalition for International Education's joint celebration in honor of the 50th Anniversary of HEA-Title VI and the Fulbright-Hays international education programs. Please accept my sincere regret [that] I am unable to join you today for this important event.

Nearly 50 years ago, our leaders had the prescience to understand that investments in foreign language and world region education were vital to maintaining America's position of strength in the world. In tandem, Title VI

programs and their Fulbright-Hays overseas counterparts have proven essential tools for developing and maintaining international expertise among American students and educators. By combining opportunities for overseas study and research with domestic programs aimed at foreign language instruction and area expertise, they have helped generations of Americans seize opportunities and confront challenges on the ever-changing world stage. From the Cold War era to the current day, these programs have been essential for expanding the importance of international expertise to all aspects of modern life, from trade and technology, to healthcare delivery and national security.

I am proud of the landmark achievements of Title VI and the Fulbright-Hays international programs and remain incredibly heartened by their potential to help future generations of Americans prepare for the challenges we face in today's complex global era. Please accept my best regards on this significant occasion and my heartfelt hope for a successful celebration.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Our thanks go to Secretary Clinton for her support and for honoring this important milestone with such cordial remarks.

III. Overview of Title VI/Fulbright-Hays and Today's Events

- The creation of Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs in 1958 and 1961 respectively began a new era in international education in the United States. The launching of Sputnik in 1957 brought a dramatic shift to our way of thinking about the world. Recognizing a domestic lack of understanding of foreign nations, their cultures, languages and political, economic and social systems, Congress created this federal-higher education partnership to produce a reservoir of language and world area experts and research needed by government, business and education.
- Over the decades, as the world geopolitical and economic conditions changed, Title VI followed global developments and the partnership endured. Demands emerged for experts on many more countries and languages, as well as for globally competent Americans in a growing number of professions. Title VI and Fulbright-Hays continued to adapt and serve as the foundation for expanding and maintaining the nation's capacity in international and area studies and research, as well as in foreign languages, especially in over 200 less-commonly taught languages. Many of these languages would not be taught in our nation's colleges and universities without Title VI support.

- **Our theme for these 50th anniversary events is simple: In the 21st century, U.S. global competence is essential in our interconnected world.** To provide responsible leadership and maintain our place in the world, the nation needs not only a reservoir of deep expertise and research, but an American citizenry with knowledge of languages, cultures and world areas, combined with professional expertise. Title VI and Fulbright-Hays continue to play a significant role in addressing this challenge.
- The events today are designed to showcase a small portion of the vast scholarship associated with Title VI and Fulbright-Hays:
 - **The symposium** will offer insights into current global, political, social, economic, and cultural forces to assist our national policy makers and inform ordinary citizens and the media.
 - **The celebratory reception** will feature a video on Global Competence in the 21st Century, profiling Title VI and Fulbright-Hays beneficiaries who are using their language and area/cultural knowledge to make a difference in their chosen professions.
- It is important to celebrate this half-century milestone and showcase how Title VI and Fulbright-Hays have contributed to a more positive image of Americans around the world and benefited a spectrum of professions and people whose work and lives have been enriched by foreign language skills and international knowledge.

IV. MCB Introduces Lee Hamilton

- We are most fortunate to have with us our distinguished Symposium Chairperson, The Honorable Lee Hamilton; as well as Senator Luger; our keynote speaker, The Honorable Zbigniew Brzezinski; and a very distinguished group of panelists.
- Representative Hamilton is president and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and director of The Center on Congress at Indiana University. He served for 34 years in Congress representing Indiana's Ninth District, from January 1965 to January 1999.
- Since leaving the House, Representative Hamilton has served on the United States Commission on National Security in the 21st Century (the Hart-Rudman Commission), and was co-chair of the Baker-Hamilton Commission to Investigate Certain Security Issues at Los Alamos.
- Representative Hamilton also served as Vice-Chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States otherwise known as the 9/11 Commission.

- In March 2006 he was named co-chair of the Iraq Study Group, created at the urging of Congress as a forward-looking, bi-partisan assessment of the situation in Iraq.
- Representative Hamilton is the author of *A Creative Tension - The Foreign Policy Roles of the President and Congress; How Congress Works and Why You Should Care*; and co-author of *Without Precedent: the Inside Story of the 9/11 Commission and The Iraq Study Group Report*.
- I now pass the gavel for the afternoon to Representative Hamilton who will introduce Senator Luger and our keynote speaker. Please join me in welcoming him to the podium.