

NEWSLETTER

Martti Ahtisaari, Former President of Finland, Receives 2000 Fulbright Prize for International Understanding

The Fulbright Association awarded the 2000 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding to Martti Ahtisaari, president of the Republic of Finland from 1994 to 2000, on December 1 at a ceremony at the International Trade Center. The prize, which carries a \$50,000 cash award, is made possible by a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation.

(continued on page 12)

Vol. XXII No. 4

Martti Ahtisaari

A diplomat for more than 30 years and president of Finland from 1994 to 2000, Martti Ahtisaari has served as peacemaker in some of the world's most troubled areas. His commitments to strengthening civil society, extending democratic practices, and furthering peaceful cooperation and coexistence have repeatedly led foreign governments to seek his aid in resolving difficult and violent conflicts.

Martti Oiva Kalevi Ahtisaari was born on June 23, 1937, in the city of Viipuri. He graduated from the University of Oulu in 1959 and joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1965. President Ahtisaari held various posts in the Ministry's Bureau for Technical Cooperation from 1965 to 1972 and held the position of deputy director, Department for International Development Co-operation, the following year. He went on to serve as ambassador of Finland to the United Republic of Tanzania and was also accredited to Zambia, Somalia, and Mozambique.

In 1977 Martti Ahtisaari became United Nations commissioner for Namibia and in 1978 was appointed special representative of the secretarygeneral for Namibia. When his term as commissioner came to an end, he returned to Helsinki to serve in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The UN called upon President Ahtisaari once again in 1987, when he was appointed under secretary-general for administration and management. He retained the title of special representative of the secretary-general for Namibia throughout this time and led the UN's Transition Assistance Group in Namibia from 1989 to 1990. President Ahtisaari helped to supervise Namibia's move toward independence from South

Africa, playing a key role in ensuring a smooth transition through free and fair elections. In appreciation, the Namibian government made President Ahtisaari an honorary citizen.

President Ahtisaari assumed the position of secretary of state in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of

The Fulbright Association is proud to present

The J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding

to

Martti Ahtisaari President of the Republic of Finland 1994-2000

December 1, 2000

In recognition of his contributions to furthering mutual understanding among peoples

Finland in 1991. The following year, he was named chairman of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Working Group of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. He also served as special adviser to the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and to the UN secretary-general's special representative for the former Yugoslavia.

In February 1994 Martti Ahtisaari became the first directly-elected president of the Republic of Finland. During his tenure as president, he led Finland's entry into the European Union

> and took an active role in Finland's foreign and security policy. Since leaving office in February 2000, President Ahtisaari has continued his peacemaking efforts. In May the British government appointed him to the team overseeing the inspections of IRA weapons dumps in Northern Ireland. This summer the European Court of Human Rights asked President Ahtisaari to participate in a review of the Austrian government's record on human rights.

President Ahtisaari serves in leadership roles in several international institutions and foundations. He is cochairman of the EastWest Institute and serves as a member of the joint advisors' group for the Open Society Institute and the Soros Foundation. He chairs the Balkan Youth and Children Foundation and the Global Commission of the International Youth Foundation, as well as the international board of the War-Torn Societies Project. He is also a member of the

Board of Directors of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. Through these activities, President Ahtisaari maintains his commitment to improving the international community's ability to prevent crisis and conflict.

President Ahtisaari is married to Eeva Ahtisaari. They have one son, Marko.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott Honors President Ahtisaari

Before offering a few comments about your guest of honor, let me pay homage to the American statesman in whose name and memory we're extending that honor—the late J. William Fulbright. For many of us who came of age at a time when America's role in the world was an issue of difficult, often divisive debate, at home and abroad, Senator Fulbright was, quite simply, a hero. To many, including President Bill Clinton, he was also a mentor.

I'd like also to add my own acknowledgement of the presence here this morning of two other superb statesmen—one, Don McHenry, who served this nation in the executive branch, and the other, Lee Hamilton like Senator Fulbright—who served it in the legislative branch. The former is a good friend whom I've come to call "Don;" the latter is a good friend whom I will *always* call "Mr. Chairman."

In his leadership on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as the chair through 1994 and as the ranking minority member from 1995 until 1998, Congressman Hamilton set a high standard of good sense, toughmindedness, far-sightedness and civility of discourse; he has carried all those qualities over to his new job at the Woodrow Wilson Center—and to his latest chairmanship, of the Fulbright Prize Selection Committee, which has honored itself and, indeed, the United States in choosing Martti Ahtisaari as the 2000 Fulbright Prize recipient.

President Ahtisaari, too, is a hero. I regard it as one of the great privileges of my life to have been in harness with him during the spring and early summer of 1999, when he and Viktor Chernomyrdin joined in one of the most unusual, arduous, consequential, and successful diplomatic ventures of our time or of any other time.

Here's how I'd summarize it. First, the Ahtisaari-Chernomyrdin team closed the gap between Russia and the West—or, to put it differently, between Russia and the rest of Europe—on the issue of what it would take to end the bombing of Yugoslavia. Once they had done so, they became the ultimate tag team— Mr. Hammer and Mr. Anvil, we called them—and as such, they went up against the Butcher of the Balkans. To make a long story short, they pinned his ears back.

I'm referring, of course, to Slobodan Milosevic. You all remember him, I assume: he *used to be* the president of Yugoslavia (and what a pleasure it is to use that verb tense). The Hammer-and-Anvil duo persuaded Milosevic that there was nowhere to run, nowhere to hide, nothing to do but to withdraw all Serb forces from Kosovo and permit the hundreds of thousands of refugees to return to their homes under the protection of a UN-authorized, NATO-led, international force.

The latest version of the story is in President Ahtisaari's new book, Tetava Belgradeesa, which I very much look forward to reading once it exists in a language I can understand. But I can already, with confidence, offer the following indisputable mini-reviewa sort-of anti-blurb: President Ahtisaari's book is not the last word on the subject. Why? Because it's too modest; it doesn't do justice to the hero of the story; it understates the author's fortitude, ingenuity, and skill in cracking heads-and that means Russian heads, Yugoslav heads, German heads, and, once or twice, an American head to which I'm personally quite attached.

You know, Mr. President, I suppose we could rely on General Ivashov to do full justice to the adventure we shared in his own book, which is also just out; but I may actually have to tell the story myself someday, just to make sure that you get the credit you deserve for your



President Martti Ahtisaari and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

indispensable role not just in bringing peace to the Balkans but in doing so in a way that preserved the sometimes precarious but strategically vital goal of Russia's integration into the new Europe.

I believe President Ahtisaari was able to succeed in this prodigy of diplomacy for three reasons. First and foremost because of his personal qualities and convictions. Second, because he drew on his many years of experience as a creative peacemaker in Bosnia and in Africa, where, I am reliably told, many young Namibians proudly bear the name Martti. (Perhaps I should leave it to President Ahtisaari to clarify exactly how that came to be.) And last but not least, because he was able to draw upon his special moral and political authority as the head of state of Finland, a nation that has demonstrated, especially since the end of the cold war, that it has an exemplary and salutary role to play in the world.

Under his leadership, Finland leveraged its position in the emerging security and economic structures of Europe to do good while doing well; he

(continued on page 4)

Ambassador Donald F. McHenry Presents "Tribute" to Martti Ahtisaari

It is indeed my pleasure to appear here in several capacities, the first as a member of the board of directors of The Coca-Cola Company and its foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, which for eight years have participated in this event by providing the monetary resources for this prize. In addition, members of The Coca-Cola Company staff have been very much involved in the ongoing activities of the Fulbright Association, with Dr. Fenton-May, a former Coke associate, serving on the board.

I have a second reason for being pleased to be here, and that is that this is an occasion to honor my old friend Martti Ahtisaari. Martti and I worked together in many ways similar to the way in which Strobe Talbott and Martti worked. Through their association, they were able to bring the Kosovo crisis to a close relatively quickly, though I'm sure it didn't seem that way at the time.

But when I set out with Martti to negotiate a resolution for the United Nations in Namibia, it took about three years to negotiate. I left the government and it took Martti 10 more years to implement. He did it with extraordinary skill and with a very great sensitivity. His most powerful weapon was a little diplomatese. We said that the parties had to perform to the satisfaction of the special representative—that was Martti. What in the world did those words mean?

Martti knew that he had in his hands the equivalent of an atomic bomb. He knew that if he simply refused to accept what was proposed, the whole implementation of the Namibia peace plan was finished. It would be at least interrupted. But like an atomic bomb, he could use it once and no more. His skill was in knowing how to keep that weapon in reserve. He didn't flash it; everyone knew that he had it and on occasion, he reminded them that he did have it. And he succeeded in bringing to a close



Donald F. McHenry, director, The Coca-Cola Company and President Martti Ahtisaari with the sculpture "Tribute," by Sergio Dolfi, presented to President Ahtisaari on behalf of The Coca-Cola Company.

relatively peacefully the independence of Namibia.

I have been and will always be grateful for having worked with him during that period of time. Martti's work has been one which has carried him to different parts of the world. His range of associations is extraordinarily broad, and he brings perseverance, he brings insight, and most of all he brings a sensitivity, a desire to get to know and to understand the people with whom he works. To get to know and understand their perspectives, their experiences, their sensitivities. And in the final analysis, that is also what the Fulbright Prize is about and is also what J. William Fulbright was about when he set up the Fulbright Program.

So on behalf of The Coca-Cola Company, on behalf of the Coca-Cola system around the world, of thousands of employees in more than 200 countries, I am pleased to present this sculpture, created by Coca-Cola associate Sergio Dolfi, this "Tribute," to Martti Ahtisaari.

Strobe Talbott's Remarks

(continued from page 3) personally enhanced his country's international standing and effectiveness, improved the Baltic-Nordic neighborhood and gave the world as a whole a model of how globalization can and should work. It was a double stroke of good fortune not just for Europe but for the trans-Atlantic community as a whole-for the U.S. and Canada to the West, for the Russian Federation to the Eastthat Finland held the rotating presidency of the European Union in the second half of 1999, and that Martti Ahtisaari occupied the presidency of Finland during that period.

Finland is a non-aligned country. It is without prejudice to that status, and without any affront to America's 18 fellow members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, that I'll let you all in on a little secret: many times over the last several years, we here in Washington, grappling with the problems of the new Europe, have commented to ourselves that Finland is one of America's best allies. I stress that we were using the word in the Webster's dictionary sense of a sovereign state united with another in a common cause. The common cause in question can be simply stated: democracy, along with respect for individual and communal rights, is the only reliable basis for both national governance and international peace.

Advancing and defending that common cause is not so easy, especially in parts of the world—including parts of Europe—recovering from decades if not centuries of tyranny and strife. It's a common cause that needs leaders of the kind we have been lucky enough to have in Martti Ahtisaari—who has served as both a hammer and an anvil in forging a better world.

Fulbright Prize Address

Martti Ahtisaari Speaks to Fulbrighters

I t is a great honor to be awarded the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding. The list of past recipients of this prize is truly impressive and I feel privileged to be in such company.

I am particularly pleased to receive an award whose first recipient was Nelson Mandela. In accepting the inaugural Fulbright Prize in 1993 President Mandela called Fulbright Program participants "men and women who have chosen the world to be the theater of their efforts." He observed that Fulbright and other international educational exchange programs have now produced generations of men and women who are not satisfied with addressing and solving problems only within the borders of their own countries. It is upon the vision, skills, and dedication of such people that we must call to solve today's conflicts.

In my office, I have two paintings and a piece of quarry rock from Robben Island given to me by President Mandela. The maximum security prison on Robben Island is where Mandela spent the bulk of his 27-year imprisonment. The piece of rock symbolizes for me the persistence and determination that can overcome even the greatest difficulties. It reminds my visitors and me daily that no problem is too difficult to be solved. This lesson of persistence is one that I would like to carry across to my own continent.

I plan to speak to you today about my experience of conflict resolution in Kosovo and about the future prospects of the Balkan region. The Balkans have been in the spotlight of international attention throughout the past decade. The disintegration of Yugoslavia resulted in four armed conflicts—on the territories of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo—and in immeasurable human suffering. We have all witnessed what inciting hatred and intolerance can lead to.

More recently, we also had the privilege to witness in Serbia the toppling in an election of the man who carries much of the responsibility for the violence and destruction. With the removal of Slobodan Milosevic from power, new possibilities have opened up for stability and prosperity in Yugoslavia and throughout the Balkan region. Elections have also brought moderate forces into power in Croatia and Kosovo. Montenegro has held its reformist course. Bosnia-Herzegovina is recovering slowly. Albania and Macedonia have resisted being destabilized.

These gains must now be consolidated. This will require longterm involvement and a joint highintensity strategy in the region by the United States and the European Union countries. I will return to some of the concrete regional challenges towards the end of my speech.

The Kosovo Peace Process

But I will start with my mission in the spring of 1999. My involvement in the Kosovo peace process was fairly short, only about eight weeks. It started with a phone call from Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott on May 5, 1999, and finished with the withdrawal of the Yugoslav army from Kosovo and the subsequent ending of the NATO bombing campaign. This was an extremely intensive time period with a lot of excitement and great speed. For many of my team, the night we spent in Belgrade after presenting the terms of the peace offer to President Milosevic was the first full night's sleep for weeks.

By the beginning of May the crisis had become more and more problematic for the international community. The air strikes had been



Martti Ahtisaari

in progress for several weeks, but it was increasingly obvious that bombing alone would not lead to a military solution. Although diplomatic efforts had already failed once, it became necessary to step up the search for a political solution.

The initiative to involve me in this process emerged from talks between the Americans and the Russians in Washington in early May. They considered it necessary to bring in a third party. Soon after they contacted me, I discussed the matter also with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. Germany held the EU presidency at the time and the chancellor proposed that I represent the Union as a whole in efforts to resolve the crisis. I saw this as the only sensible solution.

Naturally, I considered it my duty to agree to the request made to me in early May. However, I did not consider my prospects to be very promising. Already during the first round of contacts, it became evident that there were substantial differences of view on the terms that might form the basis for a solution. That was what made it so important to get American, Russian, and EU representatives around the same table to discuss their differences.

My approach in these trilateral talks between the teams of Deputy Secretary Talbott, President Yeltsin's special envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin, and myself was simple: rather than becoming wrapped up in questions of prestige, we would concentrate on issues that were both practical and central. How could the conditions in which the refugees could return safely be created? What kind of presence would the international community have? How would the withdrawal of the Serbian forces be effected? What would be the nature of the interim international administration?

I had been convinced from the outset that an international presence would be credible only if it had a robust mandate and if it was based on contributions from the core NATO countries and also NATO-led. It was necessary to have American, British, French, and German troops participating in the Kosovo peacekeeping force. Otherwise the refugees would not dare to return to their homes. Eventually, also the Russians accepted these principles, or at least their core elements.

In these negotiations, Strobe Talbott was indefatigable in his efforts to analyze the ever-changing and complicated situation and to find a solution. His imagination and diplomatic skills were absolutely essential to taking things forward. The Russians suggested to me at one point that Talbott be replaced by either Secretary of State Albright or Vice President Gore, but I thrust aside this idea by saying that it was important to have someone who knew the substance and had the full confidence of his president.

The achievement of agreement between NATO and the Russians made it possible for me to go to Belgrade with Viktor Chernomyrdin at the beginning of June. Four weeks of constant hard work yielded fruit: there was not the slightest disagreement between us when we presented the peace offer to President Milosevic.

Mr. Chernomyrdin and I carefully outlined the content of the peace offer to

the Yugoslav political and military leaders and, after we had replied to their questions, they withdrew to consider their response. The following day, the offer that we had brought was presented to the Serbian Parliament and the Yugoslav Federal Government, both of which accepted it.

Diplomacy or Bombs?

The question about what made Milosevic accept the terms of the peace offer has often been phrased in terms of juxtaposition. Was it diplomacy or bombs that ended the war?

I still think that, irrespective of the actual damage done by the air strikes, the bombing campaign achieved its central aim. It demonstrated that the NATO countries involved were serious. I am certain that Milosevic

I do not count myself among those who hold onto the concept of sovereignty in its old sense. In my view, the highest source of sovereign power rests with the people of a state.

would not have accepted the offer with which I went to Belgrade, had it not been for the bombings. He may also have been aware of the increased readiness of some of the NATO allies to send in ground troops.

The evidence has also led me to believe that the Russians had their own plan for Kosovo, of which Milosevic was aware. This could have been another factor in the rapid acceptance of the peace settlement by the Yugoslavs. In the negotiations for the composition of the Kosovo Force, the Russians had insisted on having a separate Russian sector in Kosovo. When they were unable to secure agreement for their demand, the Russian military made a dash for the Pristina airport and arrived there before the British and American troops. I have come to believe that the plan by the Russian military was to hold parts of Northern Kosovo and the capital Pristina with the support of Russian troops. This might have led to the eventual division of Kosovo.

The secret plan of the military did not succeed. Its implementation was prevented by the refusal of the neighboring states of Yugoslavia to allow the Russians to use their airspace. They were thus unable to send reinforcements and provide logistics for the troops at Pristina airport. The stand-off between the Russian and British troops at Pristina airport continued over the period of a few days, however, and the Russians tried to use their soldiers as a means of bargaining for a more significant role within the Kosovo Force.

Now that things have settled, the Russians have participated in KFOR in a committed and constructive manner. I have often heard the claim that I saved NATO. But as I told a Russian journalist just two weeks ago in Moscow, we in fact also saved Russia. Had the agreement not been reached, it would have brought even more forcefully forward the doubt that the Russians did not share the same values as the United States and the Europeans. This would have isolated Russia—to everyone's detriment.

Humanitarian Intervention

In the aftermath of my involvement in the Kosovo negotiations, I have given quite a bit of thought to the concept of humanitarian intervention which is what the Kosovo bombings amounted to.

I do not count myself among those who hold onto the concept of sovereignty in its old sense. In my view, the highest source of sovereign power rests with the people of a state. I strongly believe that if a government flagrantly violates the human rights of its people, outsiders have the right to intervene on behalf of the people always when possible with the blessing of the UN Security Council. With the genocidal crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina in fresh memory, there was no need to second-guess the readiness of Milosevic's regime for violence in Kosovo.

The Kosovo crisis showed that the populations in Western democracies no longer tolerate such levels of violence. Everyone was able to witness from their own living rooms the columns of refugees fleeing Kosovo and the cruelty and human suffering caused by Milosevic's tactics. The pressure to act was enormous. People demanded that something had to be done.

Milosevic's Defeat

I believe that Serbian society has now itself begun reflecting on the crimes committed in its name. There have been some very brave and forthright individuals who have spoken out about the atrocities that members of the Yugoslav special forces committed in Kosovo, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in Croatia.

I believe that this new mood was also one of the causes for the revolt against Milosevic during the first week

A stable, democratic, and prosperous Europe, at last united, is a vision shared by all of us.

of October. Since the beginning of this year, polls in Yugoslavia had been showing that Milosevic's support base had collapsed. Milosevic himself was too isolated from the lives of ordinary citizens to understand the profound change that had occurred in Serbian society. Once the opposition was able to unite around a single candidate, Vojislav Kostunica, the opinion polls consistently predicted an opposition victory. Still, defeat seemed to come as a complete surprise to Milosevic himself, as well as to many Western leaders and the leaders of neighboring countries.

A poll publicized on September 5, 2000 showed Kostunica in a 2:1 lead over Milosevic. In discussions with members of the democratic forces of



Serbia, I became convinced beyond a doubt that the poll data was correct. And I was worried about the possibility of violence in the face of the opposition's victory.

On the occasion of handing over the report on Austria's human rights situation to President Jacques Chirac on Friday, September 8, I told him that the Serbian opposition would win: what would the West do if Milosevic were to open fire on hundreds of thousands of demonstrators? I also called Prime Minister Tony Blair and handed over a memo on the situation to American policy makers. I saw that it was important to sound a wake-up call to the West to recognize a new situation and to prepare for the change of power in Yugoslavia.

When Milosevic tried to obfuscate the result to get a second round, most political observers in the West believed that he would cling to power with the support of the army and police. At the same time, already during the counting of the votes, it had become clear that even the great majority of the security forces supported Kostunica over Milosevic. The Serbian opposition supporters took heart when seeing that the police refrained from using force against the striking miners in Kolubara. The police stood by again on October 5 in Belgrade when the crowds took over the Federal Parliament building.

Post-Election Challenges

After the jubilation in Belgrade over Kostunica's victory, the real challenges for the region remain. These include rebuilding the economies of Yugoslavia and the other countries of the region, creating democratic administrative structures and institutions, and bringing a functioning civil society into being. They also include resolving questions on the status of Montenegro and Kosovo in relation to Yugoslavia and creating a functioning state in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The key now is to maintain the level of engagement by the Western countries in supporting the region on its road to stability and prosperity. Milosevic has left the economy of Serbia in ruins. The state reserves had dwindled to a mere \$350 million. Serbia's energy debt to Russia alone was some \$400–450 million.

The other economies in the region have also been hit extremely hard. The job of reforming and building the institutions to enable economic recovery will not be an easy one.

We must be prepared to remain involved for the long term, for 10 or 20 years—until the job is done. Our joint commitment to the Balkan region must be no less than that of the commitment of the United States in building up Western Europe after the Second World War. A stable, democratic, and prosperous Europe, at last united, is a vision shared by all of us.

The Future of the Balkans

Rebuilding key public institutions is the most urgent need of both Serbia and all of its neighbors. Without a solid institutional framework for the exercise of public power, free and fair elections will not lead to representative or accountable government. Without effective institutions to implement the rule of law, states will not be able to provide protection of human rights and minority rights. Without stable economic regulatory structures to establish a climate favorable to business enterprise, neither privatization nor trade liberalization will generate sustainable economic growth.

The countries of the region face major difficulties in reforming themselves, and may become trapped in a cycle



Ambassador Donald F. McHenry, Fulbright Association President Frederick G. Acker, President Martti Ahtisaari, and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

of unsuccessful reforms. Weak public administrations are called on to carry out reforms that are beyond their human and budgetary resources. The countries of the region are unlikely to be able to emerge from this cycle without significant external assistance.

Reforming Core Institutions

It is important to set clear priorities and to concentrate resources on reforming the core state institutions, among which are reliable law enforcement structures, a functioning central bank with stable fiscal and monetary policy, and tax and customs administrations capable of collecting revenue for the state budget.

The traditional democratization approach stresses the development of the NGO and independent media sectors. These are important as a healthy counterbalance to state power, but as long as the state itself is unable even to deliver basic public goods and services, such as providing for the rule of law, the role of civil society remains limited.

The challenge for all of us is to find more high-intensity ways to help strengthen public institutions in Southeastern Europe. This is the most direct way of addressing a range of international objectives, from economic development to promoting responsible governance. It is also the only path to long-term political stability in the region.

Senator Fulbright's Vision

In the beginning of this speech, I spoke of the rewards of persistence. After the Second World War, the political leaders had a vision, which brought stability, prosperity, and democracy to war-torn societies of Europe. Among those leaders was Senator J. William Fulbright. Last year the U.S.-Finnish Fulbright exchange marked its 50th anniversary. I would like to salute this exceptional program for the educational and cultural opportunities it has given to my compatriots and to the Americans who have come to Finland under its auspices. Throughout the world more than 200,000 individuals have participated in

Fulbright exchanges. I share Ambassador Eric Edelman's view that the Fulbright Program is one of the United States' "premier vehicles for intellectual engagement with the rest of the world and one of its wisest investments in the international arena."

What is needed now is a similar vision and commitment, because the task still ahead of us in stabilizing the Balkans is even more complicated and demanding. We have no alternative but to persist.

Thank you.



Ambassador McHenry, President Ahtisaari, Fulbright Association Executive Director Jane L. Anderson, and Mr. Acker.

2000 Fulbright Prize Ceremony & Reception



President Ahtisaari and Wiltrud Hammelstein, president, Fulbright Alumni e.V., Germany.



Robert M. Whiting, board member, The Fulbright Center, Finland; Fredrik Forsberg, government secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland; President Ahtisaari; Leila Mustanoja, executive director, The Fulbright Center; and Jaakko E. Laine, president, Finnish ASLA-Fulbright Alumni Association.



Fulbright Association Greater New York Chapter President Alison L. Gardy and Rita Hegde, assistant dean, SUNY Farmingdale, LIEOC. Ms. Gardy joined the Association's Board of Directors on January 1.



Fulbright Association board member Anthony Viscusi, President Ahtisaari, and Association board member R. Fenton-May, a member of the 2000 Fulbright Prize Selection Committee.

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Martti Ahtisaari Receives 2000 Fulbright Prize

(continued from page 1)

A diplomat for more than 30 years, President Ahtisaari has served as peacemaker in some of the world's most troubled areas. His commitments to strengthening civil society, extending democratic practices, and furthering peaceful cooperation and coexistence have repeatedly led foreign governments to seek his aid in resolving difficult and violent conflicts.

Lee H. Hamilton, chairman of the international selection committee for the 2000 J. William Fulbright Prize, said, "Martti Ahtisaari's tremendous contributions to international peace and understanding span many decades and several regions of the world."

"President Ahtisaari's career reflects a long-standing and deeply held commitment to international reconciliation and understanding, added Mr. Hamilton, director of The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a former chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on International Relations. "His extraordinary work and steady leadership are to be commended. His many achievements-at the United Nations, as president of Finland, and as citizen of the world-explain the great esteem he enjoys in the international community."

The Fulbright Association created the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding in 1993 with a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize extraordinary contributions toward bringing peoples, cultures, or nations to greater understanding of others. Recipients of the award are former South African President Nelson Mandela, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, former Philippine President Corazon C. Aquino, Czech Republic President Václav Havel, former Chilean President Patricio Aylwin Azócar, and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson.

Frederick G. Acker, then-president of the Fulbright Association's Board of Directors, said, "President Ahtisaari is one of the great peacemakers of the 20th century. He has spent much of his distinguished career brokering solutions to seemingly hopeless conflicts in Namibia, Kosovo, and Northern Ireland. Namibians so appreciated his efforts over 13 years in achieving their peaceful independence that they granted him honorary citizenship."

As special representative of the United Nations secretary-general for Namibia, President Ahtisaari negotiated Namibia's independence from South Africa and played a key role in ensuring a smooth transition through free and fair elections.

In 1992 President Ahtisaari became involved in the former Yugoslavia, heading the effort to draft a plan to divide Bosnia into a series of autonomous provinces and allow for the return of refugees. In 1999 he was asked to serve as mediator in Kosovo, working with former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott to negotiate with former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and bring an end to NATO military intervention.

Serving on the international committee convened by the Fulbright Association to select the 2000 laureate were Dr. R. Fenton-May, former director of operations development, The Coca-Cola Company; Mr. Herman Liebaers, member of the Royal Belgian Academy; Ms. Leticia Ma Tay, rector, Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana, Honduras; Dr. Hassan Mekouar, professor, Mohammed V University, Morocco, and former president of the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange; and Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, president, Tel Aviv University, Israel, and former Israeli ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Fenton-May, Mr. Liebaers, Prof. Mekouar, and Prof. Rabinovich received Fulbright grants to the United States.

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