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ICUS XII (1983) -- WELCOMING REMARKS

Chicago Marriott Hotel

Good morning and welcome to the Twelfth International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences. We have come a long way since our first conference in New York in 1972, with 20 participants representing eight nations. We reached a high point in terms of total numbers of participants at the Tenth ICUS in Seoul, Korea in 1981 where we had 808 participants representing a hundred nations. I thought that you would be interested to know that at this twelfth conference although we have reduced the number of participants to 311, nevertheless, they represent 113 different nations. And we're proud not only of the conferences but of the various spin-off activities that they have generated: the Professors World Peace Academies all over the globe, Paragon House Publishers as a vehicle for taking a lot of the very important material which is discussed in this conference and distributing it all over the world in a number of different languages and public policy recommendations such as those which will be issued by the Washington Institute for Values in Public Policy. Before beginning our program and formally opening this plenary session, I would like to take a moment, as you see in your program toward the rear, we are all very saddened to mark the passing of Dr. Ulf von Euler, a frequent vice-chairman and a great friend of ICUS over the years. And I would like to suggest that we rise and pay respect with a moment of silence to the memory of Dr. von Euler.

Thank you very much. As you can see by the schedule in this year's conference program, which you either have received on registration or will receive when you do register, if you haven't already, we have allowed a good deal more time for discussion and some opportunity for participants from one particular committee to sit in and observe the activities of a lot of other discussion in other committees. I hope you all take advantage of that, and if you do have comments about the organization of this year's program, please let us know. They will be very gratefully received.

This year ICUS is again pursuing its transition toward producing material which is publishable. All the committees met at least once before gathering here to review their drafts and their concepts. And as such the quality of discussion should be greatly enhanced by that additional preparatory effort on the part of the paper writers. And I trust that you will agree.

In addition we have physically arranged the discussion settings a little bit and the ground rules may be a little different from committee to committee. So you will need to ask when you enter each committee room in some committees the participants and discussants will have the first two hours, or one and a half hours for their discussion while others who are not part of that committee simply observe, and then questions will come at the end. The exact time split may be different, it is completely at the discretion of the committee chairman. It is very fitting that we are holding this conference in Chicago for a

number of reasons. Our very distinguished organizing chairman who has supported Dr. Wigner throughout the year, Dr. Morton Kaplan, is at the University of Chicago and he has acted as organizing chairman for the last four conferences. This will be his final conference as organizing chairman and so it seems quite appropriate that he brings it home to Chicago. Our executive director, Richard Wojcik is also from Chicago and this will be his last conference as the executive director. More than that I think Chicago perhaps represents the quintessential American city. And I am going to make you endure my voice a little longer while I read you something that I was reminded of in thinking about the city of Chicago by Theodore Dreiser in his work *The Titan*. "The city of Chicago, the singing flame of a city; this all America; this poet in chaps and buckskin; this rude raw titan; this burns of a city. By it's shimmering lake it lay, a King of shreds and patches; a mondering yocal with an epic in its mouth, a tramp, a hobo among cities. With the grip of Ceaser in it's mind, the dramatic force of Euripedes in it's soul. Take Athens, O Greece. Italy, Keep Rome. This was the Babylon, the Troy, the Nineva of a younger day. Here came the gaping West and the hopeful East to see. Here hungry men, raw from the shops and the fields, idols and romances in their minds, builded them an empire, crying glory in the mud."

Since the theme this year is a new cultural revolution, then I thought it's appropriate that we gather in a sense, crying glory in the mud. Looking for a better world, unwilling to accept the things we see, but determined to make our best positive efforts to improve all that we can take responsibility for. Under that principle I'm sure the

continued future of ICUS is assured. At this time I would like to introduce the moderator for this opening plenary. Dr. Sontag is the Robert O. Dennison, Professor of Philosophy at Pomona College in Claremont, California. He's been a frequent participant and former chairman of the ICUS conferences. He is currently chairman of the editorial board of Paragon House publishers, and a senior consultant to the International Cultural Foundation. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Fred Sontag.