

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 8, 1999

Warm greetings to all those gathered in New York City to pay tribute to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu as he receives the Spirit of Helen Keller Award from Helen Keller International.

Throughout his life and career, Archbishop Tutu has showed the kind of character and vision that this award seeks to acknowledge and commend. A renowned scholar, diplomat, peacemaker, and spiritual leader, he has left a lasting imprint on the 20th century through his contributions to the cause of racial justice in South Africa. His dedication to fostering the ideals of freedom and compassion, together with his steadfast commitment to reconciliation, has not only set a standard for other peacemakers to follow, but also earned him the admiration and appreciation of freedom-loving peoples around the globe.

Archbishop Tutu's message of reconciliation is vitally important today as many regions of the globe strive to transform conflict into cooperation. He has made the world a better place for our children and for the generations yet to come and has helped us all to reaffirm our shared goals of peace and prosperity in Africa.

I am pleased and proud to salute Archbishop Desmond Tutu for inspiring us with his wisdom and challenging us with his example, and I extend best wishes to all for a wonderful evening.

*Bill Clinton*