

*The J. William Fulbright Prize  
for International Understanding  
Award Ceremony*

*Corazon C. Aquino  
President of the Republic of the Philippines,  
1986-1992  
1996 Fulbright Prize Laureate*

October 11, 1996

Sponsored by  
The Fulbright Association

With Support of  
The Coca-Cola Foundation



## *Program*

### **Welcome**

Philip O. Geier  
President, Fulbright Association

### **Remarks**

Senator Richard G. Lugar  
Member, U.S. Senate Committee  
on Foreign Relations

### **Presentation of Fulbright Prize and of "Tribute"**

*(Sculpture by Sergio Dolfi)*

Philip O. Geier  
Douglas N. Daft  
Senior Vice President, The Coca-Cola Company  
President, Middle and Far East Group

### **Fulbright Prize Address**

President Corazon C. Aquino  
1996 Laureate

### **Closing**

Philip O. Geier

## *Corazon C. Aquino*

As president of the Republic of the Philippines from 1986 to 1992, Corazon Cojuangco Aquino led her country's difficult transition from dictatorship to democracy. After re-establishing democratic institutions, her administration made them work, bringing about substantive economic and social reforms. Through great personal courage and an unwavering commitment to non-violence, she successfully served her term in office and presided over the peaceful and orderly transfer of power to her duly elected successor President Fidel V. Ramos.

Born in Manila on January 25, 1933, Cory Aquino was educated in exclusive girls' schools there before she left for the U.S. where she completed her high school and college education. Her father was a three-term congressman. Her mother, a pharmacist, was the daughter of a senator.

Cory Aquino graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York where she majored in French and minored in mathematics. Upon her return to the Philippines, she pursued studies in law which she discontinued upon her marriage to Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. The marriage was blessed with four daughters and one son, and Mrs. Aquino is now the proud grandmother of five grandsons and two granddaughters.

The late Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., was assassinated on August 21, 1983, at the Manila International Airport, becoming a martyr in the Philippines' struggle for democracy. Senator Aquino, the Opposition leader at the time of his death, had been the first person jailed upon the declaration of martial law in 1972. He suffered incarceration in a military camp for seven years and seven months, with only a brief respite in the U.S. to undergo heart surgery.

For furthering the aspirations of her people for a just society and for a better life while honoring Senator Aquino's memory, Cory Aquino has been conferred 16 honorary degrees by universities in the Philippines and in Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Taiwan, and the U.S. She was named *Time* magazine's Woman of the Year for 1986.

Following her administration's international initiatives on human rights and on issues affecting women, children, and the family, Cory Aquino now serves as co-president of the Forum of Democratic Leaders with Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, Sonja Gandhi of India, and Kim Dae-Jung of South Korea. Her leadership and her example have been recognized by the Martin Luther King Jr. Non-violent Peace Prize, the United Nations Development Fund for Women's Noel Award for Political Leadership, and the 1993 Special Peace Award from the Aurora Aragon Quezon Peace Awards and Concerned Women of the Philippines, among other distinctions.

Cory Aquino now serves as chairperson of the Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Foundation, which awards scholarships for education and develops linkages for non-governmental organizations to improve the quality of life for Filipinos. She is also chairperson of the Board of Advisors of the Metrobank Foundation and serves as honorary chairperson of the Philippine National Centennial Commission, of the Foundation for Clean Elections, of the Sulung Pampanga Foundation, and of the Puso't Puso ng Tarlac Foundation.

## *1996 Fulbright Prize Laureate*

*Corazon C. Aquino*

*President of the Republic of the Philippines,  
1986-1992*

The Fulbright Prize honors President Aquino for her courage, integrity, and adherence to constitutionalism in restoring democracy to the Philippines and for her work as a private citizen to promote peace and international understanding through the Forum of Democratic Leaders and through other organizations dedicated to justice and social development.

## *The J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding*

The Fulbright Prize honors the largest and most significant educational exchange program in history, as well as the career and spirit of its creator, the late Senator J. William Fulbright. The prize recognizes and rewards outstanding contributions towards bringing peoples, cultures, or nations to greater understanding of others. Considered for the prize are individuals in any part of the world who have made a substantial contribution to breaking through the barriers which divide humankind.

In establishing the prize, the Fulbright Association and its cooperating American and foreign associates seek to provide substantial recognition to individuals who dedicate their energies to improving international understanding and to encourage new generations to undertake life commitments to international understanding.

*The Fulbright Prize is made possible through a grant by  
The Coca-Cola Foundation.*

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(Fulbright Fellow to the U.S.A., 1967)

Pablo Antonio Cuadra  
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The Hellenic Republic

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Governor General of New Zealand (1985-1990)

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