

Ambassador Juan Eduardo Fleming

Words on the occasion of his acceptance of the medal “De scientia et humanitate optime meritis”

Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, May 4th 2009

Vážený pane profesore Drahoši, předsedo České akademie věd

Professor Jiří Drahoš, President of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Vážená paní profesorko Illnerová

Professor Mrs Helena Illnerová,

Distinguished Ambassador of the Argentine Republic, Mr Vicente Espeche and Mrs Espeche

Vážený pane profesore Pánku, místopředsedo České akademie věd

Professor Jaroslav Pánek, Vicepresident of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Vážený pane profesore Maříku, vedoucí katedry kybernetiky ČVUT v Praze

Professor Vladimír Mařík, Head of the Electronic Department of the Czech Technical University in Prague

Vážený pane profesore Jiří Niederle

Professor Jiří Niederle,

Distinguished Vice-presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vážení přátelé

Dear Colleagues and dear Friends,

The words said by Professor Niederle are full of the generosity that so much characterizes him and this wonderful country and her people. I was “subjected” for eight unique years of my life to such generosity, his and from you all, as today's circumstances are concrete testimony of what I say.

Today and the few next days, make this week one of the proudest and happiest moments of my life, personal and professional. And I proudly realize that in your wisdom you are really honoring my country, my people and Government – something really important for which my Embassy is just a good excuse!

But then not just us: in true justice, you are also distinguishing your own country, people and Government. Because in fact, nothing of what – and I do not say “I” but “we” were able to achieve – would have never been possible without your sharing of goals that became "joint" goals, as if they were “ends” also of your own, and thus for all of us to jointly and together achieve. And I mean it, since from the outset it has been a “team effort and a joint work” as you

well now. A team that encompassed people, their official and private organizations or institutions, as well as their own good-selves.

In what it concerns me, I wish to express my deep gratitude to my country – the Argentine Republic – my Foreign Ministry and Government for giving me the privilege and opportunity of posting me as Ambassador to the Czech Republic and to the Argentine people, private and officials that accompanied my Embassy during such time.

And I wish also to thank the Czech Government and their Ministries for accepting me and the Czech people – YOU ALL – for so kindly and patiently listening to what I had the possibility to share with you and then you gave us your trust, to my Embassy and my staff.

Let me say that I believe I have been extremely lucky to be able to dream – to dream with my feet firmly on the Czech ground – and those dreams, to have been given the unique opportunity to bring them to life. In these, I feel the special feature that diplomacy as profession and life comes to mean.

“Relations between nations...” that sounds so objectively abstract or detached, are in point of fact “us”, you and all of us, people, that are given the singular trust to handle the business to bring our countries – their people – close together in a fruitful way.

I have always been persuaded that the best diplomatic efforts are those that can help to bring about a more permanent platform or link between countries. A “shared” platform and links – sustained and fed on what can be coldly referred to as “national interests” – but that in practice can be turned to be joint and complementary ends to be achieved. And then, on occasions, be made to incorporate our respective regions and sub regions as well.

In all what I say, your Academy of Sciences and through you – the Czech Universities and Academic world – all of you, distinguished members and non-members of the Academy, who are present or may be at this moment absent, have played a crucially important and significant personal role.

No wonder your valued medal is called “De Scientia et Humanitate.... “

And I am gratefully pleased that my Ministry and Government in their enlightened wisdom, have decided to send to Prague Ambassador Vicente Espeche and his lady wife, Mrs. Maria Gabriela Zimmerman de Espeche. Let my final words be an expression of sincere gratitude to you – and through you – to all the people that inhabits this fertile and inspiring ground: the Czech Republic.

Thank you all!