

FLF Celebrates Fourth Anniversary

Neil Salonen
August 5, 1973



The Freedom Leadership Foundation celebrated its fourth anniversary among friends at the Washington Hilton August 5. Present were about 100 area FLF members, many European members of the International Federation for Victory Over Communism, over 100 friends of FLF, 100 British students participating in a training program involving FLF, His Excellency and Mrs. Um Sim of the Khmer Republic and His Excellency and Mrs. Tran Kim Phuong of the Republic of Vietnam, and Minister and Dr. Tai-Chu Chen of the Republic of China. Featured speaker was Congressman Richard Ichord (Democrat, Missouri), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Internal Security.

Receiving the guests prior to the dinner were FLF President and Mrs. Neil Salonen, Congressman and

Mrs. Richard Ichord, and FLF Secretary-General Gary Jarmin. Nearby were a display of photographs of the four years of FLF-sponsored events and a literature table, which had new Freedom Leadership Foundation brochures available.

Opening the evening's program, Neil Salonen reflected on FLF's birth during the height of student protest in the early fall of 1969.

Congressman Richard Ichord, commending FLF for its inspirational example to young people, stressed the important role of the United States in creating and preserving world freedom.

Representing FLF's international affiliates, Mr. Takeshi Furuta brought greetings for FLF's Anniversary: "I believe that FLF is one of the most inspirational groups of young Americans, a group that is completely dedicated to the cause of freedom and justice."

In speaking of Japan, Mr. Furuta said: "Democracy is in danger of being snuffed out by the winds of materialism and conflict the Japanese Communist Party has been very successful in gaining the support of many people, especially young people, by pretending to advocate peace." He continued: "There is a special task for young people-defending freedom and establishing genuine peace. I believe that FLF will answer to this need. I sincerely hope that FLF will become the agent that can produce the wind of progress and the light of revival as the champions of world freedom. I believe that this will bring unity and harmony among freedom-loving countries.

Also I hope that this wind will blow over the Iron Curtain, even over the Great Wall of China, and eventually bring light and salvation to the peoples under the yoke of totalitarian dictatorship."

Mr. Salonen completed the program by giving surprise birthday gifts to four people who have been with FLF since its beginning. Honored were Accuracy in Media head Reed Irvine, Congressional assistant David Martin, Committee for Free China representative Lee Edwards, and Bernard Yoh. In receiving his gift, Mr. Yoh remarked, "We are fighting for the freedom of one billion people. Their voices are not heard, but they're there. They've cheering us on. Also receiving a gift was Miss Pham Dung, who assisted invaluablely in FLF's trip to Asia in 1970.

In closing the evening, Mr. Salonen said, "Let's work hard together in the coming years to continue to project a determination to bring freedom in America and throughout the world."