

Excellences, Friends and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you Bill, for your kind and touching words, and thanks to Carnegie for giving me this golden moment.

This award means a world to me. First, this recognition for my work on non-proliferation and disarmament and receiving this award as the first non-American is a breathtaking honor. This is the right place to thank Ulli, my wonderful wife, herself a hard working civil servant in data and privacy protection. Without her, I would never have become Harald Müller.

Secondly, to receive it as a German citizen reflects somehow the huge change my country has undergone since I read about the NPT first, as a student in 1969. Germany was a country of concern for its military nuclear ambitions, its commitment to a civilian plutonium economy, its light-hearted nuclear-related exports. Today, it is recognized as a proactive pillar of the non-proliferation regime. The presence of two German ambassadors, Ambassador Haber and Ambassador Baumann, as speakers on this conference and guest at my table testifies to that. I appreciate honoring a German scholar all the more as our car industry has recently be identified as a major security threat to the United States.

Thirdly, and most importantly, I am deeply moved to receive the award named after Thérèse Delpech. I met Thérèse first in 1985, when I worked in Brussels for a project on European non-proliferation policy. From that time on until her untimely death, Thérèse and I have been working together in various capacities. We shared a deep dedication to the friendship between France and Germany to the project of a united Europe, and to the transatlantic ties of this Europe. She would have loved to see the Special EU Envoy for Non-Proliferation, Jacek Bylica, sitting at my table.

We shared the dedication to the cause of non-proliferation, too. She deployed me even once to help in her efforts to convince her French colleagues that acceding to the NPT was the right thing to do. In the Program for Promoting Nuclear Non-proliferation we worked together for the indefinite extension of the NPT. We often took similar positions in debates on nuclear policy; when I attacked opponents harshly with my heavy Germanic accent, she called me “German panzer”, with a smile, and meant it as a compliment.

Our friend and colleague William Walker has called global nuclear order a project of the enlightenment. If anybody, Thérèse was a child of the enlightenment. Her faith in the power of reason, her deep commitment to universal human rights, her insight that a multilateral, law based order was no idealist pipe dream but a necessity of survival, all reflect this attachment to enlightenment thought to which France contributed so much.

What would she say about the current state of the world, if she were still alive? She would be appalled to see the three major nuclear weapon states led by men with big egos and limited understanding of the world, to see them celebrating big red buttons, invincible nuclear driven torpedos, and artificial islands for military use far from national shores. She would be concerned about the decay of the system of rules that once promised stability, security and peace among the nuclear armed states and their allies and seemed to open a road to nuclear disarmament and even a nuclear weapon free world.

Dear friends and colleagues, like for the ancient Greek Sisyphos, our work never comes to an end. The world is less secure and more risk-ridden than thirty years ago, and the non-proliferation and disarmament community has to do its very best to move it to more stability, peace and disarmament. Given the doubtful quality of

today's leaders, it is important to keep the disputes in the NPT regime limited and to stop the competition in mutual stigmatizing which supporters and opponents of the Ban Treaty have been practicing. The situation is too serious, the nuclear Damokles sword hangs over our heads again. We must remember that the overwhelming majority in both camps share the common objective to prevent this most horrible calamity, nuclear war. Our community, government officials, academic researchers, and NGO activists must realize that this unifying objective weighs heavier than our differences about the how and when of disarmament.

For thirty years, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has offered us this forum for exchanging thoughts and developing mutual understanding across the borders of party affiliation, academic school, ideology, nationality or religion. The network that has been created and maintained is an enormous asset which today we take as given. But it exists only because dedicated colleagues help maintain it. We all owe tremendous gratitude to the organization and its good people.

Today, I am the one owing the greatest gratitude for being honored with this wonderful award. I take it as an incentive to keep up working my share, as much as age permits, to support the project of enlightenment, global nuclear order, which, as far I am concerned, should result in a nuclear weapon free world. I take this pledge in honor of Thérèse Delpech.