

ARLEN SPECTER
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
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711 HART SENATE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802
202-224-6254

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802

January 18, 2001

Mr. Michael Sohlman
Executive Director
The Nobel Foundation
Sturegatan 14
Box 5232
SE-102 45 Stockholm, Sweden

**RE: National Council for International Visitors (NCIV)
Citizen Diplomats Program**

Dear Mr. Sohlman:

It is most gratifying for me to nominate the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) Volunteer Citizen Diplomats Program for the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. NCIV, a non-profit institution, is comprised of over 80,000 volunteers who administer public and private foreign exchange programs, including the United States Department of State's International Visitor Program.

The program's mission is to promote democracy and worldwide peace by fostering a better understanding of worldwide political, business and cultural climates. Prominent government and civic leaders are invited to the United States to participate in business, educational and cultural forums. Hundreds of thousands of one-on-one meetings and forums are arranged each year by the NCIV's members which consist of 97 community based non-profit organizations located in 44 states throughout the United States. Since NCIV's inception, more than 300,000 volunteers have hosted professional dialogues in their homes, classrooms, courtrooms and offices to help increase the understanding of each participants respective country and government. Various notable heads of state, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Anwar Sadat, Indira Gandhi, F.W. deKlerk and 185 other government officials have participated in NCIV related activities and have praised the NCIV in various international press articles and publications.

My wife and I have participated in many NCIV sponsored forums and we remain very impressed with the organization's management. We have both enjoyed and benefitted from the various programs which aim to increase the understanding and appreciation of international cultures. I have long been a proponent of democracy and worldwide peace, and as you may know, have spent many years negotiating with world leaders promoting peace in the Middle East.

STATE OFFICES:

- 600 ARCH STREET, SUITE 9400
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106
215-697-7200
- SUITE 2031, FEDERAL BUILDING
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
412-644-3400
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814-453-0010
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717-782-3851
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610-434-1444
- 310 SPRUCE STREET, SUITE 201
SCRANTON, PA 18503
570-346-2006
- ROOM 306, 116 S. MAIN STREET
WILKES-BARRÉ, PA 18701
717-826-6265

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I firmly believe in one of the principal tenets of the Nobel Peace Prize criteria, namely, identifying an individual who "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses." In my view, the NCIV mission and its members collectively embrace this belief which is promoted through their various meritorious programs. Accordingly, I recommend a close examination and careful consideration of NCIV's role in the promotion of worldwide peace when determining the 2001 Nobel Peace Awards. Your selection process is understandably arduous, in light of the thousands of individuals and organizations deserving of this prestigious award. In conclusion, NCIV is such an organization worthy of your review and consideration.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter and I extend to you my best for continued success in both promoting and the recognition of those dedicated to achieving worldwide peace.

My best.

Sincerely,



Arlon Specter

AS/ap