

# CELEBRATING EIGHTY YEARS

## **ON OCTOBER 14, 1999, THE INSTITUTE CELEBRATED ITS**

80th anniversary with a black tie gala held at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. The more than three hundred guests in attendance heard the Guest of Honor, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, tell of her connection with the Institute.

"I am a fan of the IIE for many job-related causes, but I have a personal reason, as well. When my family first came to America, my father, who had been a Czech diplomat, needed to find a new line of work. An IIE director helped him obtain a teaching position at the University of Denver. My father thrived there and so did our family. For us, IIE has always been a synonym for opportunity."

The Secretary then went on to speak about the importance of public diplomacy today.

"Public diplomacy matters because, in this day and age, we cannot simply assume that America's policies and intentions will be understood. Public diplomacy helps us to tell our side of the story; to clarify intentions; provide explanations; clear up distortions; and rebut lies...."

"That is why our international scholarship, exchange and visitor programs are such an important part of our public diplomacy. And for more than half a century, the IIE has successfully administered the best of these programs...."

The evening also provided the Institute with an opportunity to award its Stephen P. Duggan Award for International Understanding to Citigroup Vice Chairman, William R. Rhodes, and to World Economic Forum Founder and President, Klaus Schwab. On being presented the award, Professor Schwab noted the shared mission of the World Economic Forum and the IIE. "Both are preparing leaders to be open to the world and to create a better world. It is our goal to have leaders from all facets of business, government and academia work together to improve the state of the world." In his remarks on receipt of the award, Rhodes said:

"In this fast-changing, dynamic world in which we live, we must ask how we are preparing the next generation of professionals to cope with the challenges that lie ahead. As business and banking become ever more global, and as technology accelerates communications and capital flows, I believe, as does the IIE, that having a chance to live in another country, be exposed to the local culture and learn another language will be an invaluable asset...I would encourage the next generation of leaders to consider a period of international educational exchange as an essential part of the preparation they will need to succeed in the business world..."

*Secretary of State Madeleine  
K. Albright was the guest of  
honor and delivered a foreign  
policy address at IIE's 80th  
Anniversary Celebration  
in New York.*

