

2

Columbia School of Journalism/ Peter Osnos Speech/ Draft 1

Let me begin by saying to the Columbia School of Journalism that you have done a good thing in giving your award to Peter Osnos for two reasons- one, of course, he richly deserves it as I think my own experiences with him will show, and two, I believe a great school has real influence on its students. If I'm right, Columbia can be bursting with pride for its part in launching Peter's career. It is, of course, very much a career in progress for while Peter is extraordinary now, it is not the beginning, and his life will continue to be exciting, successful in many ways and, most important of all, make a difference in this world.

The easiest way for me to give you a picture of Peter is to tell you a few of the highlights of my friendship with him. I met Peter in 1976 in Moscow. He was the Moscow Bureau Chief of the Washington Post. His editor, Howard Simons, had told him I was coming and would he do whatever he thought would be helpful. The first thing to know about Peter is that when he takes on a project, he does what I call an encyclopedic job. Helen and I were whisked around Moscow from dawn till dusk. When we wanted to see