

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, SIR COLIN, MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL FORCES CLUB: IT IS AN HONOR TO BE HERE AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSS SOCIETY AND A PRIVILEGE TO SPEAK TO YOU. OUR SOCIETY'S CHAIRMAN, MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SINGLAUB, WHO WAS AN OSS JEDBURGH, ASKED ME TO SEND HIS WARMEST REGARDS.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE LORD SLIM WHO SERVES AS AN HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE OSS SOCIETY AND TWO OSS VETERANS: MY FATHER, DAN PINCK, WHO SERVED BEHIND ENEMY LINES IN CHINA, AND FISHER HOWE WHO SERVED AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO GENERAL DONOVAN AND OPENED THE OSS OFFICE IN LONDON.

A QUESTION HAS BEEN NAGGING AT ME THROUGHOUT THE DINNER. AS I LOOK UP AND SEE THAT BEAUTIFUL P-51 MUSTANG, I MUST ASK: HOW YOU GOT OUR AIRPLANE?

PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL SAID THAT OSS FOUNDER GENERAL WILLIAM J. DONOVAN "CARRIED WITH HIM THROUGHOUT AN ANIMATING, HEARTWARMING FLAME." THAT FLAME WAS LIT FIRST BY THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE AND WAS USED TO LIGHT THE OSS FLAME.

THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN, FIRST ENUNCIATED BY PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL IN 1945, WAS NOURISHED BY THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOE AND OSS.

AFTER GENERAL EISENHOWER ACCEPTED THE SURRENDER OF ALL GERMAN FORCES ON MAY 7, 1945, GENERAL DONOVAN AND WILLIAM STEPHENSON HAD A PRIVATE DINNER AT NEW YORK'S ST. REGIS HOTEL

TO CELEBRATE. THEY SHOUTED TOASTS AND DANCED ABOUT IN TRIUMPH. BOTH MEN REALIZED HOW MUCH EACH OWED THE OTHER.

THROUGHOUT THE WAR, GENERAL DONOVAN'S INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH THE BRITISH WAS OFTEN CLOSER THAN WITH HIS OWN U.S. ARMY, AND THE BRITISH CAME TO APPRECIATE THE ENORMOUS RESOURCES GENERAL DONOVAN COULD BRING TO BEAR IN THE COVERT WAR AGAINST THE AXIS.

GENERAL DONOVAN WAS AN EARLY AND ARDENT ADVOCATE OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN IN WORLD WAR II. SIR WILLIAM STEPHENSON DESCRIBED HIM AS THE "STRONGEST FRIEND WE HAVE."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ENDURING ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR NATIONS, IN HONOR OF THE BOND BETWEEN SOE AND OSS, AND IN MEMORY OF GENERAL WILLIAM J. DONOVAN AND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OSS, I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT A GIFT TO SIR COLIN FROM THE OSS SOCIETY.

THE INSCRIPTION READS AS FOLLOWS: "PRESENTED TO THE SPECIAL FORCES CLUB BY THE OSS SOCIETY TO COMMEMORATE THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE'S FOUNDING AND ITS HISTORIC AFFILIATION WITH THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES."

ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE PANEL IS A REPLICA OF THE WILLIAM J. DONOVAN AWARD, WHICH WAS FIRST PRESENTED TO ALLEN DULLES IN 1961. ITS RECIPIENTS INCLUDE PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER, SIR WILLIAM STEPHENSON, AND ADMIRAL LORD MOUNTBATTEN.

THANK YOU FOR THIS HONOR.