

TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS BY ADMIRAL E. R. ZUMWALT, JR., USN, CHIEF  
OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AT ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
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Distinguished guests, Members of St. John. Having heard about you from my young friend, Francis Councilman, who is one of your fellow cadets, I accepted with great pleasure the honor to be here to review this parade and to say a few words today.

If we think of the life span of man as the biblical ~~three~~ pre-score years and ten, I am approaching the three quarter mark in mine and you the first quarter mark of yours. And as you passed in review, I could not help but reflect upon the dramatic way in which the conditions of life changed even in such short increments of time as the 17 years represented by the senior members of your school. During my <sup>first</sup> 17 years, (1920-1937) ~~my first~~, this country lived apart from the rest of the world. I grew up in an era without television, in which the newspapers were not very interested in the world about us, in which another country, the United Kingdom, represented our first line of defense and in which life was a pretty simple and uncomplicated thing.

During the second 17 years of my life, (1938-1954) I served in two wars, as did very many of my generation, and we saw a dramatic change and increase in the circumstances and in the rate of change of circumstances in the world about us. The old constituted order was torn apart, the world was reorganized in the ruins of World War II, the Communist bloc spread its

power across Eastern Europe while the Free World reconstituted the war torn nations of Western Europe into the NATO alliance which has served to maintain a major stability of recess. During your 17 years and the third quarter of mine, we are seen as a more rapid change in the world around us. The nature of warfare has changed under a threat of the terrible destruction that could be created by a strategic nuclear exchange to one in which warfare must be fought if it comes under very complex rules designed to limit the nature of the conflict. The Cuban missile crisis never actually led to the firing of a single shot, with the exception of the downing of one aircraft, and yet a dramatic change in the world power balance came about as a result of the fact that the Soviet Union was caused in the face of our superior strategic and conventional power to back away.

In the long heart-rendering war in Southeast Asia, once again under the threat of nuclear weapons and under the terrible consequences of a world-wide conventional war, both sides have limited the nature of the conflict and it is hoped that there has grown up in the world today a consensus that even this kind of limited war must never happen again.

Now the challenge that you face in the next quarter of your lives is to pursue that generation of peace of which President Nixon has spoken so <sup>relatively?</sup> and the <sup>MEASURE</sup> major of whether or not we will achieve it, rest not so much on those of us who are entering the final quarter but upon those here who are entering the second quarter of their careers. The challenge

is whether or not a free world constituted as is our country under the concepts that each man is free to express his own ideas, each man has the right within the realm of not <sup>transcending?</sup> the rights of others, to lose in accordance with his desire and survive in competition with the theology in which the spirit of man is not free. The nature of the potential adversary has changed dramatically. They no longer have slave labor camps with millions of people in them as they did when I was young, even in the Communist nations, there is now beginning to be the first stirring of the insistence upon the right of the individual to have some say, but ~~descent~~ <sup>DISSENT</sup> is treated with much greater rigor than it is in our democratic world. Those who ~~descent~~ <sup>DISSENT</sup> in some cases end up in insane asylums or are censored in other very serious ways, where as in this country we recognize the right and need for a viable democratic society to have ~~descent~~ <sup>DISSENT</sup>.

But the issue that you face is whether or not it is possible for that ~~descent~~ <sup>DISSENT</sup> to be carried on with sufficient discipline in our national life, that the very ideas we cherish can survive. If your generation is able to work out a <sup>VIVENDI?</sup> ~~modus operandi~~ that permits you to maintain this traditional spirit of ~~descent~~ <sup>DISSENT</sup> while also maintaining the essential discipline of life, the essential restraint upon yourselves as individuals, that is necessary, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind as to what the outcome will be. The superiority of the democratic way of life has been proven time and time again over the centuries. The need for the individual citizen in a democracy to draw

that fine line between the spirit of ~~Respect~~<sup>DISSSENT</sup>, the right to disagree and the need to maintain individual discipline as well as individual liberties has been successful enough by generations in the past and I am confident that you here will also find a way to do that. If you do, the nature of the generation of peace that lies ahead will be a dramatic one indeed. ~~The onerous~~<sup>THE ONUS</sup> will be upon those who have not yet learned to live in a democratic system, to so improve the conditions of life for their people, to so liberate the individual spirit faced with the discipline and strength of which our free world life is capable, that your generation in its second quarter will live, I am confident, a much happier one than has that generation of which I have been speaking. God Bless you all.

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