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APRIL 23, 1975

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST MARCONI INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
AT ANNUAL RECEPTION AND BANQUET
OF THE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING
SHERATON PARK HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 23, 1975

I am delighted to be here for this important gathering of the Academy and to present the First Marconi International Fellowship to Dr. James R. Killian, Jr.

The Marconi International Fellowship has become a reality because of the inspired leadership of my good friend, Gioia Marconi-Braga. Guglielmo Marconi was a brilliant radio pioneer, and a visionary proponent of the humane uses of science and technology. Gioia long dreamed of creating this fellowship as a fitting commemoration of the Centennial of her father's birth. One of her father's driving ambitions was to see that his successful demonstration of trans-Atlantic radio wave transmission would lead to widespread human betterment, from specific applications, such as saving lives at sea, to the diffusion of education, commerce, music and other expressions of culture throughout the world.

It was in pursuit of this ideal that Gioia brought the Marconi International Fellowship to reality. The Fellowship will be awarded annually for the remaining 25 years of this Century. It will honor and inspire creative work which links science and engineering to the betterment of human life.

There is one important point about this award that must be recognized. It is not a prize for past achievements, no matter how great. Rather it is a commission for creative work. The award, this year for \$25,000, will be used to support research, either by the recipient or by a scientist or scholar designated by the recipient.

Mrs. Marconi-Braga's innovative idea has struck a responsive chord. Approximately 15 corporations and organizations from this Country and abroad have underwritten the Fellowship. And the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies will administer it.

It gives me pleasure to have here in the audience several of those who have contributed intellectual and material support to the Fellowship -- Frank Cary, Chairman of IBM, Charles Adams, Chairman of Raytheon, Joseph Slater, President of the Aspen Institute, and Egidio Ortona, distinguished Ambassador to the U.S. from Marconi's homeland of Italy.

The first recipient of this high honor and responsibility is James R. Killian, Jr. And, in the case of this distinguished scientist, the recipient honors the award, just as much as the award honors the recipient. After graduating in 1926 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Killian stayed on at MIT taking on ever-higher responsibilities. He became President of the Institute in 1949. During his leadership, he guided the growth and broadening intellectual horizons of the Institute with enormous brilliance. In 1959, Dr. Killian retired as President of MIT in order to devote more time to a new and distinguished career of public service. Under President Eisenhower, he served as Chairman of the President's Science Advisory Committee -- the first science advisor to an American President.

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Since then, he has served all administrations in an array of important Federal advisory posts, while continuing as Chairman of the Corporation of MIT. Dr. Killian's distinguished public service has included participation in the 1960-61 Presidential study of Goals for Americans, the 1962 scientific and engineering manpower study of the National Academy of Sciences and a 1974 Academy of Sciences study of Presidential Policymaking. Last December, he completed a term as Chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. His superb direction brought public television to growing significance in our pluralistic American society -- in which he so ardently believes.

Dr. Killian's award recognizes no single contribution of his numerous achievements. Rather, the Fellowship honors a lifetime of distinguished service to humanity by a man of science and engineering. Dr. Killian has designated Professor Asa Briggs, the eminent historian of radio broadcasting and Vice Chancellor of the University of Sussex, England, to carry out the commission under the award. The commission will involve an analysis of the human and social implications of radio at different stages in the development of broadcasting.

Unfortunately, Professor Briggs cannot be with us on this happy occasion. He is chairing a lecture by Sir Herbert Butterfield, at the University of Sussex, the first of a new series for which he has a major responsibility.

To symbolize the application of science and technology in the service of all humanity, the Marconi Fellowship Council commissioned an original sculpture by the distinguished artist, Otello Guarducci, who is with us this evening.

On behalf of the Marconi Council, it is my pleasure now to award the First Marconi International Fellowship to James R. Killian, Jr. In doing so, I would like to quote the very appropriate inscription at the base of the sculpture: It is in Latin, but I understand it means in English: "Intellectual effort for the benefit of humanity." I take pleasure also in presenting to Dr. Killian, as a symbol of the Fellowship, this superlative sculpture by Mr. Guarducci.

I am happy, Dr. Killian, also to entrust to you, for Professor Briggs, the first Marconi Fellowship medallion for the scholar commissioned under the Award. It is an original silver medal based on the sculpture commemorating this occasion. The medal was created for the Marconi Fellowship by the noted Italian artist, Andrea Spadini.

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