

**Remarks of Kati Marton,
Wife of the late Richard Holbrooke, W. Averell Harriman Award Winner
National Democratic Institute 2011 Democracy Dinner
Washington, DC, November 7, 2011**

Ladies and gentlemen, this is such a meaningful award. This award is meaningful to Richard and to me on so many levels. He loved NDI and was so proud of his association with NDI and absolutely shared its values and lived those values.

He was also Averell Harriman's protégé. "The governor," as Richard always called him, plucked the 25-year-old FSO from obscurity and took him to Paris as a member of the Vietnam peace talks. Richard's title was expert, only he didn't know what he was supposed to be an expert in. From Vietnam to Afghanistan, Richard held on to his conviction that America had a very special role to play in the world, and that military power has to be used only as a very last resort. That was the lesson that he drew from his five years in Vietnam and in authoring one volume of the Pentagon Papers.

It's impossible for me to condense Richard's remarkable career into a couple of minutes, but what I took away from that career is that Richard was a team builder, and what a team he built during his final mission. A globe-spanning team of Afghanistan and Pakistani specialists, Maureen White, my dear friend is here, a member of that team. When President Obama appointed Richard to be special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, he was the only one in the world. When Richard died, there were 42 counterparts from all over the world representing Afghanistan and Pakistan, including from many Muslim nations. That was his way: always to reach out, cast a wide net, build coalitions.

In her Berlin eulogy to Richard, Secretary of State Clinton said that "We don't have Richard to advise us in Libya, but we have his principles." And if I may quote another Clinton on Richard, President Bill Clinton, who said of my husband, "He was a hurricane of energy, eloquence and force. I loved the guy," President Clinton said, "because he could do. Doing in diplomacy saves lives. In the end what matters is there are a lot of people walking around on the face of the Earth today, or their children, or their grandchildren, because of the way Richard Holbrooke lived his life."

Those are President Clinton's words. I can't improve on those words, but I'll leave you with four words that were not in Richard's vocabulary: Nothing can be done. I look out at you, and I know that each of you has a Holbrooke story and a Holbrooke memory, and I hope you keep telling them. Thank you for this wonderful honor.