

It is a tribute to the United States military establishment that even as it must train our citizens to be better soldiers, it encourages our soldiers to train themselves to be better citizens.

Our State is proud that the University of Maryland has played a pioneering role in this two-pronged attack for international peace and individual fulfillment. And we are proud to have served the almost one quarter million men and women in uniform who have attended the University's European division since 1949.

The overseas student differs from his Maryland campus counterpart in several significant ways. He is often more mature and more highly motivated. He benefits from bringing the perspective of a broader background in life experience to his classroom experience.

In many respects, you as overseas students have advantages which surpass the typical undergraduate opportunity. Instead of being sequestered in a cloistered campus, you are immersed in a "living laboratory." As you study German, you lose something in the translation. As you study international relations, your daily routine makes you a participant. You study music in the country that gave the world Bach and Beethoven. You learn of diplomacy in the land of Bismarck. And as it is true of you here in Heidelberg, the same opportunity exists for American servicemen from England to Ethiopia, from Athens to Oslo, from Istanbul to Saigon.

American military commanders provide the climate and the facilities; educational advisors serve as the catalyst; librarians furnish their resources; and the University provides the administration and the faculty.

In many cases you have studied under outstanding teachers from distinguished foreign universities. You have learned from them and they also have learned — from you. This dialogue among those who value education has played a significant role in international understanding.

The military, in cooperation with our University, has provided the opportunity. But it was *your* dedication and *your* perseverance that has given this opportunity meaning. Today, as the commencement class of 1968, you have achieved your individual goal as well as proved our national purpose. I am honored to share this moment with you, I congratulate you and I salute you.