

**Concluding Comments by Kenneth Keniston**

La Société Imaginaire / Adenauer Foundation

Villa La Collina -- Cadenabbia, Italy

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I know I speak for all the participants at this meeting when I rise to thank Batuz and the Adenauer Foundation for making it possible.

To Batuz, we are grateful for a vision of the Société Imaginaire -- a société not at all "imaginary" in the English sense, but rather a society of the imagination, of men and women committed across cultures and languages to realizing the dream of a world of beauty, peace, and justice. What is remarkable is not only the persistence and energy with which Batuz has pursued his vision, but the vision itself -- that there should be a worldwide community of artists, thinkers, and politicians who recognize each other, and who share the same aspirations for a generous, diverse, and profound world culture. For myself, I leave here with a new appreciation of that vision and with new friends from Slovakia, Spain, Germany, Argentina, and -- yes -- even Harvard. For making this Société Imaginaire concrète, we thank Batuz.

To the Adenauer Foundation, also, very special thanks. In dealings with other foundations, I have found few with the imagination and courage to support a project so visionary and intangible as this one. I of course admire the foundations that produce miracle rice, adult literacy programs, and massive volumes of essays; and I recognize that the Adenauer Foundation does those things too. But we are especially grateful that, in addition, the Adenauer Foundation, with the encouragement of Franz-Josef Reuter, has been willing to support a project whose products are ideas, visions and friendships. Perhaps in the long run, ideas, visions and friendships may matter even more than miracle rice or volumes of essays in improving the world.

So to Batuz and the Adenauer Foundation, our gratitude for this wonderful week in this splendid place.

