

MARTIN KAPLAN

An Appreciation

Martin was a remarkable man; a wonderfully unique man. In this increasingly selfish world of ours, he stood out as a beacon of friendship, generosity and, simply, goodness.

I had the great privilege of knowing him and working with him for half-a-century. I'll never forget a morning in the early 1950s when, unexpectedly, he walked into my office in London and said: "I am Martin Kaplan. I have heard what you and doing and I've come to offer my help in whatever form you may need." And he meant this literally. From that day onwards he never refused any request for help, and, believe me, there were many of them. He helped me enormously in the setting up of the Pugwash Movement, in which he later became one of the chief leaders, as Director-General and later Secretary-General, as well as being the Director of the Geneva Office. We made full use of his extensive knowledge and epidemiological data about the biological effects of exposure to radiation in assessing the risks of nuclear testing and the dangers of biological warfare.

But the realm of his concern was much broader. It embraced the whole of humankind which he knew was imperilled in this nuclear age.

In the course of time our collaboration turned into a close friendship with him and his family. It gave me much happiness that I was able to offer advice in the professional careers of his sons Peter and Jeff, and to

be considered a member of the family. In caring for humanity he did not neglect his nearest: he was a devoted husband and father. His passing away has deeply saddened his many friends all over the world. But more than that, it is a real loss to humanity.