Remarks before the Meeting of the Institute for Curriculum and Campus Internationalization

Bloomington, Indiana

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May 17, 2015

I am proud that Hilary Kahn is not only a faculty colleague in the Department of International Studies but also that we are fellow deans at the School of Global and International Studies. Professor Kahn is the School's first Dean for Strategic Collaborations, and there is no better person for the job. Hilary is the architect of IU's efforts to inject an international perspective into our curricula. She has been tremendously successful in her capacity as Director of the Center for Global Change, and we are hugely lucky to have her split her time to serve as a dean of the new School.

This is my first year with the School of Global and International Studies, and the first time I have participated in a meeting of ICCI. But this will also be your last ICCI meeting in this space. Because at your next meeting, we expect to host you in our beautiful new $53 million building, which opens in the fall.

The building and, of course, much more important, the people and programs in it, are an expression of what ICCI seeks to do. All of us are fortunate to be part of universities whose leadership is dedicated to global education.

The new SGIS brings together under one roof elements of global education from throughout the IU campus; instruction in more than 70 languages; an emphasis on area studies through our departments of longstanding that cover the arc of crisis from the Middle East, through Eurasia into Northeast Asia; and a new interdisciplinary Department of International Studies. We are also in the fortunate position to be adding faculty – 25 new tenure-track positions over the next five years.

Our school rests on the strength of our area studies programs. Our students are encouraged to apply cultural, historical, and language knowledge to contemporary issues.

Our belief is that if you want to change the world, you must first understand it.

And we endorse ICCI’s philosophy of “comprehensive internationalization,” as outlined in Professor Hudzik’s fine 2011 piece for NAFSA. Because there is no field of study on this campus, or any other that does not have a substantial international dimension -- whether the issue is climate change or global health; or the career is engineering or business.
My own path teaches me that insights and career trajectories develop in unexpected ways. Gareth will touch on this in his remarks. In my case, a stop in Soviet-era Warsaw en route to a semester abroad in Moscow in 1979 was an event that left an indelible mark – or I should say taste in my mouth – that upended my understanding of the past.

It was food, stuffed cabbage actually -- golabki is the Polish word -- that did it. How was it possible that this sweet and sour Polish cooking, let’s call it Hapsburg Empire comfort food, tasted like what my father's mother served for dinner?

My taste buds opened my eyes to a personal history that was unknown to me -- obscured by shifting borders and hot and cold wars. This unexpected intrusion from the past would drive me to the study of Russian and Polish language, to a deeper understanding of the wars of the 20th century, and to a heightened awareness of the mass killings that constituted what Yale Historian, Timothy Snyder, has called the Bloodlands -- the space where twenty million non-combatants of different nationalities and ethnicities were starved, shot, or gassed. It stimulated in me a desire to try to make the world better, through law and politics, work in government, the NGO world, and academia. This is a point that Gareth’s remarks speak to with force and eloquence.

And so, it is now my pleasure to introduce my friend, Gareth Evans, the first distinguished diplomat in residence at the School of Global and International Studies at Indiana University.

Gareth is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and Magdalen College in Oxford, graduating with first-class honours in both cases. Gareth is a former law professor, civil liberties activist, and a member of the Australian Labor Party, elected to the Senate in 1977. He is a friend of IM Pei, whose museum graces IU's campus. Gareth joined Pei in choosing the winning design for the Australian Parliament House.

Evans served as a former attorney general and minister of Resources, Energy Transport, and Communications. And, of course, Gareth is one of Australia’s most successful foreign ministers, serving from 1988-1996.

Gareth overlapped during this period with the terms of four American secretaries of state, and served at a time of great international churn in Asia, in Africa, in Latin America, and in Europe.

Gareth’s term was notable for rebalancing Australian policy toward Asia, while retaining strong transpacific ties. He initiated the UN Peace Plan for Cambodia. Under his leadership, it was Australia that brought to fruition the Chemical Weapons Convention.
Gareth’s efforts to make the CWC a reality presaged his later work in modifying how we understand sovereign responsibility. This disarmament treaty was one of the first international agreements to extend the reach of international law to the actions of a state authority within its own borders. Until then, the use of chemical weapons was prohibited just between states; states were formally free to use chemical weapons against their own people – and they did. The advent of the CWC banned for the first time all production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons – a major advance in international law.

Gareth is also what we would now call a social entrepreneur. He propelled the International Crisis Group into one of the world’s most influential think tanks. He developed a model there which corresponds to ICCI’s philosophy; that is policy recommendations rooted in specific knowledge and understanding of a particular place, region, and its culture.

Gareth would later blend his legal and foreign policy careers, becoming the author and since propounder in chief of something called the responsibility to protect. And this may well be his most significant achievement – so far. It is, simply put, the idea that sovereignty entails responsibilities as well as rights.

At the core of a state’s responsibility is the obligation to protect those within its borders against the most heinous crimes. When and if a state is unable to carry out that responsibility or is itself responsible or complicit, then the rest of the world has a responsibility to act. The responsibility to protect removes the excuse to look the other way.

I have got to know Gareth a bit more personally over the course of his time in Bloomington. What I have learned about him, and what you will have the benefit of seeing first hand this evening, is that he is a person who:

Embraces the task at hand;

Thinks about how his presence can be beneficial;

And he never phones it in.

We are exceedingly fortunate to have him here with us for these two weeks.

Please join me in welcoming Gareth Evans.