

**TRANSCRIPT:
GRANTING OF THE 1ST ANNUAL CGDC AWARD TO
GENERAL WESLEY K. CLARK**

In Recognition to His Contributions

**ENHANCING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
AND DIALOGUE AMONGST DIVERSE PEOPLE
05-21-2011**

Petar Stoyanov: I have the honor to introduce once again General Wesley Clark who is the first person to receive our Annual CGDC Award. [Applause] Would you like to join us General? And to listen to some very kind words about you. General Clark is the former U.S. Army general who ran as a Democratic candidate for the presidency in 2004 election. General Clark grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas and he is not the only famous American who grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas. At the age of 16 I started the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During the '80s and '90s he moved up the military ladder and served as an administrator in training and command posts eventually becoming a four-star general. In '97 he was named as the U.S. commander of NATO forces in Europe by President Bill Clinton and 2000 he retired after 34 years in the army.

General Clark entered the private sector as author, consultant and investment banker, a highly decorated soldier and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He devoted himself to the international diplomacy and cooperation and the award recognizes General Clark for his outstanding service and commitment to enhancing mutual understanding and dialogue amongst diverse people. Thank you General.

General Wesley Clark: Thank you very much and this is a surprise to me I did not expect to be recognized for this: I am guilty of overexposure I think. But I do want to say this. First of all I want to thank the people from this region, the leaders and I look around and I see so many that I've worked with and known before that this region has moved forward because a lot of people had a lot of courage starting with Bakir Izetbegovic's father who was strong enough to seek outside help and to make the concessions that were needed – I remember his expression when he swallowed hard and he said he would accept the creation of the Republika Srpska. That was a huge, huge concession for President Izetbegovic in 1995 before we got the Dayton and the courage of people in Kosovo and my friends who were leaders like Minister Fasslabend and President Stoyanov and others in this region during the struggles we went through. So I am very grateful for the support they gave me and I admire their courage and what they went through. A lot of these men and women who were in leadership

positions suffered enormous challenges to their leadership during the crises to help Kosovo and the stop fighting in Bosnia.

But I would be really wrong if I didn't dedicate this award to Richard Holbrooke. Richard Holbrooke passed away. He passed away at the end of December and none of us could quite believe this: 69 years old he had incredible stamina- something happened to his heart and he was still giving orders on the operating table from which he never recovered. Richard Holbrooke, he went to Bosnia the first time in 1992. He came to disobey, he paved his own way, he went through all, saw what was happening, he did not like it, he spoke out against it, he became the Ambassador to Germany, he championed and created the enlargement of NATO. Richard Holbrooke did it singlehandedly against me and the Pentagon who was following instructions from the Secretary of Defense not to expand NATO. Holbrooke won as he usually did. He then worked as Assistance Secretary of State and he created the process that led the Dayton. He came of his honeymoon to lead it. So, he went with four of us and a couple of assistants we went to see the President. First we went to Croatia and we went with President Tudjman, we drove down the coast to Split, we saw the festival at Imotski, we then got UN helicopters and after meeting with President Milosevic, we got UN helicopters up to Mount Igman. And coming out Mount Igman we lost three members of our team in a fatal car accident. President Bill Clinton demanded that we come back and finish the problem and Holbrooke did. He had the vision and the perseverance to bring about the Dayton Peace Agreement and he was the man who was deeply committed to dialogue and understanding. You have followed the American newspapers closely; he is parting words that we have got to get out of Afghanistan and his views are still being discussed and debated and still shaping US policy even after his untimely departure. So, I want to recognize three American diplomats who died on Mount Igman - Joe Kruzal, Nelson Drew and Bob Frasure, but Richard Holbrooke, I want to dedicate this to you. You have set the pattern for global dialogue and cooperation at the end of 20th century which has to carry us forward through the 21st century. Thank you.