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**Remarks by Dean Geoffrey Cowan on the establishment
of the Edward R. Murrow Journalism Fellows Program**

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Madame Secretary, the new Edward R. Murrow Journalism Program builds on an important tradition that unites journalism with public diplomacy.

We all understand that democracy cannot work without the free flow of information and ideas that is made possible through an independent and effective press. It is also true that public diplomacy cannot work without independent, truthful and well trained journalists who have a firm grasp of the ethics and values of the profession and know and understand the world.

For more than 50 years, the United States, under both the United States Information Agency and the Department of State, has understood the importance of the press and has arranged for journalists to visit this country and to work in some of America's leading newsrooms. The United Nations offers a similar program as do countries such as Great Britain and Germany.

In a world where people and nations desperately need to understand each other better – and to report about each other more accurately – such programs perform a vital service.

But the program we are announcing today adds an exciting and important new component to those that the USIA and State Department have offered in the past. It harnesses the resources of American journalism schools. Each of our schools will offer training in specialized areas such as science and technology or entertainment and popular culture.

In recent years, reporters everywhere have recognized that in an increasingly complex world there is a need for short courses that provide in-depth training. At USC, we train hundreds of working journalists each year. They take courses that last from three days to three weeks – in fields such as art and criticism, health and science, social justice, education, and immigration policy. Last month, USC Annenberg's Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism conducted a program called "Covering Islam and Muslims in America." All of our schools expect the international journalists to learn from our courses – and, I should add, we all expect our students to learn from the international visitors.

The Murrow Program will be structured as a true partnership. The State Department will not be funding our programs, nor will it be involved in shaping our curricula.

Along with the Aspen Institute and the leaders of the other journalism schools who are here with us today, I am confident this partnership will serve as a fitting tribute to the international journalist and public diplomat whose name it carries.