Dedication

Arthur C. Helton

1949–2003

All of us at the Council on Foreign Relations were deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our colleague and friend, Arthur C. Helton, in the August 19, 2003, bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. Arthur was one of our most distinguished senior fellows and a noted expert on refugee and humanitarian issues and international law. A respected lawyer and human rights activist, he devoted his life to improving the lives of others. At the time of his death, he was in Iraq to consult with the United Nations to help find ways to relieve human suffering there.

Arthur was Director of Peace and Conflict Studies and Senior Fellow for Refugee Studies and Preventive Action at the Council. He was also an adjunct professor at Columbia University Law School. Prior to joining the Council in 1999, he founded and directed the Forced Migration Projects at the Open Society Institute and directed the Refugee Project at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

“From representing Haitian boat people incarcerated at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1981 in New York, to interviewing displaced Serbs from Kosovo residing in Belgrade in 2001, refugees have taken me on a remarkable professional journey,” Arthur wrote in the preface of his 2002 book, The Price of Indifference: Refugees and Humanitarian Action in the New Century. Arthur’s colleagues at the Council and elsewhere are honored to have witnessed and participated in his remarkable journey. With his death, the world has lost a devoted and talented champion of the rights of the dispossessed. We will miss him.