



Joan Mondale:

'Art is truest League of Nations'

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Joan Mondale, second lady of our land, proved to a large audience Friday that she is second to none in the realm of the arts.

Mrs. Mondale came to Detroit to participate in the Detroit-Windsor International Freedom Festival as the principal speaker at the annual Women's Friendship luncheon.

Friday's event was the 21st such luncheon and with Mrs. Mondale as a drawing card, it proved the largest to date. Well over 600 celebrants took part in the festive occasion.

Outside, the elements brought thunder, lightning and torrents of rain, leading the announcement that the annual fireworks would have to be postponed.

Inside, Mrs. Mondale visited quietly during lunch, smiling rarely. She was dressed in a three-piece, tailored suit with off-white straight skirt, plum colored blouse, and pale lavender jacket.

The wife of the vice president wears her brown hair simply, uses little make-up and wore only a simple gold bracelet and earrings.

Though her talk couldn't make up for the cancelled fireworks, her entire presence changed when she spoke of her great love for the arts.

GESTURING, eyes flashing, she spoke of her vision of the arts and it's place in our world and of it's potential as a unifier.

"Art is the truest League of Nations," she said, "speaking a language understood by all nations."

She said that not only businesspe-

sons and politicians, but Canadian and American artists have built the friendship and intercourse that help us maintain our long and friendly international border.

As an advocate of the arts, Mrs. Mondale has traveled more than 70,000 miles in recent months. She is the author of "Politics and Art" written in 1972.

She contends politicians and artist have much in common and can affect good works in the areas of human relations and human rights and understanding between people.

"Art is a special language — it is a unique communicator," she said.

"A painting, a jazz concert, a ballet does not need an interpreter as it travels to other countries."

"Art has no one passport — it is a natural citizen."

She termed our cultural exchange with other nations "a window through which other countries can see our life, can learn to understand us and through which we can look at and develop a deeper understanding of others and their cultures."

Mrs. Mondale said we like to send our art abroad and welcome it from other countries.

"We like art to jolt us into fresh insights and recognitions," she said. "Art aims to set our senses free. It opens up the windows and lets fresh air in, opening new vistas."

MRS. MONDALE referred to a recent visit to Belgrade, Yugoslavia during which she opened the United States International Communication Agency Exhibition called "America Now."

In music festival

Della Reese joins Woody Herman and his Thundering Herd Friday, Aug. 10, in Meadow Brook Music Festival's 1979 line-up. Pavilion seats and transportation are offered in a reduced-rate package deal through Farmington Community Center. Reservations are being taken now for events scheduled on four dates by calling the center, 477-8404.

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