

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO CONVOCATION 15 MAY 1981

MR PRESIDENT AND FELLOW MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION, ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECISION TO HOLD YOUR AGM A LITTLE LATER IN THE YEAR IS THAT THE PERIOD THAT I AM CALLED UPON TO REVIEW, THE CALENDAR YEAR 1980, HAS RECEDED INTO A REASONABLE MIDDLE-DISTANCE PERSPECTIVE. INCURABLE OPTIMIST AS I AM I CAN CHIEFLY RECALL THE HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL EVENTS OF THE YEAR, OF WHICH THERE WERE MANY, WHEREAS THE DISAPPOINTMENTS AND FRUSTRATIONS, VERY MUCH FEWER IN NUMBER, HAVE DISAPPEARED INTO THE BACKGROUND CAMOUFLAGE. BEFORE I DEVELOP THIS PLEASURABLE THEME, HOWEVER, I MUST PAY TRIBUTE TO THAT DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF CONVOCATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, MR JUSTICE ADDLESON. AFTER A LONG ILLNESS, BRAVELY BORNE, WHICH FOR ME PERSONALLY CAST A CONSIDERABLE SHADOW OVER THE OTHERWISE SUNNY 1980 LANDSCAPE, JUDGE

ADDLESON DIED IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR. HIS SERVICES AND DEVOTION TO HIS PROFESSION AND HIS UNIVERSITY WERE OF THE VERY HIGHEST ORDER. FIRST ELECTED TO COUNCIL BY THIS CONVOCATION IN 1967 HE SERVED YOUR AND THE UNIVERSITY'S INTERESTS ADMIRABLY. IN LATTER YEARS AS VICE-CHAIRMAN AND FINALLY AS CHAIRMAN HIS WISE COUNSEL AND CALM JUDGEMENT KEPT US ON AN EVEN KEEL THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES. WE SALUTE THE MEMORY OF A SPLENDID AND DISTINGUISHED RHODIAN. JUDGE ADDLESON'S PLACE AS CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN ASSUMED BY AN EQUALLY DEVOTED AND LOYAL MEMBER OF CONVOCATION, MR J S LEVY, WHOSE FORMER OFFICE AS VICE-CHAIRMAN IN TURN HAS BEEN TAKEN UP BY MR L B GREEN, ANOTHER OF OUR MEMBERS.

WE WERE SORRY TOO TO LOSE THE SERVICES ON COUNCIL OF YET ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AND GRAHAMSTOWN CITIZEN, MR E B NORTON, FORMER HEADMASTER OF ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE, WHO, AS IS THE WONT OF HEADMASTERS,

HAS "RETIRED" TO ANOTHER CITY AND ANOTHER SCHOOL ONCE AGAIN TO TEACH BOYS IN THE CLASSROOM. THE DONORS HAVE ELECTED IN HIS PLACE MR L BORMAN, WELL-KNOWN EAST LONDON INDUSTRIALIST.

NO REPORT ON 1980 WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT PAYING TRIBUTE TO TWO OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF STAFF WHO RETIRED AT THE END OF THE YEAR, THE REGISTRAR, MR W J ASKEW, AND THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, PROFESSOR J R NUNN. EACH IN HIS INDIVIDUAL STYLE WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSCIENTIOUS LOYALTY AND COMMITMENT TO DUTY AND SERVICE THAT RHODES UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN PRIVILEGED TO RECEIVE OVER THE YEARS FROM THE VAST MAJORITY OF ITS ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF. IT IS A TRUISM THAT A UNIVERSITY, OR INDEED ANY MAJOR INSTITUTION, DEPENDS FOR ITS REPUTATION ON THE QUALITY OF ITS MEMBERS. IN THIS RESPECT RHODES OWES AN ENORMOUS DEBT TO ALL ITS STAFF MEMBERS, PAST AND PRESENT.

DURING 1980 THE COUNCIL MADE THE FORMAL DECISION TO ESTABLISH THE RHODES UNIVERSITY EAST LONDON DIVISION INITIALLY TO OFFER THE BACHELOR OF COMMERCE DEGREE TO PART-TIME STUDENTS, BEGINNING IN 1981. IN NOVEMBER THE NEWLY APPOINTED DEAN OF STUDIES, MR JONATHAN STEAD, ESTABLISHED HIS OFFICE IN THE EAST LONDON TECHNICAL COLLEGE WHICH HAD GENEROUSLY AGREED TO HOUSE THE DIVISION FOR THE TIME BEING. ALL THE GROUNDWORK WAS COMPLETED TIMEOUSLY, WITH THE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE OF AN ENERGETIC AD HOC COMMITTEE OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN LEAD BY MR ASHTON CHUBB. THE DIVISION WAS FORMALLY INAUGURATED BY THE CHANCELLOR ON 9 FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, AND HAS MADE AN AUSPICIOUS START WITH AN ENROLMENT OF 52 STUDENTS.

A FURTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST FACULTY OF PHARMACY AT A SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY. ALTHOUGH THE



DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY, SUBSEQUENTLY RENAMED THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, HAD BEEN PART OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE SINCE 1957, THE NEED FOR A SEPARATE PROFESSIONAL FACULTY BECAME INCREASINGLY CLEAR IN THE LIGHT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TRAINING OF PHARMACISTS AND SCIENTISTS. THE PROFESSIONAL NEEDS OF PHARMACISTS REQUIRE A DIFFERENT EMPHASIS AND INVOLVE AREAS SUCH AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PHARMACY PRACTICE.

TWO NATIONAL MUSEUMS HAVE GROWN OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY DURING THE YEAR. THE J L B SMITH INSTITUTE OF ICHTHYOLOGY AND THE NATIONAL ENGLISH LITERARY MUSEUM AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE HAVE BOTH ACHIEVED THE STATUS OF DECLARED CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, WITH THEIR OWN AUTONOMOUS COUNCILS. THEY BOTH, HOWEVER, RETAIN STRONG TIES WITH RHODES, HAVING BEEN GRANTED ASSOCIATED RESEARCH INSTITUTE STATUS BY THE COUNCIL OF RHODES, WITH

STRONG RHODES REPRESENTATION ON THEIR COUNCILS AND WITH THEIR FIRST DIRECTORS, PROFESSORS M M SMITH AND A R W DE VILLIERS RESPECTIVELY, RETAINING THEIR SEATS ON SENATE. WITH INDEPENDENT GRANTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL EDUCATION THEIR ACTIVITIES WILL BE FUNDED ON A MORE EXTENSIVE SCALE THAN BEFORE. THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH IN AFRICA WILL CONTINUE AS A RHODES RESEARCH INSTITUTE WHILE A NEW UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ICHTHYOLOGY AND FISHERIES SCIENCE HAS BEEN CREATED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TEACHING OF THESE SUBJECTS.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS HAVE INCLUDED THE DIVISION OF THE SECOND YEAR JOURNALISM COURSE INTO SEPARATE THEORY AND PRACTICE COMPONENTS. WE ARE ALSO CONTEMPLATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SPECIALISATION IN THE BACHELOR OF COMMERCE DEGREE, ALTHOUGH THIS STILL AWAITS THE FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL EDUCATION AND

THE PROVISION OF SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING FROM PROSPECTIVE DONORS. A SPORTS SCIENCES CENTRE, UNDER THE ENERGETIC LEADERSHIP OF DR B B COPLEY, WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION. HAVING A RESEARCH AS WELL AS A PRACTICAL FUNCTION THE CENTRE IS DESIGNED TO ASSESS THE PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES OF BOTH EXPERT PERFORMERS AND SOCIAL SPORTSMEN AND TO ADVISE THEM ON HOW BEST TO REALISE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO DONORS WHO HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO NEW CHAIRS AND THE SUBVENTION OF A THIRD.

FEDERALE ELECTRONICS HAVE SPONSORED A CHAIR IN ELECTRONICS, WHILE THE MOLTENO BROTHERS' TRUST HAVE ENDOWED THE H A MOLTENO CHAIR IN ENGLISH - SECOND LANGUAGE. A SUBVENTION FROM PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL AND COMPANY HAS ENABLED US TO ESTABLISH THE C U PEAT MEMORIAL CHAIR OF ACCOUNTING.

DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THESE ENABLE THE UNIVERSITY TO BUILD UP EXPERTISE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO SUSTAIN FROM OUR OWN UNAIDED RESOURCES.

IN THE AREA OF PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT GREAT IMPROVEMENTS WERE EFFECTED TO THE THEATRE STAGE, WHOSE DEPTH HAS BEEN NEARLY DOUBLED TO 19 METRES, A NEW CURVED CYCLORAMA HAS BEEN BUILT IN SECTIONS SO THAT THEY CAN BE USED AS SCENIC UNITS, AND A NEW LIGHTING BOARD WITH 100 CONTROLS HAS BEEN INSTALLED. AS PART OF THE RESIDENCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME BOTH A AND COLLEGE HOUSES WERE COMPREHENSIVELY REMODELLED AND RENOVATED. AFTER MILNER HOUSE HAS BEEN THROUGH THE SAME PROCESS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981 ALL FIVE OF THE OLDEST RESIDENCES WILL HAVE BEEN FULLY BROUGHT UP TO MODERN STANDARDS OF COMFORT. THE NEW STANLEY KIDD HOUSE, FORMERLY THE NURSES' HOSTEL AT THE OLD PRINCE ALFRED INFIRMARY, HAS



ALSO BEEN THOROUGHLY RENOVATED AND BECOME THE FIFTH HOUSE OF KIMBERLEY HALL. WE HAVE THUS BEEN ABLE TO HONOUR ALL OUR FOUNDING PROFESSORS BY NAMING RESIDENCES AFTER THEM. IN THE SAME AREA, FORMERLY THE HISTORIC HEADQUARTERS OF THE OLD CAPE CORPS, WE HAVE RECYCLED AN OLD HOSPITAL WARD TO PRODUCE SEVEN FLATS FOR MARRIED GRADUATE STUDENTS. WITH THE ACQUISITION OF TRURO HOUSE AND ITS CONVERSION TO A SENIOR WOMEN'S RESIDENCE WITH SELF-COOKING FACILITIES, AND WITH THE DETERMINATION THAT WINCHESTER HOUSE SHALL BE A PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR MEN, WE HAVE STABILISED THE POSITION OF ALLAN WEBB HALL AS A SET OF FOUR RESIDENCES IN THE OLD TRAINING COLLEGE AREA, NAMED AFTER THE BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE COMMUNITY OF THE RESURRECTION TO OUR CITY. MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION WILL ALSO BE GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT THE COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO CONVERT THE FORMER SISTERS' CHAPEL TO A MUSEUM TO HOUSE MEMENTOS AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THIS DECISION IS SUBJECT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH CONVOCATION AS TO THE PRESENTATION EXHIBITS AND THEIR SUPERVISION AT TIMES WHEN THE MUSEUM IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

CONTRARY TO INITIAL EXPECTATIONS, STUDENT NUMBERS IN 1980 ROSE A SATISFACTORY 3,8% TO A GRAND TOTAL OF 2 914. WITH THE CONTRIBUTION FROM THE EAST LONDON DIVISION WE MAY WELL COME TANTALISINGLY CLOSE TO THE MAGIC FIGURE OF 3 000 DURING 1981. BLACK STUDENT ENROLMENT WAS JUST UNDER 200, OR APPROXIMATELY 6% OF THE STUDENT BODY. GEOGRAPHICALLY THERE WAS A MODEST REDUCTION IN STUDENTS WHOSE HOMES ARE IN THE CAPE PROVINCE, BUT THIS WAS MORE THAN COMPENSATED FOR BY INCREASES FROM THE TRANSVAAL AND ZIMBABWE. AN ANALYSIS OF CURRICULUM CHOICES CONFIRMS THE PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED TREND TO THE MORE PROFESSIONALLY ORIENTATED DISCIPLINES. THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN

THESE AREAS OF STUDY ROSE FROM 55 TO 57,5%. IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT APPROXIMATELY 1 000 STUDENTS ARE IN RECEIPT OF BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS TOTTALLING OVER ONE MILLION RANDS, 25% OF WHICH IS PROVIDED BY UNIVERSITY CONTROLLED SOURCES AND 75% FROM INDEPENDENT OUTSIDE SOURCES. IN EFFECT 40% OF THE FULL-TIME STUDENTS RECEIVE 50% OF THEIR TOTAL ACADEMIC AND RESIDENCE FEES THROUGH BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

THE YEAR 1980 WAS NO EXCEPTION WITH RESPECT TO MERITORIOUS STUDENT PERFORMANCES IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS RAG, SRC, SOCIETIES, CLUBS AND SPORT. ACADEMICALLY A RECORD 750 DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS WERE EARNED, WHILE A GRATIFYINGLY LARGE NUMBER OF ACADEMIC COLOURS AND HALF-COLOURS WERE AWARDED. NO FEWER THAN 17 STUDENTS WERE CHOSEN FOR SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY TEAMS AND 28 REPRESENTED PROVINCIAL SIDES. THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED SKY-DIVING CLUB WERE SO SUCCESSFUL THAT THEY WERE

ABLE TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN AIRPLANE! GENERAL SPORTS ACTIVITY HAS IN FACT EXPANDED AND DIVERSIFIED TO THE POINT WHERE IT HAS BECOME NECESSARY TO APPOINT AN ASSISTANT SPORTS OFFICER.

FINANCIALLY THE UNIVERSITY WEATHERED 1980 WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. WE WERE ABLE, AFTER MAKING PRUDENT APPROPRIATIONS TO GENERAL AND REPLACEMENT RESERVES, TO SHOW A MODEST SURPLUS, AND EVEN TO ELIMINATE THE ACCUMULATED DEFICIT IN THE RESIDENCE ACCOUNT. OUR ENDOWMENT FUNDS SHOWED A WELCOME INCREMENT, THANKS TO EXCELLENT MANAGEMENT BY THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE OF OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS. IN THIS RESPECT I MUST PAY PARTICULAR TRIBUTE TO MR J B SUTHERLAND, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS, THE CHANCELLOR, DR I MACKENZIE AND TO MESSRS D B RILEY (CHAIRMAN), W S YEOWART AND H DE VILLIERS, AND DR C J ROSS-SPENCER. BOTH COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNORS, HOWEVER, ARE FIRMLY OF THE OPINION THAT

IF THE UNIVERSITY IS TO REALISE ITS POTENTIAL MORE FULLY A GREATER CONTRIBUTION FROM ENDOWMENT INCOME IS ESSENTIAL, AND THAT THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR A MAJOR EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION.

ADMINISTRATIVELY THE UNIVERSITY HAS RESTRUCTURED ITS TOP MANAGEMENT ECHELON BY APPOINTING DIRECTORS OF THE MAJOR DIVISIONS OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS, FINANCE AND PERSONNEL, WHILE FURTHER ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO THE ORGANISATION OF THE REGISTRAR'S DIVISION. THESE DIVISION HEADS NOW REPORT TO THE VICE-PRINCIPAL, THUS ENABLING THE VICE-CHANCELLOR TO DEVOTE MORE ATTENTION TO BROADER POLICY AND PLANNING ISSUES, TO CLOSER CONTACT WITH STAFF AND STUDENTS AND TO RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY.

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO CONCLUDE THESE ANNUAL REPORTS BY RECORDING MY APPRECIATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION TO RHODES SO GENEROUSLY AFFORDED BY MEMBERS OF BODIES SUCH AS THE COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, WHO SERVE IN AN HONORARY CAPACITY. CONVOCATION MEMBERS TOO TAKE A KEEN INTEREST IN THE CONTINUED PROGRESS OF THEIR ALMA MATER, MORE PARTICULARLY YOUR PRESIDENT, JUDGE CLOETE, AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. FINALLY, IT MIGHT BE OPPORTUNE TO REMIND YOU OF THE OLD RHODIAN REUNION WHICH WE ARE PLANNING TO COINCIDE WITH THE GRAHAMSTOWN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS IN JULY. DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU PRESENT TO CELEBRATE THAT OCCASION TOGETHER.

D S HENDERSON

15 MAY 1981