

DOCTOR SIR MICHAEL EDWARDES, UNLIKE THE ARCHBISHOP, DOES NOT WORK WITH MEN AND THEIR SOULS, BUT WITH CARS AND THEIR BODIES; AND UNLIKE THE LAWYER, HE IS NOT CONCERNED WITH THE BREAKING OF REGULATIONS BUT WITH THE REGULATING OF BRAKES. HE MAY THEREFORE WONDER HOW THE WORD 'CHARGE' COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIS CAREER, BUT I MUST REMIND HIM THAT HIS FIRST APPOINTMENT IN BRITAIN WAS AS MANAGER OF A BATTERY MANUFACTURING COMPANY, AND THE PRIME REQUIREMENT FOR A GOOD BATTERY IS THE ABILITY TO HOLD A CHARGE. I BELIEVE HIS BATTERIES WERE HIGHLY ESTEEMED FROM POLE TO POLE.

AMONG THE CHALLENGES OF HIS CAREER WAS THE ASSIGNMENT TO MARKET RHODESIAN TOBACCO IN A HOSTILE WORLD - WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN AS EASY AS SELLING DEEP-FREEZES TO ESKIMOS - AND HE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING SMOKERS COUGH UP FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR RHODESIA. THEN, AS A SOUTH AFRICAN IN A LAND OF ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS, HE STORMED THE HEIGHTS OF BRITISH INDUSTRY, TURNING A CHALLENGE INTO A TRIUMPH OF PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT. BOTH HIS COUNTRY AND THIS, HIS UNIVERSITY, MAY PROUDLY SHARE IN THAT ACHIEVEMENT, AND WE HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO-DAY TO ADD A FURTHER DISTINCTION TO THE DEGREE THAT HE GAINED HERE MANY YEARS AGO.

IT IS WITH THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR THE OUTSTANDING  
QUALITIES OF THESE MEN, THAT I ASK YOU TO RISE TO THE  
TOAST OF 'OUR HONORARY GRADUATES'.