

ADDRESS TO KEARSNEY COLLEGE ; BOYS AND PARENTS 24.9.82

MR HEADMASTER, STAFF, PARENTS, BOYS OF KEARSNEY COLLEGE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHEN THE INVITATION ARRIVED TO ADDRESS YOU ON THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION, I WAS ENJOYING A WELL-EARNED RESPITE FROM THE RIGOURS OF LIFE, BURIED IN THE DEPTHS OF RURAL ENGLAND. RECALLING AS I DID THE REGARD AND RESPECT IN WHICH I HELD MR SILCOCK WHEN WE WERE STUDENTS TOGETHER, AND HAVING HEARD FROM MANY SIDES OF THE ENVIABLE REPUTATION OF YOUR SCHOOL, MY WIFE AND I FOUND THE PROSPECT OF PAYING YOU A VISIT AN ENJOYABLE ONE. WITH WHAT SEEMED SUFFICIENT TIME AND LEISURE TO PREPARE MYSELF I READILY ACCEPTED. WE ARE INDEED PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO BE WITH YOU TO-DAY.

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WITH SO MUCH CONFLICT AND DISHARMONY IN THE WORLD WE NOW INHABIT, IT IS INDEED A DAUNTING OUTLOOK FOR THOSE OF YOU ABOUT TO TAKE YOUR LEAVE OF THE ORDERLINESS AND PURPOSEFULNESS ONE FINDS WITHIN THE PORTALS OF A WELL-RUN SCHOOL, AND FACE THE RIGOURS AND UNCERTAINTIES OF THE AMBIGUOUS AND OFTEN CONFUSING ENVIRONMENT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. THE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION FOR MANY OF YOU WILL BE A STINT IN THE ARMED SERVICES OR THE CHOICE OF A UNIVERSITY COURSE. BOTH ALTERNATIVES RAISE ISSUES WHICH CAN AROUSE INTROSPECTION, EVEN ANGUISH. WHAT AM I BEING CALLED UPON TO DEFEND? FOR WHAT TYPE OF LIFE DO I WISH TO PREPARE MYSELF AND TO WHAT END? COMFORT? SECURITY? SERVICE OF MY FELLOW MEN? THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD? THE ANSWERS ARE USUALLY NOT CRISP AND WELL DEFINED IN THE CONTRASTING BLACK AND WHITE OF UNMISTAKABLY IDENTIFIED GOOD AND EVIL. THE REAL WORLD SEEMS RATHER TO BE MADE UP OF LIGHTER AND DARKER SHADES OF GREY,

SOME OF THEM VERY SOOTY INDEED. NO WONDER OLD-FASHIONED WESTERN COWBOY MOVIES ARE SO ENDURINGLY POPULAR. THERE ONE CAN ESCAPE FOR THE MOMENT INTO THE CLEAR PRISTINE AIR OF UNDOUBTED HEROES AND IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIABLE VILLAINS.

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAS EVENTUALLY TO COME TO HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS AS TO HOW HE PERSONALLY IS GOING TO FACE THE DECISIONS HE MUST MAKE AND WHAT VIEW OF THE WORLD HE IS GOING TO ACCEPT AS HIS GUIDE.

IN ORDER TO MAKE SENSE OF STRANGE SURROUNDINGS ONE NEEDS A VANTAGE POINT, A PERSPECTIVE FROM WHICH TO JUDGE THEM. FOR MANY OF YOU, PERHAPS THE MAJORITY, THIS VANTAGE POINT WILL HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN YOUR HOMES AND REINFORCED AT SCHOOL. ITS MAIN FEATURES ARE IN ALL

PROBABILITY THE CENTRAL TENETS OF THE JUDAEO-CHRISTIAN VIEW OF LIFE, THAT THERE IS A LOVING GOD WHO, ALTHOUGH ALL POWERFUL AND ALL KNOWING, NONETHELESS KNOWS AND CARES FOR EACH ONE OF US AS BEING OF INFINITE VALUE. OUR VIEWPOINT MAY NOT BE AS OPTIMISTIC AND FACILE AS THAT DESCRIBED IN BROWNING'S WELLKNOWN LINES:-

"THE YEAR'S AT THE SPRING,
AND DAY'S AT THE MORN;
MORNING'S AT SEVEN;
THE HILL-SIDE'S DEW-PEARLED;
THE LARK'S ON THE WING;
THE SNAIL'S ON THE THORN:
GOD'S IN HIS HEAVEN -
ALL'S RIGHT WITH THE WORLD!"

NOR YET MAY YOU BE ABLE TO GIVE COMPLETE ASSENT TO WHAT USED TO BE KNOWN BEFORE THE DAYS OF SERIOUS INFLATION, AS THE PENNY CATECHISM, AS EXEMPLIFIED IN ITS FIRST TWO QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: "WHO MADE ME?

A: GOD MADE ME

Q: WHY DID GOD MAKE ME?

A: TO KNOW HIM, TO LOVE HIM AND TO SERVE HIM IN THIS WORLD, AND TO BE HAPPY EVER AFTER WITH HIM IN THE WORLD TO COME".

IF NOT EXEMPLIFIED PRECISELY IN THE WORDS I HAVE QUOTED, I SURMISE THAT MANY OF YOU WILL HAVE INHERITED, WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE INTERIORISED IT AND MADE IT YOUR OWN, A BASIC OUTLOOK SOMEWHAT IN THE SPIRIT OF WHAT I HAVE SUGGESTED. IF YOU FIND THIS FUNDAMENTAL

PERSPECTIVE UNDER EXTERNAL ATTACK, OR SUBJECT TO GRAVE INTERNAL DOUBT, THEN I SUGGEST THAT YOU RESOLVE THE ISSUE AS A MATTER OF FIRST PRIORITY. HOW CAN ONE HOPE TO FIND ONE'S BEARINGS OR DETERMINE ONE'S COURSE IN DANGEROUS AND UNFAMILIAR SEAS WITHOUT COMPASS OR CHART, OR WITH NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT IN WHICH YOU PLACE LITTLE RELIANCE? WITHOUT A ROADMAP OF LIFE THAT ADDRESSES ITSELF TO SUCH UNAVOIDABLE QUESTIONS AS "WHAT IS EXISTENCE?" OR "WHO AM I?" OR FAILS TO PRESENT A WORKING HYPOTHESIS ON THE NATURE OF BEING OR THE NATURE OF MAN WE CAN NEITHER KNOW OUR INTENDED GOAL OR HOW TO ACHIEVE IT.

I AM ASSUMING AS A LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR THAT WE GIVE ASSENT TO THE VIEW THAT THE UNIVERSE IS ON BALANCE A HOPEFUL AND NOT ENTIRELY CAPRICIOUS PLACE, AND OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL EXERTIONS DO HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANCE. THE ALTERNATIVE IS REALLY ONLY A BLEAK CONVICTION THAT

NOTHING MATTERS, AS EXEMPLIFIED IN A COUPLET FROM SHELLEY'S POEM OZYMANDIAS. "A TRAVELLER FROM AN ANTIQUE LAND" HAD REPORTED "TWO VAST AND TRUNKLESS LEGS OF STONE STAND IN THE DESERT". THIS REMNANT OF A KINGLY STATUE WAS APPARENTLY ALL THAT REMAINED OF A VAST AND PROSPEROUS EMPIRE. SHELLEY SUMS UP A VIEW OF THE FUTILITY OF HUMAN ASPIRATION AND ENDEAVOUR IN THESE WORDS:-

"MY NAME IS OZYMANDIAS, KING OF KINGS;
LOOK ON MY WORKS YE MIGHTY AND DESPAIR".

EVEN MORE WRETCHED, MUCH AS WE MAY SYMPATHISE WITH IT, IS THE CONDITION OF KING LEAR WHEN SHAKESPEARE HAS HIM SAY

"AS FLIES TO WANTON BOYS, ARE WE TO THE GODS;
THEY KILL US FOR THEIR SPORT".

IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE A PROFITABLE DIALOGUE WITH A MAN REDUCED TO THIS LEVEL OF COSMIC INCAPACITY. I THEREFORE ASSUME AN ESTABLISHED FRAME OF REFERENCE THAT ELIMINATES ULTIMATE MEANINGLESSNESS AND DESPAIR.

TO ANY STUDENT OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE OR HISTORY IT IS CLEAR THAT WE LIVE IN AN EXCEEDINGLY COMPLEX WORLD THAT WILL NOT ADMIT OF SINGLEMINDED DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS. THE VERY BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE PHYSICAL WORLD, THE MOLECULES WITH THEIR CONVOLUTED STRUCTURES, OR EVEN THE ATOMS COMPRISING THEM, REQUIRE THE MOST ABSTRUSE MATHEMATICS TO RENDER THEM EVEN PARTIALLY INTELLIGIBLE. THE NUCLEI OF THE ATOMS THEMSELVES CONTAIN A BEWILDERING KALEIDOSCOPE OF SUBATOMIC PARTICLES. AS WE MOVE FORWARD TO THE STUDY OF LIVING MATTER EVEN MORE INTRICATE WEBS ARE WOVEN. DOUBLE HELICES OF GENETIC MATERIAL, WITH

THEIR ARCANES ACRONYMS OF DNA AND RNA ARE ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO YIELD THEIR SECRETS. YET ALL THIS IS AS CHILD'S PLAY WHEN WE PROCEED TO THE LIMITLESS INTANGIBILITIES OF HUMAN MOTIVATIONS AND BEHAVIOUR AND OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES.

IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME, THEREFORE, THAT PEOPLE SEEM SO EASILY TO SUCCUMB TO THE BLANDISHMENTS OF THE SINGLE ALL-EMBRACING GRAND CONCEPT, WHEN IT SO UTTERLY FLIES IN THE FACE OF ALL OUR ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE. TAKE TWO PERVASIVE TWENTIETH CENTURY EXAMPLES. FIRST, WE HAVE THE FREUDIAN THESIS THAT IF ONLY WE RID OURSELVES OF ALL OUR EMBEDDED INHIBITIONS AND REPRESSIONS, PARTICULARLY OUR SEXUAL ONES, WE SHALL HAVE EMBRACED THE OPEN SESAME TO LIFE'S PROBLEMS. SO WAS BORN THE PERMISSIVE SOCIETY, FROM DR SPOCK'S PRECEPTS ON HOW TO BRING UP BABIES TO LIVE-IN LOVERS AND THE

LATEST DIVORCE STATISTICS. WE HAVE SHATTERED THE PURITANICAL PROPRIETIES OF STAID VICTORIAN SOCIETY WITH A VENGEANCE. WITH ADVANTAGE OF HINDSIGHT WE PERCEIVE THAT FOR EVERY VICTORIAN DEVIL CAST OUT SEVEN SPIRITS MORE WICKED HAVE ENTERED IN, AND THE LAST STATE IS WORSE THAN THE FIRST. SECONDLY, CONSIDER THE ECONOMIC DETERMINISM OF DIALECTIC MATERIALISM, BETTER KNOWN AS COMMUNISM. ONCE THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION CAN BE WRESTED FROM THE UNCARING AND GREED-BESOTTED BOURGEOISIE AND PLACED IN THE HANDS OF A SUCCESSFUL DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT, WE SHALL ALL EVENTUALLY LIVE IN A UTOPIA OF COMRADELY LOVE, EACH GIVING ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY AND RECEIVING ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS, WITH THE OPPRESSIVE STATE APPARATUS HAVING WITHERED AWAY. NO MATTER HOW MANY ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE HAVE TO BE LIQUIDATED, OR HOW MANY HUNGARIES, CZECHOSLAVAKIAS, POLANDS OR AFGHANISTANS WE WITNESS, THE SEDUCTIVE APPEAL OF MR MARX'S DOCTRINES RETAIN THEIR LUSTRE FOR COUNTLESS DISSATISFIED SOULS.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, IN A RECENT BOOK WHOSE TITLE I SHOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE APPROPRIATED FOR THIS ADDRESS, WERE IT NOT FOR PLAGIARISM, HAD THIS TO SAY:

"EVERY PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION PRESENTS ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST, WHICH HAVE TO BE WEIGHED. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO IN A PERIOD WHEN PEOPLE SEEM ONLY TOO READY TO TAKE THEIR POINT OF VIEW TO EXTREMES. I BELIEVE THAT MOST PEOPLE, HAVING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED ALL THE FACTORS, PREFER TO ADOPT A MORE MODERATE APPROACH, AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I HAVE CALLED THIS MATERIAL A QUESTION OF BALANCE."

IT IS THIS SENSE OF INTELLECTUAL BALANCE, WHICH ULTIMATELY DEPENDS ON A SENSIBLY ADOPTED PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE THAT IS THE SUREST ANTIDOTE TO

THE ONE-IDEA, TUNNEL VISION EXTREMISTS. THERE ARE FORTUNATELY ALSO SOME FAIRLY WELL-DEFINED COMMON CHARACTERISTICS THAT HELP US TO RECOGNISE THE ADHERENTS OF UNSHAKEABLY UNIDIMENSIONAL DOCTRINES. FIRSTLY, IT IS REMARKABLE HOW CONSISTENTLY THEY HAVE NO GOOD WORD TO SAY ABOUT ANYBODY OUTSIDE THEIR OWN COTERIE. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE GREAT DESPISERS AND HATERS. BE INSTANTLY ON YOUR GUARD AGAINST THOSE WHO CANNOT BRING THEMSELVES TO SEE ANY GOOD OUTSIDE THEMSELVES, AND ALL OF WHOSE COMMENTS ARE NEGATIVE OR CORROSIVE. I LEARNED THIS LESSON EARLY IN MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS. I HAD A FRIEND WITH WHOM I FREQUENTLY SHARED A CONVENIENT PERCH, SUCH AS THE HIGH WALL ALONGSIDE THE TUCKSHOP, WHERE, LIKE OLYMPIANS, WE COULD OBSERVE THE PASSING PARADE OF THE COMMON HERD. HE HAD AN AMUSING BUT ALWAYS CYNICAL REMARK ABOUT EVERY PASSER-BY. THE PRETENTIOUS SWAGGER OF THE HEAD PREFECT, THE ABSURD GAIT OF ONE OF THE MASTERS, THE SARTORIAL

PRETENSIONS OF THE LOCAL LOTHARIO ALL CAME UNDER THE INSPECTION OF HIS MERCILESS MICROSCOPE. FROM OUR LOFTY AND SUPERCILIOUS VANTAGE POINT THE CRASS VANITIES OF LESSER MORTALS WERE STRIPPED BARE. IT WAS ALL VERY ENTICING AND I RAPIDLY FOUND MYSELF BECOMING LIKE HIM, UNTIL ONE DAY THE UNSETTLING THOUGHT CROSSED MY MIND: WHAT IF ONE DAY I WERE PASSING DOWN BELOW AND HE WERE SITTING UP HERE WITH ANOTHER FRIEND? HOW WOULD I, THE FELLOW OLYMPIAN, FARE UNDER THIS DISSECTION PROCESS? I RAPIDLY DECIDED THAT THERE WAS MUCH GOOD AFTER ALL IN MY FELLOW PUPILS, OR HOW ELSE COULD I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS SOME GOOD IN MYSELF? I SOON TRANSFERRED MY ALLEGIANCE TO OTHER FRIENDS.

THERE IS ANOTHER HALLMARK OF THE EXTREMIST CRITIC OF PHILOSOPHIES AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES NOT TO HIS LIKING AND WHO LIKE OMAR KHAYYAM WOULD "GRASP THIS SORRY SCHEME OF THINGS ENTIRE ... AND THEN RE-MOULD IT NEARER TO THE HEART'S DESIRE".

HE COMPARES ALL THE FAULTS AND IMPERFECTIONS OF AN EXISTING SYSTEM AGAINST THE GRAND AND PERFECT ABSTRACTION OF SOME UNTRIED UTOPIA. ONE IS REMINDED OF CHURCHILL'S OBSERVATION THAT DEMOCRACY IS THE WORST POSSIBLE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, UNTIL YOU CONSIDER ALL THE OTHERS, MORE PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU EXAMINE THEM IN A SPECIFIC HISTORICAL CONTEXT. AN INFALLIBLE ANTIDOTE TO SUCH A TACTIC IS TO INSIST ON PRESSING THE PROPONENT FOR ALL THE MESSY DETAILS AS TO HOW HE PROPOSES TO PUT HIS DOCTRINE INTO EFFECT IN A REAL-LIFE CONCRETE SITUATION, AND WHAT THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF HIS PROGNOSTICATIONS WILL BE.

TO ME ONE OF THE MOST DISHEARTENING ASPECTS OF THE UNBALANCED EXTREMIST VIEWPOINT IS THE NEAR-IMPOSSIBILITY OF A VIABLE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN SUCH A PERSON OR PARTY AND THOSE OF THE OPPOSITE PERSUASION. CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES WHERE A IS IN SERIOUS CONFLICT WITH B.

- ONE. A CONVINCES B OF THE COMPLETE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF HIS CAUSE, OR VICE VERSA. THIS, UNFORTUNATELY, IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY WHEN VIEWS ARE STRONGLY HELD.
- TWO. A OVERWHELMS OR ANNIHILATES B, EITHER PHYSICALLY, OR ELSE POLITICALLY OR ECONOMICALLY, OR VICE VERSA. THIS IS SURELY NOT A DESIRABLE OUTCOME.
- THREE. THE CONFLICT GOES ON INDEFINITELY. THIS, REGRETTABLY, IS ALL TOO FREQUENTLY THE CASE, AS WE KNOW ONLY TOO WELL FROM EVEN A CASUAL ATTENTION TO OUR DAILY NEWS. ISRAEL, NORTHERN IRELAND AND SOUTH AFRICA ARE NOTORIOUS EXAMPLES.

- FOUR A COMPROMISE IS REACHED, IN WHICH EACH PARTY REDUCES HIS DEMANDS IN RETURN FOR A MATCHING CONCESSION. THIS IS OFTEN NOT A VERY INSPIRING, BUT SURELY A DESIRABLE RESULT.

TO THE FANATIC EVERYTHING IS SACROSANCT, AND NOTHING IS NEGOTIABLE. COMPROMISE IS THEREFORE UNTHINKABLE. THE VERY SUGGESTION EVOKES CRIES OF "SELLOUT", OR IN A MORE SOUTH AFRICAN ACCENT "HENSOPPER". HE THEREFORE ATTEMPTS TO CONVERT HIS OPPONENT, OR FAILING THAT, TO BLUDGEON HIM. HE USUALLY DOES NOT SUCCEED AND SO THE CONFLICT DRAGS ON UNTIL ONE OR OTHER PARTY YIELDS FROM SHEER EXHAUSTION.

IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, TO THINK THROUGH VERY CAREFULLY WHAT CAN BE PUT ON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AND HOW MUCH IS BEDROCK PRINCIPLE WHICH CANNOT BE CONCEDED. THIS FREQUENTLY TURNS OUT TO BE

VERY LITTLE, AND CAN OFTEN EVEN THEN BE EXPRESSED IN A "FORMULA" WHICH CAN PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF EACH PARTY. AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE IS THE CONDUCT OF THOMAS MORE IN HIS CONFLICT WITH HENRY VIII, WHO ABROGATED TO HIMSELF THE HEADSHIP OF THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND, AND DEMANDED OF HIS SUBJECTS THAT THEY RECOGNISE HIM AS SUCH. MORE WAS ANXIOUS, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF CONSCIENCE, TO AVOID THE CONFRONTATION WITH HIS KING. HE PROPOSED A SKILLFUL "FORMULA" SOLUTION : HE WOULD RECOGNISE HENRY'S CLAIM "INsofar AS THE LAW OF GOD ALLOWS". THIS SATISFIED MORE'S CONSCIENCE AND IT WAS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT HENRY WOULD NOT WANT TO MAKE THE CLAIM AGAINST THE LAW OF GOD, EVEN IF HE PUT A DIFFERENT PRACTICAL INTERPRETATION AS TO WHAT THAT MEANT IN PRACTICE. ALAS, HENRY WAS UNABLE TO RISE TO THE OCCASION. A GOOD MAN LOST HIS HEAD AND THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND WAS SHATTERED.

MANY OF YOU BOYS IN THIS AUDIENCE, BY VIRTUE OF YOUR PRIVILEGED EDUCATION AND UPBRINGINGS, ARE WILLIY-NILLY GOING TO FIND YOURSELVES IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP AND INFLUENCE, IN BUSINESS, IN TEACHING OR THE CHURCH OR PERHAPS EVEN IN POLITICS. IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE EASY TO ENVISAGE YOURSELF, AS YOU ARE NOW, AS A FUTURE LEADER THIRTY OR FORTY YEARS HENCE. MOST OF THE BOYS IN MY SCHOOL CLASS ARE ALIVE TODAY AND NEARLY ALL OF THEM OCCUPY POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE. THERE IS NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE EQUALLY TRUE OF YOUR CLASS. IT IS MY HOPE THAT SOME OF YOU MAY EXHIBIT THAT LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE ATTAINMENT OF THE MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL STAMINA TO EXERCISE A BALANCED JUDGEMENT IN KEEPING THE PEACE AMONGST CONFLICTING EXTREMISMS. IT IS A TOUGH AND OFTEN A THANKLESS TASK. AS HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID "BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD IS THE PLACE YOU ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE RUN OVER". ON A RECENT VISIT TO THE HOLY LAND MY WIFE AND I WERE FORTUNATE TO VISIT

THE CHURCH OF THE BEATITUDES OVERLOOKING THE CALM SERENITY OF THE NORTHERN END OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, THE TRADITIONAL SITE OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT. ON THAT OCCASION I RECALLED WITH A DEEPER INSIGHT THAN EVER BEFORE MY FAVOURITE BEATITUDE: "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS : FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE CHILDREN OF GOD". MAY SOME OF YOU BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD IN THAT SENSE.

"THE CHILDREN OF THIS WORLD ARE IN THEIR GENERATION WISER THAN THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT". LET US LIST THEREFORE SOME PRACTICAL APHORISMS THAT ARE USEFUL IN THE ARMOURY OF ANY SERIOUS KEEPER OF THE PEACE:

AS FAR AS POSSIBLE NEGOTIATE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH. "A STRONG MAN ARMED KEEPETH HIM GOODS IN PEACE", OR AS PRESIDENT TEDDY ROOSEVELT COLOURFULLY PUT IT "SPEAK SOFTLY, BUT CARRY A BIG STICK".

CHOOSE YOUR GROUND VERY CAREFULLY WHEN NEGOTIATING WITH A POWERFUL ADVERSARY.

ONCE YOUR MAIN GOAL IS ATTAINED BE GENEROUS IN CONCEDED INCIDENTAL DETAILS.

ESTABLISH AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE WHAT MINIMUM GOALS THE OPPONENT WILL SETTLE FOR.

DO NOT ATTEMPT THE IMPOSSIBLE.

FINALLY, IT REALLY IS THE BANAL TRUTH THAT HALF A LOAF IS BETTER THAN NO BREAD.

WE IN SOUTH AFRICA HAVE FOR FAR TOO LONG FOUND IT MORE COMFORTABLE TO LIVE WITH OUR ILLUSIONS THAN TO FACE UP SQUARELY TO OUR SERIOUS AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS. INTRANSIGENCE HAS SPAWNED OPPOSING INTRANSIGENCE. EACH SIDE HAS FOUND NO DIFFICULTY IN JUSTIFYING ITS STANCE. THE WHITE MAN'S EXTREME SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE DIMINUTION OF HIS PRIVILEGES HAS AUTOMATICALLY EVOKED AN INCREASINGLY STRIDENT DEMAND FOR THE MORE IMMEDIATE AND OFTEN UNREALISTIC SATISFACTION OF BLACK ASPIRATIONS. PERHAPS EVEN NOW IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO WORK FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION. WHAT I HAVE TRIED TO DEMONSTRATE IS THAT PEACE IS A POSITIVE VIRTUE, NOT MERELY AN ABSENCE OF CONFLICT. IT IS OFTEN AN ELUSIVE GOAL, MAKING STRENUOUS INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL DEMANDS. ABOVE ALL, AS PRINCE PHILIP PUTS IT, IT IS VERY MUCH A QUESTION OF BALANCE.

IN CONCLUSION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT REMAINS FOR ME, ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE AND MYSELF, TO OFFER OUR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOYS WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED PRIZES, AND TO EXTEND EVERY GOOD WISH TO THOSE SHORTLY TO BE TAKING LEAVE OF THIS SCHOOL. MAY THEY REMEMBER IT WITH AFFECTION AND WITH GRATITUDE FOR ALL THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BOTH BY THEM AND FOR THEM DURING THE YEARS THEY WERE PRIVILEGED TO BE COUNTED AMONG ITS MEMBERS.