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ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY VICE-CHANCELLOR
AT 1985 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
TEACHERS OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

There are probably many people who will look to teachers of African government and development administration for help in showing the way forward for our country. As academics you are expected to do the early thinking. It should be to studies made by you that the decision-makers in government look for guidance.

It is, therefore, with a real sense of the rightness of things that I see that Mr Louis Koch of the East Cape Development Board is here and is scheduled to take an important part. I should also like to welcome Dr Schoeman and Mr Nicholson of the Department of Health and Welfare, the other officials who are attending and Mr John Clarke of World Vision.

My main welcome, of course, is for the body of university delegates and we are pleased to see so many of you here.

I understand the organization has been largely in the hands of Professor Nancy Charton. It must then be something of a swan-song. Not in the sense that she is about to stop singing - because I don't think she will ever voluntarily do that - but more in the sense that she is about to retire from Rhodes and her formal academic career.

It is interesting to note that she has either studied, taught or acted as external examiner at six universities.

Apart from her considerable volume of published research, Professor Nancy Charton is perhaps best known as a peacemaker, acting, as she has so frequently done, as a bridge between our various communities, showing the way across both cultural and ethnic lines.

It is in that same spirit, I expect, that you will be conferring at Rhodes. It appears from your programme that you will be exploring the two poles of development in South Africa, both of which are very topical.

In view of the fact, and the recent official acceptance, of urbanization, the emphasis of your studies is, I believe, towards controlled urbanization. This whole subject is crucial to our future success or failure as a civilization. Although large towns are relatively new in our country, people on our continent have been solving problems of urbanization for hundreds of years when one thinks of the cities of West and North Africa.

Looking at your second pole, that of rural development, it has always been difficult to master because previous policies have discouraged the necessary first step of urban development. However, there is more scope ahead of you now, and I am told that there is a need for you to look at ways of encouraging some of the people directly dependent on the land to seek alternative livelihoods so that its maximum potential can be achieved.

I am pleased to say that academics at Rhodes have been interested in these two important topics for a long time. Professor Desmond Hobart Houghton and Professor Monica Wilson

were looking at land tenure in the 1940s with the Keiskamma Hoek Surveys.

When the present ambassador in London, Dennis Worall, was director of our Institute of Social and Economic Research, he appointed the first two black research workers to help explore the relationships between the Ciskei and the Eastern Cape. The finding that the Ciskei would depend totally on South Africa and that it was likely to lack viability as an autonomous region was confirmed by the Quail Commission and led in part to the formulation of Region D.

Then there is the recent publication "From Control to Confusion" by the former Professor of Development Studies at the ISER, Simon Bekker, and his associate Richard Humphries, who is now lecturing at the University of South Africa. Their work looked at the changing role of Administration Boards in South Africa. This detailed examination has been carried through in recent years by scholars from the Departments of Economics, Politics, Sociology and Anthropology with important studies of resettlement, betterment and rural development in general.

In its way we feel that Rhodes University has helped to establish the new look of urban and rural development.

In formally opening the 1985 Conference of Teachers of African Government and Development Administration, I should like to give you two thoughts from one of the world's great administrators, the nineteenth century British prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli. Speaking at Edinburgh in 1867 he said :

"Change is inevitable. In a progressive country change is constant".

Later in the same speech he said : "I had to prepare the mind of the country, and to educate our party". Although we have to take the phrase "our party" in a very wide sense, I believe that part of the task of this conference is to help prepare the mind of the country and to educate it for the changes that are inevitable and which must be constant if our country is to go forward in peace and harmony. May your deliberations bear fruit, and may you find our hospitality to your liking.

September 13, 1985

DR D S HENDERSON
VICE-CHANCELLOR