

I shall be grateful to have  
these texts as "insurance policy",  
but I shall probably depart  
widely from them and try as far  
as possible to "speak from the  
heart" D.S.H 9/9/86

Draft  
for V.C.'s approval

(Mr Wilkinson's CV is  
attached)

# FAREWELL ADDRESS TO MEMBERS OF STAFF AT THE FAREWELL PARTY GIVEN TO MARK

THE RETIREMENT OF MR JOHN (KNOWN AS JACK) WILKINSON

for 26/9/86

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my less than happy duty this afternoon to stand before you to bid farewell to Mr John Wilkinson and Professor Wladimir Brommert, two loyal and good friends - not only friends of this University but also of many of us here. By the end of this month both will have retired and I am sure we will be sad to see them go.

I shall begin by saying a few words about Mr John (alias Jack) Wilkinson.

Mr Wilkinson came to Rhodes in September 1980 after a career of over 30 years with the then Rhodesian Civil Service. But his beginnings were much closer to us than the distant Zimbabwe. He was born in East London and was at Selborne College Primary School before continuing his education at Observatory High School and UCT in Cape Town. His stay at UCT was interrupted by the war and Mr Wilkinson saw active service with the South African Army in Egypt and Italy.

After this extended tour at the behest of the South African Government he returned to Cape Town and completed two degrees before joining the then Southern Rhodesian Treasury in 1950.

There followed, over the next 30 years, a series of promotions which were to take Mr Wilkinson to a number of countries, a few in

Europe but many in central and north Africa.

His experience grew and grew, not at all like Topsy, but in a more orderly fashion and covered a wide variety of interests. He was a senior principal in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Roving Trade Commissioner with responsibilities in North-East Africa and the Middle East. He was Assistant Secretary responsible for the Sabi-Limpopo Authority and the Industrial Development Corporation; and was a founder member of the Industrial Projects Committee leading him to the evaluation of 600 projects over a period of two years.

He was promoted to the post of Under Secretary for Light Industry and finally for the four years immediately preceding his departure to South Africa, he was promoted to Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Mines.

It was this wide-ranging experience, his knowledge of protocol and procedures and the inner workings of innumerable governmental institutions, bodies and committees that have proved so valuable to me and to Rhodes.

Mr Wilkinson is one of nature's gentlemen, a man of high principle and integrity, always a good listener and always willing to be of assistance. He has a great capacity for work and for attention to detail, attributes which have been valued by those with whom he has come in contact.

I am particularly grateful to Mr Wilkinson for the roll he has played in establishing the excellent relationships which exist between Grahamstown and the East London Board of our Division there.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these few words would not be complete without  
x mention being made of Mr Wilkinson's wife, Ann Wilkinson. A friend  
to many of us and as President of the Grahamstown Civilian Blind  
Society known to many more, Mrs Wilkinson and her hard work will be  
sorely missed.

Mr and Mrs Wilkinson, on behalf of all of us I would like to wish  
you much joy in your retirement and I hope that your new life in  
x Muizenberg will bring you all that you want it to.

CJE/JEM

8 September 1986