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MR CHANCELLOR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, GRADUANDS AND DIPLOMANDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DURING TONIGHT'S AND TO-MORROW MORNING'S CEREMONIES SOME 848 DEGREES WILL BE AWARDED AND DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES GRANTED. THIS IS A SMALL INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S FIGURE, BUT IS NEVERTHELESS THE LARGEST IN THE HISTORY OF RHODES. IN EFFECT APPROXIMATELY ONE IN FOUR OF THE STUDENTS REGISTERED LAST YEAR WILL HAVE COMPLETED AN IMPORTANT PHASE IN THEIR EDUCATIONAL CAREERS - A MOST IMPRESSIVE FIGURE. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS THE PRESENCE ON THE PROGRAMME OF THE NAMES OF FIVE OF THE FIRST-EVER GRADUANDS OF THE PART-TIME BACHELOR OF COMMERCE ENTERPRISE OF OUR EAST LONDON DIVISION AND OF A FURTHER SEVEN WHO COMPLETED PART OF THEIR CURRICULUM THERE. TO ALL THE RECIPIENTS OF DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS, AND TO THEIR PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS I OFFER MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS.

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OF THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT PURSUING A FURTHER QUALIFICATION OR MEETING YOUR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS THE VAST MAJORITY WILL HAVE ENTERED THE WORLD OF WORK. IN SPITE OF THE RECESSION, THE DROUGHT AND THE VAGARIES OF GOLD AND THE DOLLAR, I IMAGINE THAT VERY FEW, IF ANY, IN POSSESSION OF A RHODES QUALIFICATION WILL NOT HAVE FOUND SOME FORM OF EMPLOYMENT. IF YOU ARE INCLINED TO SPECULATE ON THE RELEVANCE OF YOUR EDUCATION TO YOUR PRESENT OCCUPATION, THE VERY FACT THAT YOU HAVE SUCH AN OCCUPATION WAS NO DOUBT INFLUENCED BY THE POSSESSION OF AN APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATION. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE KNOWLEDGE YOU ACQUIRED AT RHODES HAS A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE RELATIONSHIP TO WHAT YOU ARE DOING ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS RIGHT NOW, IS A MATTER TO WHICH A WHOLE SPECTRUM OF REACTIONS MIGHT WELL BE FORTHCOMING. TO MANY WITH A PHARMACY, LAW OR COMMERCE BACKGROUND THE CORRELATION IS PROBABLY



SELF-EVIDENT. TO THE SCIENTISTS OR SOCIAL SCIENTISTS THE EXPERIENCE MAY WELL BE RATHER DIFFERENT, AND THOSE OF YOU IN THESE CATEGORIES MAY BE TEMPTED TO WONDER WHETHER WHAT YOU LEARNED WAS TOO THEORETICAL, TOO BROAD-BASED AND ALTOGETHER TOO ETHEREAL WHEN MEASURED AGAINST THE REALITIES OF THE WORK SITUATION.

IN EITHER EVENT YOU MAY BE SURE OF TWO FACTORS: YOU ARE EXCEEDINGLY UNLIKELY TO REMAIN IN YOUR PRESENT AVOCATION FOR YOUR WHOLE WORKING LIFE AND YOUR NEED FOR FURTHER EDUCATION OR TRAINING IS FAR FROM OVER. IN OTHER WORDS, AS YOUR CAREER UNFOLDS, THE MOST IMPORTANT RESIDUE OF YOUR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION WILL PROVE TO BE, NOT THE PATINA OF FACTS AND TECHNIQUES WHICH YOU WILL HAVE LEARNED, AND WHICH MAY POSSIBLY BE OF TRANSIENT UTILITY, BUT RATHER THE INTELLECTUAL

FLEXIBILITY WHICH ENABLES YOU TO ABSORB NEW KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. A PROCESS OF TRAINING ENABLES ONE TO ACQUIRE A SPECIFIC SET OF SKILLS, BUT WHENEVER A NEW TECHNOLOGY IS INTRODUCED OR YOUR WORK CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, INFLEXIBILITY IN ACQUIRING NEW SKILLS WILL LEAVE YOU HIGH AND DRY. EDUCATION SHOULD THUS BE LOOKED UPON AS META- TRAINING, OR A TRAINING IN TRAINING. THIS ATTRIBUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY IT IS SO ARDENTLY EXPOUSED AND GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ALIKE.

AS WE FIND OURSELVES MOVING WITH INCREASING ACCELERATION INTO THE POST-INDUSTRIAL ERA, INTELLECTUAL FLEXIBILITY WILL BE AT MORE OF A PREMIUM THAN EVER. UP UNTIL ABOUT 200 YEARS AGO THE WHOLE WORLD WAS GEARED TO AGRICULTURE. FOR EVERY 100 PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT



APPROXIMATELY 90 WERE ENGAGED IN PRODUCING FOOD. AS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVED MANY PEOPLE WERE FORCED OFF THE LAND AND INTO THE NEWLY BURGEONING INDUSTRIES, OFTEN UNDER APPALLING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT. NONETHELESS, THE AVAILABLE WEALTH PER CAPITA IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY, AND OVER TIME ALL THE MORE INTOLERABLE CONDITIONS IN MANUFACTURING WERE ELIMINATED.

IN THE MOST AGRICULTURALLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE U.S.A. SOME 3% OF THE WORKFORCE PRODUCE SUFFICIENT FOOD TO FEED THEIR OWN COUNTRIES AND MUCH OF THE REST OF THE WORLD AS WELL. THE SYSTEMATIC APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGHLY EDUCATED AND MOTIVATED FARMERS HAVE WROUGHT THIS REVOLUTION. IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT FARMERS ABLE AND WILLING TO PIONEER NEW TECHNIQUES DO

NOT NECESSARILY HAVE AGRICULTURAL QUALIFICATIONS, BUT THEY NEARLY ALL HAVE EXPERIENCED TERTIARY EDUCATION OF SOME KIND OR ANOTHER. IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR RECEPTIVITY TO NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS WAS A FAR MORE SIGNIFICANT LEGACY OF THEIR EDUCATION THAN THE FACTS ABSORBED.

I HAVE SELDOM IF EVER HEARD PLEAS THAT WE SHOULD DOWNPLAY GENETIC TECHNOLOGY, REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MAMMOTH TRACTORS, SEEDERS, REAPERS AND COMBINE HARVESTERS, AND RETURN TO MANUAL METHODS IN AGRICULTURE. WE ACCEPT WITHOUT CAVIL THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF AGRICULTURE IS TO PRODUCE WEALTH IN THE FORM OF FOOD AND FIBRE AS EFFICIENTLY AS CAN BE, AND NOT NECESSARILY TO PROVIDE AS MANY JOBS AS POSSIBLE. WHEN IT COMES TO INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WE INSTINCTIVELY FEEL THAT SOMEHOW EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE A JOB, AND THAT THE PRODUCTION



OF WEALTH SHOULD TAKE CARE OF ITSELF. INDEED, WE OFTEN HEAR ENTREATIES THAT INDUSTRIES SHOULD BE KEPT GOING ON A SUBSIDY BASIS, I.E. WHEN NEGATIVE WEALTH IS BEING PRODUCED, IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE JOBS. SUCH PLEAS DISREGARD THE PROFOUND REVOLUTION INTO WHICH SOUTH AFRICA IS BEGINNING TO ENTER, AND IN WHICH MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE FIRMLY ENMESHED. IN THESE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES SERVICE AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES SUPERSEDE MANUFACTURING AS THE FOCUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WEALTH. TOM STONIER, PROFESSOR OF SCIENCE AND SOCIETY AT BRADFORD UNIVERSITY, IN HIS THOUGHT-PROVOKING BOOK "THE WEALTH OF INFORMATION", WHOSE TITLE DELIBERATELY INVOKES AN ECHO BACK TO ADAM SMITH, STATES

"AN ANALYSIS OF THE SHIFTING EMPLOYMENT PATTERN SUGGESTS THAT WITHIN THIRTY YEARS IT WILL TAKE NO MORE THAN 10% OF THE LABOUR

FORCE TO PRODUCE ALL OF SOCIETY'S MATERIAL NEEDS. THAT IS, ALL THE FOOD, CLOTHING, TEXTILES, FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, AUTOMOBILES, HOUSING, ETC. NEEDED WOULD REQUIRE NO MORE THAN 10% OF THE LABOUR FORCE".

OUR INITIAL REACTION TO SUCH A PROGNOSTICATION MAY WELL BE ONE OF CONSIDERABLE SHOCK. HOW, IN THE FACE OF ALL THE ROBOTS AND MICRO-COMPUTERS, IS EVERYBODY GOING TO FIND A JOB? THE FIRST PART OF THE ANSWER IS THAT SERVICE AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING COMPUTERS AND EDUCATION, ARE CERTAINLY DESTINED TO TAKE UP SOME OF THE SLACK, THOUGH BY NO MEANS ALL OF IT.



THE SECOND PART OF THE ANSWER LIES IN OUR PERCEPTION OF A JOB. THE TRADITIONAL VIEW IS THAT A PERSON CAN ANTICIPATE WORKING FOR FORTY HOURS PER WEEK FOR APPROXIMATELY FORTY-SEVEN WEEKS PER YEAR FOR FORTY YEARS. THERE IS THUS VIRTUALLY AN UNSPOKEN CONVENTION THAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GRANT AS IF OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT 75 000 HOURS OF LIFETIME LABOUR TO ALL WHO SEEK IT. THERE IS IN FACT ALMOST A TENDENCY TO EQUATE WORK WITH A FULL-TIME CONTINUOUS JOB OF THIS SORT. IT IS SO MUCH MORE COMFORTING TO HAVE AN EMPLOYER PROVIDE A REGULAR INCOME, AND TO ATTEND TO OUR PENSIONS, OUR TAXES, OUR HEALTH SCHEMES AND OUR HOUSING SUBSIDIES THAN TO DO IT ALL FOR OURSELVES.

A MOMENT'S THOUGHT WILL CONVINCE US THAT THE TERMS JOB AND WORK ARE NOT SYNONYMOUS. IN EVERY DEVELOPED COUNTRY THERE ARE THOSE PROFESSIONALS, SMALL BUSINESS PROPRIETORS AND ENTREPRENEURS, RANGING

FROM 10 TO 30% OF THE WORKFORCE, WHO ARE SELF- OR FAMILY-EMPLOYED. THERE ARE ALSO PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND THOSE WHO MAKE PRODUCTS FOR HOME-CONSUMPTION OR BARTER. INCREASINGLY MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, WORK FROM HOME SELLING HOUSES, KITCHENWARE OR PHARMACEUTICALS OR PROGRAMMING AND FEEDING COMPUTERS. OTHERS TURN HOBBIES, SUCH AS COOKING, GARDENING, FISHING, MUSIC OR CLOTHES-MAKING INTO PROFITABLE SIDELINES. THE INCREDIBLE VARIETY OF GAINFUL ACTIVITIES INDULGED IN BY STUDENTS AND STAFF ALIKE AT THIS UNIVERSITY NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME.

INEVITABLY, THAT PARADIGM OF 75 000 HOURS OF WORKING FOR SOMEBODY ELSE IS GOING TO ERODE, THROUGH LATER ENTRY ENABLING ONE TO ACQUIRE HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS, THROUGH EARLIER EXIT VIA QUICKER RETIREMENT, OR THROUGH HIATUSES FOR MORE OR RE-TRAINING. THE TRENDS ARE ALREADY



VISIBLE. AT RHODES FOR EXAMPLE WE NOW HAVE 450 REGISTERED STUDENTS OVER THE AGE OF THIRTY OR NEARLY 13% OF OUR STUDENT BODY.

INCREASINGLY, TOO, LARGE, MONOLITHIC EMPLOYERS ARE RESORTING TO CONTRACTING OUT SUCH PERIPHERAL ACTIVITIES AS CATERING, GARDENING, SECURITY OR CLEANING. MANY WILL ALSO RESORT TO "FEDERALISING" SOME OF THEIR MAINLINE ACTIVITIES. AS AN EXAMPLE, I MET AN AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSMAN A WHILE AGO WHO INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD BUILT 3 000 HOUSES OVER TWENTY YEARS, OR ABOUT THREE PER WEEK. HIS EMPLOYEE PAYROLL HAD NEVER EXCEEDED FIVE, ALL MEMBERS OF HIS OWN FAMILY. VIRTUALLY ALL THE ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN SUBCONTRACTED. IN EMPLOYEE HEAVEN "DOWN UNDER", HE AVERRED, WITH SO MANY GOVERNMENT RED TAPE CONSTRAINTS, DEMANDS ON EMPLOYERS AND SUCH PROPENSITY TO STRIKE, ONLY AN ECCENTRIC WOULD DIRECTLY EMPLOY OTHERS. HIS SYSTEM HAD THE ADVANTAGE THAT IN BAD TIMES HE HAD NOBODY TO LAY OFF, AND COULD TAKE AN EXTENDED HOLIDAY

HIMSELF. BOTH HE AND HIS SUBCONTRACTORS WERE THEIR OWN MASTERS, AND COULD REGULATE THEIR WORKING HOURS TO SUIT THEIR OWN REQUIREMENTS AND THE EXIGENCIES OF THE WORK AVAILABLE.

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY LENDS ITSELF WELL TO THIS ARRANGEMENT, BUT IT IS BEING APPLIED INCREASINGLY IN OTHER SPHERES. WE HAVE LONG BEEN FAMILIAR WITH FREELANCE JOURNALISTS, AUTHORS, ENTERTAINERS AND NURSES. THE BURGEONING COMPUTER INDUSTRY IS ALSO PROVING A MECCA FOR THOSE WHO PREFER TO REGULATE THEIR OWN LIVES, RATHER THAN DANCE TO SOMEBODY ELSE'S TUNE.

IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT IN THE WESTERN, NORTH-ATLANTIC OR FIRST WORLD, FROM WHICH WE DERIVE MOST OF OUR VALUE AND CULTURE NORMS, AND TO WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD LIKE TO BELONG IN WHOLE RATHER



THAN IN PART, FULL EMPLOYMENT, IN THE CONVENTIONAL SENSE OF A REGULAR JOB, IS NO LONGER A REALISTIC GOAL, EVEN IN NON-RECESSIONARY TIMES. IN SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES IT IS BECOMING EVIDENT THAT STRUCTURAL, AS DISTINCT FROM CYCLICAL, UNEMPLOYMENT IS BEGINNING TO AFFECT UP TO 10% OF THE LABOUR FORCE. MANY PEOPLE WILL DISENGAGE THEMSELVES, WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY, THROUGH INCREASED LEISURE, SELF-EMPLOYMENT OR PART-TIME WORK, THUS CREATING SOME, THOUGH NOT ENOUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO ARE DESPERATELY ANXIOUS TO LEAVE THE UNEMPLOYMENT QUEUES. MUST SUCH PEOPLE BE CONDEMNED FOR EVER TO WASTE THEIR LIVES IN ENFORCED IDLENESS? IF WE ARE TO AVOID THIS CALAMITY GREAT CHANGES WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE, ALL OF WHICH WILL DEMAND MUCH ENHANCED NATIONAL WEALTH TO INTRODUCE. CONCENTRATION ON LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRY IN PLACE OF THE INEVITABLE SUPERIORITY OF AUTOMATION IS IN MY VIEW NOT THE ANSWER. IT IS IN EFFECT USING THE CONTINUATION OF MINDLESS JOBS AS A RATHER

CUMBERSOME FORM OF WEALTH DISTRIBUTION RATHER THAN WEALTH CREATION. LET US IN THE FIRST INSTANCE CONCENTRATE ON THE MOST EFFICIENT FORMS OF WEALTH PRODUCTION, AND THEN USE OUR IMAGINATIONS AND WILLS AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE TO DISTRIBUTE THE FRUITS AS EQUITABLY AS WE CAN.

WE SHOULD SURELY WELCOME THE ELIMINATION OF MANY OF THE JOBS DESCRIBED BY STUDS TERKEL IN HIS BOOK "WORKING", AS QUOTED IN "THE FUTURE OF WORK" BY CHARLES HANDY:

"'I'M A MACHINE', SAYS THE SPOT-WELDER. 'I'M CAGED, SAYS THE BANK TELLER AND ECHOES THE HOTEL CLERK. 'I'M A MULE', SAYS THE STEEL WORKER, 'A MONKEY CAN DO WHAT I DO', SAYS THE RECEPTIONIST. 'I'M LESS THAN A FARM IMPLEMENT', SAYS THE MIGRANT WORKER.----- 'MOST OF US ARE



LOOKING FOR A CALLING, NOT A JOB. MOST OF US, LIKE THE ASSEMBLY-LINE WORKER, HAVE JOBS THAT ARE TOO SMALL FOR OUR SPIRIT. JOBS ARE NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE'".

BOTH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR POTENTIAL WEALTH AND ITS PRODUCTIVE DISTRIBUTION WILL REQUIRE GREAT NATIONAL EFFORT AND IMAGINATIVE AND COURAGEOUS DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES. ONE OF THE MAJOR INGREDIENTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EDUCATION, WHICH NEEDS MUCH STRENGTHENING BOTH AT THE TOP AND AT THE BOTTOM. HIGH LEVEL MANPOWER, ALREADY IN SHORT SUPPLY, AND A VASTLY INCREASED COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ARE VITALLY NECESSARY IN THE ACCELERATED APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO UNLOCK NEW SOURCES OF WEALTH. A MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE LABOUR FORCE IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO DEPLOY THAT WEALTH TO ENSURE HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING AND A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR

ALL OUR PEOPLE. THIS IMPLIES A FAR MORE SOLID GROUNDING IN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF EDUCATION. OUR FIRST PRIORITY IN EDUCATION SHOULD THUS BE TO ENSURE THAT ALL OUR PEOPLE RECEIVE A SOLID PRIMARY EDUCATION AS A FOUNDATION ON WHICH THE ACQUISITION OF APPROPRIATE SKILLS CAN BE BUILT. SECONDLY, WE MUST PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESOURCES AND INCENTIVES TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT RECRUITS TO FULFIL OUR NEED FOR HIGH-LEVEL MANAGERIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PERSONNEL.

THE STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENTS NECESSARY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE WORKPLACE WILL INEVITABLY TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME. PERHAPS WE SHALL NOT WITNESS REALLY EFFECTIVE RESULTS UNTIL THE YEAR 2 000. IN THE MEANWHILE WE SHALL HAVE AN EXISTING GENERATION OF RETRENCHED WORKERS AND THOSE WISHING TO ENTER THE LABOUR FORCE, BUT INADEQUATELY EQUIPPED FOR ITS DEMANDS. UNLESS



THEY ARE TO BE DENIED A CHANCE FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN OUR COMMUNAL LIFE AND SEE THEMSELVES DESTINED FOR A HUMAN SCRAPHEAP, AN URGENT PROGRAMME OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MUST BE A TOP PRIORITY. THE RAPID REMOVAL OF BUREAUCRATIC IMPEDIMENTS MORE APPROPRIATE TO FULLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES MUST BE EFFECTED SO THAT SMALL INFORMAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES CAN HAVE A CHANCE TO TAKE ROOT. PROGRAMMES TO DEVELOP SKILLS IN THE FAMILY-SIZED EQUIVALENT OF IMPORT SUBSTITUTION - THE GROWING OF VEGETABLES, HOME REPAIRS AND EXTENSIONS, THE MAKING OF CLOTHES, THE INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF SECOND-HAND GOODS AND THE LIKE, MUST BE DEVISED AND PUT INTO PRACTICE. ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES IN LITERACY AND IN THE ACQUISITION OF MARKETABLE SKILLS SUCH AS BUILDING, DRIVING, TYPING AND COMPUTER TERMINAL OPERATION SHOULD HAVE VASTLY INCREASED RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE FOR THEM.

SUCH PROGRAMMES WILL AFFORD SOME GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR AMELIORATION TO AN OTHERWISE LOST GENERATION. FORTUNATELY EVIDENCE IS FORTHCOMING, NOT LEAST FROM THE LATEST BUDGET, THAT MUCH GREATER RESOURCES ARE BEING PUT AT THE DISPOSAL OF MASS EDUCATION, AND WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO A VASTLY IMPROVED DELIVERY SYSTEM MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE RECIPIENTS. TERTIARY EDUCATION, TOO, HAS ALSO BEEN PLACED ON A FIRMER FOOTING, AT LEAST IN THEORY. AS AND WHEN THE AUTHORITIES CAN FINALLY MEET THE SUBSIDY FORMULA IN FULL WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOOK FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO A RENAISSANCE OF UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN OUR POSTGRADUATE AND RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS.

IN LAYING THE PHYSICAL GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE ADVANCES SUCCESSIVE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS IN THE PAST HAVE OFTEN SHOWN MORE WISDOM AND



PERSPICACITY THAN THEIR CRITICS. IF ONE REVIEWS MOST OF THE MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS RESULTING FROM GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES - ISCOR, SASOL, SOEKOR, THE ORANGE-FISH AND SISHEN-SALDANHA SCHEMES, ATLANTIS, THE DRAKENSBURG-STERKFORTEIN PUMPED STORAGE ELECTRICITY AND WATER PLAN, THE RICHARDS BAY COMPLEX, THEY HAVE ALL SUFFERED FROM ONE MAJOR MALADY: THEIR INITIATION ATTRACTED PERSISTENT AND UNRELENTING CRITICISM. NOT ALL THE VERDICTS ARE YET IN, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME BRILLIANT SUCCESSES AND NO PROVEN DISASTERS. SUCH SCHEMES, (AND MANY MORE ARE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OUR RESOURCES ARE FAR FROM FULLY DEVELOPED), WOULD BE WELCOME AND CONSTRUCTIVE SOURCES OF EMPLOYMENT, PROVIDED THAT THEY CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO OUR CAPITAL STOCK.

ONLY A SMALL GROUP OF SPECIALLY LUCKY PARTS OF THE WORLD, SUCH AS ALASKA AND KUWAIT, HAVE BEEN ABLE THUS FAR TO SPREAD THEIR WEALTH

SUFFICIENTLY TO ENSURE A GUARANTEED MINIMUM LEVEL OF WELL BEING TO ALL THEIR CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF ANY INPUT BEING NECESSARY FROM THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. THE REST OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING OURSELVES, CANNOT AFFORD PERMANENTLY TO ACCEPT THAT LARGE PERCENTAGES OF THEIR POPULATION REMAIN UNGAINFULLY AND EVEN DESTRUCTIVELY OCCUPIED. IF WE ARE TO ASPIRE TO A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL, (AND WHO DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THAT GOAL?) WE SHALL HAVE TO EXTEND EVERY NERVE AND SINEW TO ENSURE THAT THE PRECONDITIONS FOR PROGRESS CAN BE PUT IN PLACE. TALENTS FROM MANY FIELDS - POLITICAL, LEGAL, ECONOMIC, MANAGERIAL AND SCIENTIFIC WILL HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED AND CO-ORDINATED. IT IS A DAUNTING AND FORMIDABLE TASK TO WHICH THOSE GRADUATING THIS EVENING AND TO-MORROW ARE GOING TO BE REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE. YOUR OWN EFFORTS AND WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN OFFERED AT RHODES HAVE SURELY MADE YOU BETTER EQUIPPED TO



MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION THAN YOU WERE ON THE DAY ON WHICH YOU ARRIVED.  
MANY THOUSANDS OF RHODIANS HAVE MADE THE JOURNEY BEFORE YOU, AND THEY  
HAVE SET A HIGH STANDARD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. I FOR ONE HAVE NO FEAR  
THAT YOU WILL NOT MATCH THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVEN SURPASS THEM.

IT WOULD BE PLEASANT INDEED IF WE COULD TAKE OUR EASE LIKE THOSE HAPPY  
LOTOS-EATERS SO GRAPHICALLY DESCRIBED BY LORD TENNYSON. WE REMEMBER  
WELL THEIR LAMENT

"AH, WHY  
SHOULD LIFE ALL LABOUR BE  
LET US ALONE"

AND THEN A LITTLE LATER

"THE GODS ARE HARD TO RECONCILE:  
TIS HARD TO SETTLE ORDER ONCE AGAIN.  
THERE IS CONFUSION WORSE THAN DEATH,  
TROUBLE ON TROUBLE, PAIN ON PAIN  
LONG LABOUR UNTO AGED BREATH,  
SORE TASK TO HEARTS WORN OUT WITH MANY WARS  
AND EYES GROWN DIM WITH GAZING ON THE PILOT STARS"

REGRETTABLY, RHODES DOES HAVE ITS PROPORTION OF LOTOS-EATERS, BUT BY  
SOME INEXORABLE OPERATION OF THE LAWS OF NATURAL SELECTION NONE EVER  
FIND THEIR WAY TO THIS GATHERING. THESE PRESENT, LIKE THE BRAVE  
ULYSSES WHO DID NOT SUCCUMB, WILL RECONCILE THE GODS AND SETTLE ORDER  
ONCE AGAIN.



MR CHANCELLOR, WE ARE PROUD OF THEM, AND WE LOOK FORWARD WITH RELISH  
TO WITNESSING THEM IN A FEW MOMENTS COME UP IN DUE ORDER TO RECEIVE AT  
YOUR HANDS FORMAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

D S HENDERSON  
RHODES UNIVERSITY

12 APRIL 1985