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F ADDRESS 70 NATAL UNIVERSITY; PIETERMARITZBURG GRADUATION CEREMONY

I AM GREATLY HONOURED BY YOUR INVITATION MR VICE-CHANCELLOR TO SPEAK TONIGHT ON THE OCCASION OF THIS GRADUATION CEREMONY. [ CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATES ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND INDEED THEIR PARENTS AS WELL- IN THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICES ARE OFTEN REQUIRED TO SEND ONE'S CHILDREN TO UNIVERSITY-

[ UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME TONIGHT IS TO TALK ON A SUBJECT WHICH CONVEYS A MESSAGE TO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE RELATIVELY SHELTERED LIFE HERE AT UNIVERSITY AND TO ENTER THE REAL WORLD- JO ME THIS REAL WORLD IS A FASCINATING PLACE, FULL OF CONTRASTS AND ANOMALIES, BUT YET IF YOU STUDY IT OBJECTIVELY YOU WILL FIND THAT MANY THINGS INTER-RELATE, NOT ALWAYS RATIONALLY BECAUSE AFTER ALL THE HUMAN BEING IS NOT ALWAYS A RATIONAL BEING- WE ARE EMOTIONAL BEINGS WITH PREJUDICES AND PRECONCEIVED IDEAS- BUT OUR COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR WHATEVER REASON SHAPES THE WORLD AROUND US, DECIDES ON OUR POLITICAL STRUCTURE , OUR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING AND INDEED OUR VERY FUTURE -

AS INDIVIDUALS WE OFTEN FEEL THAT WE CAN DO LITTLE TO INFLUENCE THE WORLD AROUND US AND THIS MUST BE SO- BUT THIS IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD STAND BACK IN THE SHELL OF OUR OWN JOB, OUR OWN FAMILY, AND OUR OWN COUNTRY- To LEAD A FULL LIFE ONE MUST PARTICIPATE AND TO PARTICIPATE ONE MUST UNDERSTAND, OR AT LEAST TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THINGS ARE WHAT THEY ARE: THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF OUR SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION AND [ HOPE THAT I CAN ADD A LITTLE TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING WITH WHAT [ HAVE TO SAY TONIGHT:

IN ANCIENT CHINA ONE PLACED A CURSE UPON ONE'S ENEMIES BY WISHING "MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES-â\200\235 THE MEANING OF THIS CURSE BECOMES CLEAR WHEN WE CONSIDER OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES HERE IN SOUTH AFRICA- WE ARE INDEED LIVING IN INTERESTING TIMES. OUR ECONOMY IS IN VERY BAD SHAPE, WE HAVE MUCH SOCIAL UNREST IN OUR BLACK TOWNSHIPS AND POLITICALLY WE ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH A NEW CONSTITUTION. TO SUGGEST THAT WE HAVE BEEN CURSED IMPLIES THAT THE INTERESTING TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE ARE THE RESULT OF EXTERNAL FACTORS OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO CONTROL, WHICH IS CLEARLY NOT THE CASE. TRUE THE SEVERE DROUGHTS WHICH HAVE ONLY JUST BEEN BROKEN AND THE RELATIVELY LOW GOLD PRICE ARE NOT OF OUR OWN MAKING BUT IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THESE TWO FACTORS ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ECONOMIC RECESSION. OUR ECONOMY HAS BEEN MISMANAGED AS THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

ADMITTED WHEN HE PRESENTED HIS BUDGET RECENTLY, ALBEIT BY BLAMING HIS PREDECESSOR FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE PRESENT: SIMILARLY THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN OUR BLACK TOWNSHIPS IS NOT ONLY THE RESULT OF AGITATION AND INTIMIDATION BY A COMMUNIST-INSPIRED MINORITY: WE KNOW THAT IN THESE TOWNSHIPS WE HAVE SOCIAL DEPRIVATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING, ROADS, SCHOOLING AND OF COURSE, MUCH UNEMPLOYMENT - IN FACT IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT MOST OF THE UNREST OCCURS WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT IS GREATEST, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE YOUNG- ] AM TOLD THAT IN SOME COMMUNITIES FOR THREE YEARS ALREADY SCHOOL LEAVERS HAVE HAD NO PROSPECT OF FINDING A JOB- POLITICALLY OUR NEW CONSTITUTION IS AN EXPENSIVE AND CLUMSY INSTRUMENT FOR CHANGE AND CLEARLY RESENTED BY THOSE NOT REPRESENTED IN THE NEW STRUCTURE. YES, WE ARE LIVING IN INTERESTING TIMES.

OVERHANGING OUR INTERNAL SITUATION WE HAVE THE EXTERNAL THREAT OF DISINVESTMENT VOICED MOSTLY IN THE UNITED STATES AT THIS MOMENT BUT WATCHED WITH SOME INTEREST IN THE REST OF THE WORLD BY THOSE WHO SEEK TO BRING THIS COUNTRY TO ITS KNEES- ] WOULD LIKE TO ENLARGE SOMEWHAT ON THIS THREAT AS I BELIEVE ITS SIGNIFICANCE IS UNDERESTIMATED BY MANY OF usS-

SOUTH AFRICA IS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND IN ORDER TO FIND THE JOBS NECESSARY TO UPLIFT THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF OUR LESS-DEVELOPED CITIZENS, WE HAVE TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC GROWTH WHICH IN TURN REQUIRES INVESTMENT IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND THE PUBLIC SECTORS. SIMPLISTICALLY PUT, WE NEED TO EXPAND OUR MINING ACTIVITIES, OUR MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND THIS IN TURN REQUIRES MORE TRANSPORT, MORE ELECTRICITY AND MORE WATER. QUITE APART FROM THE QUESTION WHETHER OUR OWN NATIONAL SAVINGS ARE SUFFICIENT TO FINANCE ALL THIS INVESTMENT AND INDEED THEY ARE NOT, WE HAVE TO IMPORT MACHINERY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES FROM OVERSEAS, AS OUR OWN CAPITAL GOODS INDUSTRY IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY LARGE OR SOPHISTICATED TO MEET OUR NEEDS. THEREFORE TO GROW WE NEED FOREIGN CURRENCY. BASICALLY, FOREIGN CURRENCY CAN COME FROM THREE SOURCES; THE EARNINGS OF OUR EXPORTS, DIRECT INVESTMENT BY FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS OR FROM FOREIGN LOANS -

THE STATISTICS INDICATE THAT ON AVERAGE THE VALUE OF OUR EXPORT EARNINGS IS NOT ENOUGH TO MATCH THE COST OF OUR IMPORTS, MORE PARTICULARLY WHEN WE HAVE AN ECONOMIC UPSWING AND THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ON OUR CURRENT

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ACCOUNT BECOMES NEGATIVE AS IT USUALLY DOES IN A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE DISINVESTMENT VOICES ARE NOT THREATENING A GENERAL TRADE BOYCOTT YET BUT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF KRUGERRANDS, AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOREIGN EARNINGS, IS ON THE LIST-

IN THE PAST, DIRECT INVESTMENT BY OVERSEAS ENTREPRENEURS HAS PLAYED A MOST SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - THE LARGER INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES ARE WELL-KNOWN TO ALL OF US AND THERE ARE MANY SMALLER LESS WELL-KNOWN COMPANIES AS WELL WHICH ARE WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY OWNED BY FOREIGN SHAREHOLDERS- IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL INVESTMENT BY AMERICA ALONE IS NO LESS THAN R29 000 MILLION- THIS SOURCE OF CAPITAL IS OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY DESIRABLE AS IT IS LONG-TERM AND PROFITS ARE OFTEN PLOUGHED BACK INTO FURTHER GROWTH. REGRETTABLY THIS SOURCE OF CAPITAL HAS VIRTUALLY DRIED UP; IN FACT MAY WELL HAVE BECOME NEGATIVE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS PRIMARILY BECAUSE FOREIGN INVESTORS WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AS THEY SAW THEM- THE ABOLITION OF EXCHANGE CONTROL IN 1983 HAS MADE DISINVESTMENT EASIER BUT THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF OUR ECONOMY, OUR INABILITY TO CONTROL INFLATION AND THE LOW VALUE OF THE RAND WERE A PRIME CONSIDERATION. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT PRESSURE IN THE HOME COUNTRY OF THE INVESTOR TO WITHDRAW OR IN SOME WAY PREVENT FURTHER INVESTMENTS WILL RESULT IN AN ACCELERATION OF THE OUTFLOW OF FOREIGN CAPITAL. [HIS WOULD ALSO CUT US OFF FROM TECHNICAL RESOURCES ON WHICH WE DEPEND IN MANY AREAS, AS OUR INDUSTRIES BECOME MORE SOPHISTICATED. CLEARLY THIS WOULD BE MOST DETRIMENTAL TO OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH - 200\230

THE THIRD SOURCE OF FOREIGN CAPITAL ARE BORROWINGS, BOTH LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM. THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC CORPORATIONS LIKE ESCOM ARE LARGE BORROWERS IN THE LONG-TERM CAPITAL MARKET TO FUND THE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH- MANY OF THESE LOANS ARE NEVER REPAYED IN THE SENSE THAT NEW LOANS ARE RAISED TO REPAY OLD LOANS WHEN THESE MATURE. THE SHORT-TERM MONEY MARKET IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO BRIDGE DEFICITS IN THE BALANCE OF PAYMENT AND FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO FINANCE FOREIGN TRADE AND IMPORTS- THE TOTAL DEBT OF SOUTH AFRICA IS DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN BUT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT NO LESS THAN R40 000 MILLION-

BORROWINGS, WHETHER LONG OR SHORT-TERM ARE THE LEAST DESIRABLE SOURCE OF FOREIGN CAPITAL AS THESE CAN BE WITHDRAWN BOTH AS A RESULT OF OUR

INABILITY TO SERVICE THE LOANS, WHICH HAS NEVER YET HAPPENED TO SOUTH AFRICA, BUT ALSO AS A RESULT OF INTERFERENCE BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT COMPLETE ISOLATION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE CAPITAL MARKET WOULD PRECIPITATE A CATASTROPHE, BUT THIS IS NOT PRACTICABLY POSSIBLE AND INDEED IS NOT WHAT THE MORE MODERATE PROPONANTS OF DISINVESTMENT HAVE IN MIND- BUT ALL THE SAME ANY INTERFERENCE IN OUR ACCESS TO FOREIGN CAPITAL WHETHER IN THE BANKING SECTOR OR IN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA WOULD IMPEDE OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH- IRONICALLY THE GREATEST SUFFERERS WOULD BE OUR BLACK POPULATION WHOSE CAUSE THE PROPONENTS OF DISINVESTMENT ARE SAID TO PROMOTE. BUT WE WOULD ALL SUFFER UNDER ECONOMIC STAGNATION AND UNLESS WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THIS COUNTRY CAN ONLY BE SOLVED BY REVOLUTION BORNE FROM ECONOMIC CHAQS, WE MUST ALL OPPOSE ANY MOVE WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH OUR ACCESS TO FOREIGN CAPITAL, WHETHER WE SUPPORT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OR WHETHER WE OPPOSE IT.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THIS, BOTH COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY- REMEMBERING THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE IS THE MOST SERIOUS LIMITATING FACTOR TO OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH, EVEN UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES COLLECTIVELY WE SHOULD SEEK TO INCREASE EXPORTS, REDUCE IMPORTS AND IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT - AS INDIVIDUALS WE CAN WRITE TO OUR FRIENDS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES POINTING OUT TO THEM THAT A HEALTHY ECONOMY IS AN ESSENTIAL PRE-REQUISITE FOR PEACEFUL CHANGE IN OUR COUNTRY -

INCREASING EXPORTS IS NOT AN EASY MATTER FOR A NUMBER OF VALID REASONS, SUCH AS OUR REMOTENESS FROM MAJOR MARKETS, TARIFF BARRIERS IN THESE MARKETS, POLITICAL BARRIERS, FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISKS QUITE APART FROM THE HIGH RATE OF INFLATION ERODING OUR ABILITY TO COMPETE IN A COMPETITIVE MARKET. YET COUNTRIES SUCH AS TAIWAN, SINGAPORE, HONG KONG AND EVEN JAPAN, WHICH ARE ALSO FACED WITH ADVERSE FACTORS, HAVE BECOME MAJOR EXPORTERS: TIME DOES NOT PERMIT ME TO ANALYSE WHY THESE COUNTRIES SUCCEED BUT TWO REASONS SEEM TO PREDOMINATE - A NATIONAL WILL TO EXPORT BORNE FROM DIRE NECESSITY AS WELL AS HIGH PRODUCTIVITY IN THE WIDEST SENSE OF THE WORD WHICH GIVES THEM A PRICE AND QUALITY ADVANTAGE. WE IN SOUTH AFRICA CAN LEARN A GREAT DEAL FROM THESE COUNTRIES, AND THAT INCLUDES OUR GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS OUR CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY-

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REDUCING IMPORTS IS NOT AN EASY MATTER EITHER AS WE DO NOT HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO PRODUCE SOPHISTICATED CAPITAL GOODS WHICH WE NEED FOR OUR FACTORIES AND FOR OUR INFRASTRUCTURE- FURTHERMORE, OUR MARKET FOR SOPHISTICATED CAPITAL GOODS IS SMALL AND EXCEPT FOR STRATEGIC ITEMS WHERE COST IS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE, WE CAN NOT AFFORD TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT. HOWEVER THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS RELAXED CONTROL ON THE IMPORTATION OF NON-CAPITAL GOODS IN ORDER TO FORCE LOCAL INDUSTRIES TO BECOME MORE PRICE COMPETITIVE, DOES REQUIRE RE-EXAMINATION. COMPETITION IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION BUT FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO BECOME THE DUMPING GROUND FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL DESTROY MANY OF OUR INDUSTRIES WHICH IN ANY EVENT ARE BATTERED BY HIGH INTEREST RATES AND A LACK OF DEMAND DUE TO THE PRESENT RECESSION- THERE IS ALSO A TENDENCY FOR OUR CONSUMERS TO PREFER THE IMPORTED ARTICLE ABOVE THAT WHICH IS LOCALLY PRODUCED, WHICH IS PROBABLY THE REASON WHY PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED WHEN THEY DISCOVER THAT SO-CALLED ENGLISH AND FRENCH FASHIONWEAR IS MADE IN PINETOWN AND SO-CALLED SWISS CHOCOLATES IN DURBAN. LET US BUY SOUTH AFRICAN PREFERENTIALLY; EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT SAVE THE NATION, PATRIOTISM IS MOST DESIRABLE IF ONLY BECAUSE IT MAKES US STAND TOGETHER IN HARD TIMES-

[F IT IS DIFFICULT TO INCREASE OUR EXPORT EARNINGS AND TO REDUCE OUR IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, TO MAKE THIS COUNTRY MORE ATTRACTIVE TO OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IS THUS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. INVESTMENT ALWAYS FLOWS TO THOSE AREAS WHERE THE RETURN IS HIGHEST AND THE RISK LEAST. POLITICAL FACTORS ARE IMPORTANT IN CREATING THE RIGHT CLIMATE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT- BUSINESSMEN IN GENERAL ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH PROFITS THAN WITH THE MORALITY OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN WHICH THEY OPERATE BUT GIVEN THE CHOICE, INVESTORS UNDOUBTEDLY PREFER TO OPERATE IN A POLITICAL CLIMATE WITH WHICH THEY CAN IDENTIFY THEMSELVES. FURTHERMORE THE MONEY WHICH IS INVESTED BELONGS TO SHAREHOLDERS IN THE HOME COUNTRY; ORDINARY PEOPLE, MANY OF WHOM SEE INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AS PROPPING UP THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID- THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE AMONG AMERICANS WHO ARE GENERALLY SENSITIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN HISTORY- FURTHERMORE , THE AMERICAN NEGRO HAS A STRONG FEELING OF SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS AND SOUTH AFRICA HAS BECOME AN ISSUE IN INTERNAL AMERICAN POLITICS- THE FACT THAT INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, RATHER THAN ISOLATION FROM SOUTH AFRICA, WOULD PROMOTE PEACEFUL CHANGE IS SLOWLY GAINING ACCEPTANCE AND AS WE KNOW THE POLICY OF CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

IS THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE PRESENT MERICAN GOVERNMENT. BUT CLEARLY UNLESS THIS POLICY IS SEEN TO PRODUCE RESULTS, PUBLIC OPINION WILL SWAY TOWARDS ISOLATION AND DISINVESTMENT WHETHER THIS IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE OR NOT -

YOU MAY WELL ASK WHAT CHANGES ARE DEMANDED FROM US TO CREATE THE RIGHT CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. BEARING IN MIND THAT THE EXTREME RADICAL ELEMENTS ARE SEEKING TO CREATE A CLIMATE FOR REVOLUTION, WE MUST LISTEN TO THE MORE MODERATE VOICES AND [ FIND IT MOST INTERESTING THAT THESE MODERATE VOICES ARE REALLY NO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS SAYING- THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN SOUTH AFRICA CAME OUT IN THE OPEN IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR WHEN SENATOR KENNEDY WAS HERE AND SIX OF THE LARGER NATIONAL EMPLOYER BODIES REPRESENTING NO LESS THAN 807 OF THE EMPLOYMENT STRENGTH OF THE COUNTRY MADE A DETAILED STATEMENT OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO FURTHERING AN ONGOING PROCESS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM. TIME DOES NOT PERMIT ME TO PRESENT THE ENTIRE MEMORANDUM BUT WHAT WAS STATED INTER ALIA WAS THE FOLLOWING :

"IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST THEY (THE ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED) ARE COMITTED TO AN ONGOING PROGRAMME OF LEGISLATIVE REFORM TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE FOLLOWING GOALS :-

1. MEANINGFUL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION TO BLACKS-
2. FULL PARTICIPATION IN A PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOUR, SEX OR CREED-
3. COMMON LOYALTY TO THE COUNTRY IN ALL SOUTH AFRICANS THROUGH A UNIVERSAL CITIZENSHIP-.
- ii. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT TRADE UNION MOVEMENT -
5. THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AS SAFEGUARDED BY THE COURTS- AND 6. AN END TO FORCEFUL REMOVAL OF PEOPLE."

I HOPE THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONVINCE YOU THAT THE THREAT OF DISINVESTMENT, IN FACT ANY INTERFERENCE IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND THE FREE WORLD, IS A THREAT TO OUR VERY EXISTANCE- PERHAPS THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THIS COUNTRY, BUT IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH FOREIGNERS SEE AS OBJECTIONABLE ARE BY AND LARGE THE SAME

THINGS AS WE SEE OURSELVES AS HAMPERING WITH OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH. My  
GENERATION HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING UP THE BARRIERS AND [ TRUST  
AND PRAY THAT YOU, THE NEXT GENERATION, WILL HAVE THE COURAGE TO BRING  
THEM DOWN- IF YOU DON'T, I FEAR THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL BECOME YET  
ANOTHER AFRICAN STATE - OUR ECONOMY IN RUINS AND HOPELESSLY UNSTABLE  
POLITICALLY. THE CHOICE IS YOURS AND THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME LEFT. WE  
ARE LIVING IN INTERESTING TIMES, DANGEROUSLY SO, BUT WNLIKE THOSE WHO ARE  
CURSED, THE SOLUTION IS IN OUR OWN HANDS, YOUR HANDS-

18/4/85

C-C- BINNENDYK

Lâ\200\234QQQUi~\201IVERSZTY OF NATAL - COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE GRADUATION CEREMONY  
PIETERMARITZBURG, 25 APRIL 1985

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EMBARGO 19h30

It is a truism that the economic well-being of South Africa rests on the three great pillars of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry. This evening

two of those three pillars are represented by the faculties in which degrees are being conferred, and so we may perhaps be forgiven if for a short

while we overlook the existence of such areas of human endeavour as

Medicine, Pure Science, the Arts, and even, Mr Chancellor, the Law .

Let us consider for the moment the opportunities that await new graduates in Agriculture and Commerce, many of whom have now left the university and are beginning & career. And perhaps it is necessary at the outset to mention the opportunity which they share with graduates in all other

faculties : the opportunity to continue learning. I do not refer only

to formÂ\$1 post-graduate work leading to higher degrees. Continued learning has more to do with an attitude of mind than with a set programme of study and research.

Completion of one's university educaÃ©ion and the conferring of a degree.

do round off and put the seal on a unique period lin one's life, but it would be wrong to think of it as an ending. The pace of change as we approachâ\200\230 the twenty-first century makes it imperative for qualified persons in most fields to update their knowledge after periods which are becoming shorter and shorter. Futurists predict that in the twenty-first century a series

of actual career changes will be a common phenomenon. As new circumstances create new occupations and professions, s0 older occupations and professions may disappear.

Occupations which now seem to be an indispensable part of life within fifty years may have become as rare as wheelwrights and farriers are today. Re-education for new careers may become the order of the day for people in their thirties and forties. Success for the individual in that sort of situation would presuppose two things : firstly, a sound initial education to serve as a basis for re-education ; and secondly an openness and receptivity, a willingness to continue learning. There are some who see re-education as being almost against human nature - a view which folk-

wisdom expresses in the saying that you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

That philosophy may have been adequate for the majority in previous generations, with obvious brilliant exceptions of course; but all indications are that new directions in midcareer, new tricks for - let us say - mature dogs, will become almost the rule, with the static, unchanging career as the exception. And even within one career in one occupation, you cannot hope to succeed without constant professional renewal. I hope I have convinced you that graduation should not, even subconsciously, be regarded as marking the end of education. To borrow the Churchillian formula ; "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end.

But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning".

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What other opportunities await the new graduates in Agriculture and Commerce ? In the occupations to which your qualifications can lead, you will in all probability be contributing directly to the physical welfare of your fellow-citizens. It is Agriculture and Commerce that in their various ways are concerned with meeting three of the most basic human needs - the needs for food, clothing and shelter. Only if these are met can men give their

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attention to education, forms of government, philosophies, the arts and recreation. You will be providing the essential basis without which no society can develop.

Belief in the value of one's work is important. Demanding, boring and even distasteful tasks can be accepted without complaint if they form part of . work which has an acknowledged value to society. A nurse and fireman have to accept night duty. So does a croupier. The extent to which they come to terms with the inconvenience must ultimately depend on an honest assessment of the service they are rendering to their fellow-men. I trust that the work you will do will give you ample opportunity of serving. In the nature of things, a considerable number of you will work in the private sector, where you will form part of the free enterprise system.

in recent years this system and the principle underlying it have been frequently commended to the South African as offering the best hope of development and growth. There are still many operating which make it impossible to describe our economy as a completely "free enterprise" system.. For example, you will know that there is considerable disagreement as to whether the control boards for various agricultural products, have a place in a free economy. The direction of movement seems to be, though, with encouragement of small business development and talk of greater privatisation of services.

There are many (and I am one of them) who believe in the power of free enterprise to generate and distribute wealth in far greater measure than other systems. South Africa is putting this to the test, and your own personal careers may well form part of the demonstration. Napoleon said

that every soldier carried a marshal's baton in his knapsack. I don't know what object can be taken as symbolic of managing directors and chairmen of companies, but whatever it is, I feel sure that there are many of them hidden in the sleeve of your academic gowns tonight.

As you look forward to your life and career, your predominant mood is probably one of confident anticipation. But when you consider the state of the world in which you will have to make your way, who can blame you if that mood is sometimes replaced by the feeling that you are entering upon

a darkling plain

Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,

Where ignorant armies clash by night.

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I think that as each successive generation reaches adulthood and finds the world to be a very imperfect place, with enormous problems, so it is natural to attribute the state of affairs to older generations, and to want to do away with the systems, the standards and the methods which appear to have been unsuccessful. There is, of course, a sense in which the older generations are responsible for the state of things. The blame certainly can't be pinned on the young adults. They have the perfect alibi - they

were at school !

We can go further and further back in our search for explanations or culprits. As the title of that amusing book put it, we can "blame it on Van Riebeeck" : or we can go even further back and, with theological

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justification, blame it on Adam. It would be a sign of something even more seriously wrong if the best educated in each generation did not judge the

society which has produced them. But always remember that people of the

older generation were once young like yourselves, with the same questioning

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minds and similar ideals. Our young men (and women !) must see visions. Without a vision, the people perish. But your vision must be acute enough to separate the mistakes of past generations from their

ideals and principles.

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I am not suggesting that ideals and principles are immune from scrutiny and criticism. Far from it. But I think you will find that many of them have

an absolute validity which has not changed with the decades, the generations and the centuries. These values and principles survive questioning by each

new generation. But each new generation must find new ways of applying

them to the problems and challenges of its own times.

This is what your university education has equipped you to do. Not that you are provided with instant answers : but the knowledge you have acquired, and the training your mind has undergone should enable you to seek creative solutions based on tried and accepted principles. Let me name only two

which in my opinion remain as strong as ever, and able to sustain political, social and economic doctrines and programmes.â\200\230 The ideal of service. This implies a certain attitude to society and the individuals who compose it.

Take it away, and you have self-interest as the yardstick.

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Although throughout history men DgxÃâ\200\231acted from self-interest, and the ideal of service has suffered thereby, it has always remained the ideal. Nowhere outside the pages of Niccolo Machiavelli, as far as I am aware, has a policy of pure self-interest been set up as a political idea]. Even in the totalitarian rÃ@gimes of this century, the good of the group has beenkthe stated ideal - whether it was a supposed racial group or an entire class of society. In whatever sphere of work you find yourself, the ideal of service is one which will put what you do in perspective, and will give you

resilience at times when things are not going well.

The second of the two principles which I think you will find strong enough to build a whole career - indeed a whole life - upon, is integrity. It is

a concept encompassing a range of circumstances and applications ; intellectual honesty ; the ability to be totally, sometimes ruthlessly, honest with oneself ; complete honesty and trustworthiness in private life and its personal relationships ; and the strict probity which should unquestionably be seen in professional life. Both History and contemporary society provide many examples of people great and small who have departed from absolute integrity.

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We are all - God help us - full of human frailty, but we never question the validity of the ideal. And for those who have had the privilege of university education, I would particularly emphasise the dimensions of intellectual honesty. Carry with you from this place as a valued possession, a capacity for independent inquiry and a disinterested pursuit of truth.

This is of course & recognised function of the university as an institution and as a community of the intellect ; but do not forget that you remain part of that community even when you leave the lecture halls and tutorial rooms behind you.

AT

Although absence of integrity can destroy personal relationships and in some circumstances bring upon one the rigours of the law, adherence

to the ideal has no measurable material benefits. It depends on what the individual regards as having value. Worth more than all the degree certificates, the scholarships and bursaries, the research grants, the gold medals, the titles, ranks and salaries which mark success in the world - in my opinion, worth more than all these is the tribute, I would say the honour, that you seldom know about, when someone says of you "He is as straight as a die". That paradoxically, is the ultimate reward of integrity.

As graduates you may, as I have said; have the feeling that you are entering upon your careers at a time of great difficulty in our national history, and indeed in the world's history. But there have been few especially in the

20 th century, who have not felt the same. The graduates of the late 'twenties and the late 'thirties especially, saw economic and political thunderclouds

as threatening as any you may see today. Each group cannot do other than address itself to the situation it finds, making improvements and finding solutions. Inescapably, in some way or other, you will have a part in this

work, and as highly qualified people, your contribution will be at a high level.

With worthwhile ideals and goals, and with abilities and skills to match the demands to be made of you, you can go out with confidence and optimism. Society regards education as an investment in human potential. You, ladies and gentleman, as graduates, are part of our dividend. I wish you well, not only in the individual careers which await you, but also in your

corporate contribution to the future of South Africa.

ADDRESS AT GRADUATION CEREMONY,  
PIETERMARITZBURG  
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 1985  
BY  
A.J. ARDINGTON BSc. (Hons)Rhod. M.A. (Oxon)

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

ERanCRtO R Start s bys asking this gathering a duestion @ - How  
many people are unemployed in this country?

At a recent conference a number of Government economists and academics from the liberal universities were arguing about the E N CHERO G it in "Soluth "Africa when they were interrupted by a businessman who said that the main issue was not the extent of unemployment, â\200\230but the fact that we did not know how many unemployed there were, He went on to say that the reason we didn't know was because we didn't care. If we really cared we would know exactly how many people were unemployed, just as we all knew what the gold price was that day.

SR Ve in & society where Camaasnc a selfless concern for others, has little place in our scale of VEULBES &iarel die 18 difficult to see how our society can surmount some of the unhappiness and dangers that it currently faces unless there is a change in our values. Most of you today leave this University EORRSCa s new: lives. Some of you may influence our llives significantly, bpt S you will alls influence events: in = this country by your committment, your attitudes and VollisRalc HhoOnSE

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How you do that will depend on whether you care, whether you have (or develop) a constructive concern for those around us

and those living in our wider society.

Qriesof stheswell springs: of caring is our emotions. They are the SRECeRUEREhes caring . foundain all our closest relationships, those of mother and child, of family and of intimate friends. Because these are individual relationships; there need be nothing patronising or paternalistic about them. Indeed it was this caring for other individuals that Wordsworth in his "Lines

written above Tintern Abbey" referred to when he wrote of;

"feelings too, Of unremembered pleasure such, perhaps,

As have no slight or trivial influence

OHSEhatibest portion of a goodfmanâ\200\231's . life,

Halssal L ittt le, nameless unremembered acts of kindness and love."

However, on a wider scale, emotional concern for the position of others without any analysis or attempt at understanding at bests can be mere sentimentalatvisiondi St worst: can & be paternalistic and lead to actions harmful to those one hopes to help. The history of development economics is littered with unhappy consequences flowing from well intentioned but sloppy SOnEEene On the grandest scale the Kennedy administration shipped wheat to India. The short term consequence was to lower the price of wheat in India. The medium term consequence was to undermine the economy of the Indian peasant and farmer Eoxching

them out of production and so aggravating the famine.

Caring without understanding cannot lead to constructive developments. Understanding is a prerequisyter of constructive action. We are talking about people and their problems. Both

are complex. Acgordingly "it is not sufficient to bEIRGEEG

SRlae s aanalvsTss Flie. skills of the social anthropologist or SOEGTologisEioe seconomist ".or. historian alone. All these disciplines together are important and that is why Universities SiEe SO mEWel Tl structiredy . to " analyse, EORO XDl SHSTIREE AT SO

understand.

Unhappily all too often the extent of our efforts ends there; for to care, to understand and not to prescribe is to leave the University as an ivory tower isolated from the society that surrounds it, Indeed merely to prescribe without actively participating in the political process implied in implementing the changes must isolate the University, or in your case, the individual. Developing an appreciation of political possibilities and participating in trying to achieve Beclliteable â\200\234political goals. are lâ\2027 CESISHUSVAND AiataSERNG O 1 CMS gdication. To propose courses of action independently of these considerations is merely to be involved in theoretical activities. For example, we are constantly told that changes in BEsociety must take into account the legitimate fears of whites and that any practical course must be sensitive to these. True. But too often people forget that changes which destroy leaders of Black communities are JusStiiosise Bt T ey Arising out of the recent disasters in the Eastern Cape is a realisation by the Government that even from their perspective, one thing worse than a strong black POASIAES ca et Do by i ST G party, organisation or leadership at all.

Wewneed â\200\230the intellectual disciplinÂ@g to analyse, cÂ© EEE EE understanding and from there to determine what path to take and EHEsO R Eake Gt. s It is not â\200\230sufficient merely to prescribe. But PucRWe liNspring of all of this is caring,

WEaE 15 i abouteswhich we should care. e amascailtkaing=about issues wider than personal relationships. Should we care; that people in South Africa will go to bed hungry tonight; that over 200 people have died in the Eastern Transvaal and Eastern Cape and that many of those have died at the hands of an instrument of the State whose function it is to protect and. preserve;; that 9 621 people are killed on our roads each year; that we have one of the highest rates of accidents due to driving under the influence of alcohol; that our environment has already been seriously degraded and continues to be degraded to the extent that much of our countryside could be irreparably destroyed by Bliewncxt decade; \* that nearly fifty percÃ©ent of our population are excluded from areas of economic opportunity and growth; that of those who are not excluded many have their llives seriously circumscribed; that our legal system and many of our laws allocate blame without reference to any moral standard or code?

(Here I am reminded of a remark made by Judge Kumlebem concerning the appropriateness of our legal system. He recalls the tale of the learned Judge who asked Counsel for some poor wretch who was being tried for he knew not what, whether he was aware of the legal principle, "Proxime non fit BERSuriatietives indeed milord" came back the reply, "why in the Mountains of Imphendle where we come from they speak of little else".)

Should we care that among the more affluent members of our society we have one of the highest divorce rates in the world; that this factor and the apartheid structures that control many OfSthe "lives of blacks in this country have caused a breakdown of family life; that we are becoming an increasingly violent

society ready to turn to violence at the slightest provocation?

Should we care that infant mortality rates are as much as 55 B g  
Percent of a Teni Idren â\200\230borns in some parts: of our country;  
Ehetuonly 258 Of' all' public â\200\230expenditure on health by the  
Bebectment OB SHealth. and all â\200\230the provincial Â® and 'homeland  
administrations is directed towards preventative health care;  
At thiere has been no change in â\200\230the proportion spent on such  
primary health care; that preventable diseases such as measles  
and tuberculosis continue to take their terrible toll on our

most defenceless members?

Perhaps some of you feel strongly about all these issues,  
perhaps some of you feel sufficiently Sieieeincily clsetie &dlll @4  
these to invest much of your time and effort in understanding

their TEGLIL AL implications as well as working towards

Eonecolcrively changing them, L& vou dodthenis Vou are  
remarkable. To do so would require a super human committment  
and effort. Most people who feel strongly about all these

issues are either so overwhelmed by the enormity of them that  
they can make no effort to come to terms with the realities,  
SEeethey â\200\230feel that any activities which attempt to deal with  
2EKelal (OnE these issues are in themselves of such marginal  
significance that they can be discounted and accordingly they  
invest their energies in advocating the complete re-ordering of  
society. Thus for example it would be argued that there is no  
point in wasting time and effort in saving Sandy Bay from the  
despoiling hands of the developers if those same developers  
will simply despoil some other partslofionr â\200\230beautiful â\200\234country.,  
"What" they would ask, "would that achieve"?

What is implied by this type of argument is.-that â\200\230there â\200\230is ng  
point in attempting to educate SocieryEto VOUr PO LIE. OF Wiew  
SEEREhats S nothing is achieved by making people sufficiently  
aware of the environment to save some small PEicE Â®@IF illE .

fihere st sonlethings inherently illogical or arrogant. in this approach. If what is required is a complete re-ordering of SgcletYRHOMSI S It to "be â\200\230achieved if there' is to be no attempt to educate society towards accepting a new order? I have an Rneontfontaiefel feel ings \that e in . the minds. of srsuch people the wishes of society are irrelevant.

I believe one should feel and care about all these issues. But to invest one's time and energy in a full understanding of them EEleigEethen "to. attemptl tols constructively Å« participate. in @iangindg sthem 'isâ\200\231 for most of US unrealistic, Because of our separate upbringing, education and prejudices each one of us is Eenrc il Vot ivated â\200\230to â\200\230respond strongly â\200\230to different issues: suggest lt is sensible to concentrate on those: about which one feels most deeply and work in those areas where one can be most effective. But if you expect others to be perceptive to the issues that concern you, you must likewise be prepared to be perceptive, and to respond, to the issues that concern them e llideed thlis lS your civic duty if our aim;is to achieve a society that is governed by consent. L sYanPatgumentsifior @olerance but it is also a plea e in . the minds. of srsuch people the aitatude 'of caring.

We have been considering the pitfalls of caring too much and EOURLIdedy. Of much'greater concern is that there are a number Of us here today who do not care at all and their number will increase because some of us who do care today will care less, oEEenetEat all , tomorrow. We grow less idealistic and more selfish as we grow older.

HeaRnesones of " those is to have failed to benefit from your eaucatron. You may have some technical skill (which you will find of relatively limited use in the outside world) and you may have disciplined your mind to think through situations to

EECUBesan aavantages for yourself - but:that is all. You are confined to living in response to others and in response to your self interest and your self-satisfying emotions.

What is really interesting and worthwhile, whatircan & Eruisy concern us, excite us, and give us fulfillment is not outside UISEDUESwa thiin S usy And from within us we can develop concerns that enable us to make a constructive contribution. Our task is to \*find those issues which most excite us to which our talents, experience, and education can be most readily directed and then to set ourselves goals capable of being achieved. Berein &liesy thel 'path to self realisation â\200\230and Ful Tl Iiments Without it we only respond, we never initiate and we never achieve in the wider senses of those words.

I also want to suggest to you that most of the significant changes in society occur as a result of such individual initiatives. Most of these changes are unrecognised, unrecorded. Some are recorded and recognised, DUESES v E DV those working in the same or closely related fields. We don't produce a Ghandi very often. However, it is the combination of these nameless and unremembered acts and changes that represent the dynamic of society and it is on this dynamic that progress depends.

What achievements am I talking about? Itz eERilnG Elselic people who had specific and limited goals and devoted much of theirlives to trying to achieve them, e.g. Emily Pankhurst and the emancipation of women, Wilberforce and the abolition of slavery. But they and their achievements are recognised and recorded. I am also talking about the journalists that unearthed Watergate, the judge who llaid open the information scandal, the small farmer and conservationist who saved the Ngoye forest, the linvestigator who shamed Shell selling

Dieldrin, the unknown doctor who wrote a letter to a newspaper about the appalling health services and infant mortality rate in Beaufort West and returned ten years later to find that the letter had so shamed the Divisional Council that the whole emphasis of health care had changed remarkably for the better, the group of doctors who concluded that restoring the habit of breast-feeding would have more impact on child health than any investment in hospitals, cÂ¢ldinics Fands medical â\200\230faculties, no matter how great and who have successfully concentrated their g@fortsiin changing the habits of a generation. My last example I want to cover a little more fully. D FialcaleS it cns an Opthamologist, worked at Elim Hospital in Venda. The local population suffered from a severe and on-going infection called Trachoma. It is highly contagious and if unattended leads to blindness. She recruited two people in each village, trained them to recognise, care for, and treat Trachoma and introduced them to simple hygienic measures that would assist in BEEESOT T the! spread of Trachoma, These people then voluntarily established care groups in each village. Not only did the care groups remove the threat of Trachoma from the community, they caused a change in attitude to clinics and health care generally. Their effectiveness in achieving this limited goal encouraged Chenpmrosttmyatands do otlrer i #things through this medium and today the care groups are involved in ElvVEsOthers community activities) Theseb ll sresul s aiofe=nr= Elter N siefforts are stillito be realised.

This woman cared about something specific. She analysed the problem, she fully understood it, she prescribed what should be done and she followed it through. Such success is not given to many of us, but great changes can be wrought by each one of us pursuing our lesser goals and by being perceptive to supporting the worthwhile goals of others.