

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

by

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SALIM AHMED SALIM
PRESIDENT OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

on the occasion of the

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

at

CHEYNEY STATE COLLEGE
CHEYNEY, PENNSYLVANIA

on

SUNDAY, 16 DECEMBER 1979

President Wade Wilson,
Distinguished Members of the Faculty,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to President Wade Wilson, members of the faculty and the current graduating class of Cheyney State College for the kind invitation you have extended to me and consequently the honour you have given me to address you at this Commencement Convocation. I am also very thankful to the entire college family for the warmth of your reception.

Graduation exercises are, without exception, most significant and memorable occasions, not only for the graduating class itself but for all those who have, in many different ways and in varying capacities, contributed to this culmination of the tremendous efforts of many years made by the students as well as the faculty. To the graduating students, they represent a moment of triumph and justifiable pride on the accomplishment of a goal. To the faculty and the administration, such occasions mark yet another milestone in their endeavour in the development of men and women in society. In the ultimate sense, this event represents your contribution towards a better world. I congratulate all of you most warmly on this important occasion.

I address you today at the end of the first part of your life-long journey in search of knowledge. Our predecessors,

who have championed the spirit of learning which paved the way to monumental scientific feats of our modern times, provided a solid basis for the further search for knowledge.

It is an acknowledged fact that this infinite journey in search of knowledge, which has formed the foundation of our technological break-throughs, was not confined to frontiers within national jurisdiction. Ramifications of learning transcended national boundaries, for the unceasing desire for the acquisition of new knowledge necessarily calls for communication, elaboration, comparison, criticism, accommodation and expansion of theories and concepts. In your studies, you had the opportunity of examining and reflecting on ideas from intellectuals and academic giants both of the past and of our contemporary era from all over the world, representing all peoples, cultures and political and economic systems.

In the years of your tutorship you have been exposed to academic challenges of the works of eminent philosophers, educators, scientists, economists and so many others. Their contribution in their respective fields

has made it imperative to institute mechanisms to disseminate knowledge. It is in this exchange of knowledge, acquired through extensive co-operation and common effort, that means for and centres of communication had to be established.

Academic institutions responded to this need of collecting, analysing and storing information; your convocation today is a direct result of these unending processes. It not only certifies that you were admitted to this institution for formal inculcation and tutorship in your field of study, but also that you have successfully emerged from the system ready in turn to disseminate to others that which has been thus acquired. You may have reservations on the entire exercise; but that **itself is** testimony to the success you have achieved - that of a developed and mature perspective in examining issues critically. It is this objective and critical personality shaped by the academics which has been instrumental in the advancement of mankind.

Through this continuing process of acquisition of new knowledge and its ever-widening dispensations, the genius and resourcefulness of man have made the world even smaller today. Through the advancement of science and technology in communications, telecommunications facilities have dramatically reduced distances. The media and television have made knowledge about the universe and interaction between peoples possible. Science has unveiled the mysteries of human nature and that of man's

environment. He has conquered the universe and landed on the moon and, at the same time, the keener has become his awareness of the closely interwoven relationship and interdependence of all of our world. Indeed, it is a truism of our time that what takes place in one part of the globe does invariably affect another, either directly or indirectly, rich or poor, north or south, east or west.

This awareness and realization of global interdependence has marked a beginning of a new era for mankind: to set about addressing itself to the serious problems confronting it as a result of the inherent anachronism of the inherited world - a world in which the set of relations evolved through centuries of interaction has resulted in advantages for those who had the upper hand in moulding them and has had adverse consequences for those who were victims.

All of you have learned as a historical fact that the Industrial Revolution in Europe necessitated the search for raw materials for the industries and markets for the surplus manufactured goods. But to have steady, cheap and reliable sources of raw materials and permanent markets for the manufactured goods, it was necessary to traverse the borders of Europe into Africa, Latin America and Asia. This led those European nations to embark on colonial conquests, and the division of these areas into colonial dominions resulted.

The rise of nationalism and the resulting forces of decolonization were therefore a logical antithesis. This represented the desire and determination of the colonized countries and peoples to regain their political freedom and economic independence, reflecting the earnest desire of millions under the dominating influence of the former imperial powers to seek more equitable participation in these relations.

Against this rising tide of nationalism in many of the developing countries in all parts of the world, metropolitan powers began taking steps to protect their vested interests by forcefully entrenching their presence, thus resulting in rampant confrontations of a crisis magnitude all over the world between the haves and the have-nots. The world today abounds in such grave disparities as may ultimately threaten the very fate of mankind. Crises are many in number and varied in kind. For example, today, the world spends more than \$1 billion every day on armaments and, since the Second World War, the direct costs of the arms race have exceeded \$6,000 billion - about as much as the combined G.N.P. of the entire world in 1975. And yet, at a cost of half a million dollars for one tank, 520 classrooms can be built and equipped; at a cost of \$20 million for one jet fighter, 40,000 village dispensaries can be made a reality; at a cost of \$100 million for one destroyer, electrification for 13 cities and 19 rural

zones with a population of 9 million can be managed.

In real terms - in two days, the world spends on **alone** arms ~~the~~ equivalent of one year's budget for the entire United Nations and its specialized agencies. Yet for all this, the United States and the **Soviet Union alone account for 40%** **for more than half of the total arms expenditure.**

The world of today is one in which, while powerful nations have a capacity to destroy the human race many times over and while negotiations take place on possible reduction of the armaments and harnessing the resources and knowledge used in this field for peaceful purposes, some 600 million people are submerged in dire poverty. It is inevitable that any such talks on general disarmament, which by its own nature requires the participation as far as possible of all nations, should, among other things, take into account the glaring inequalities between men and between nations; it should seek to eliminate the present set of relations which relegates the bulk of the peoples of the world to **degrading poverty, hunger** and disease on the one hand and which permits lavish and unnecessary expenditure on armaments on the other.

It is **indeed** an irony of the modern world that, despite all these armaments which are purportedly for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security, the world has neither seen peace nor does it feel secure. If anything, the

situation is getting worse every day. Today, we still bear witness to situations of conflict which affect the entire world and which we cannot afford to ignore.

In the Middle East, we see a situation attaining serious dimensions which again is a direct result of past relations - a situation in which your country, the United States, will continue to be involved at all levels.

The situation in Iran also bears direct relevance in this context. The dynamics of the internal political situation coupled with the experiences of the past interaction have brought tragic consequences and, needless to say, the entire world is concerned at these developments as they have global implications. Indeed, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, regional organizations and nations individually and collectively, have been deeply concerned at the breach of the accepted international norms and practices. The universal appeals made by the world community for the immediate release of all the American diplomatic personnel held hostage in Teheran represent an eloquent demonstration of this collective concern of the Governments and peoples of the world. Indeed, this situation and the expeditious international response to the crisis clearly demonstrate the inevitability of genuine, positive interdependence in seeking an acceptable solution to problems with global implications.

In southern Africa, we are confronted with the most flagrant violation of human rights through institutionalized racism, in which the dignity of the African people is debased and trampled upon. There, we witness the continued defiance and intransigence of the racist, apartheid régime of South Africa. The effects of these violations and obnoxious policies have been felt everywhere. The violence perpetrated by the Pretoria régime against the Africans both in South Africa and in the international territory of Namibia, as well as the resultant armed resistance launched by the African freedom fighters, have resulted in considerable loss of life and destruction of property. This situation has far-reaching international implications both in terms of race relations and within the context of world peace and security.

As is evident, these questions of liberation, refugees, human rights and economic development have global ramifications. Equally clear is the fact that they are a direct result of an unequal system of interaction between nations and between peoples, thus requiring a solution on a global basis - a solution which will fulfil the need for a genuine and positive interdependence among all nations. The world must face these challenges if it is indeed

to surmount the crises which confront it.

Perhaps nowhere is the question of interdependence more relevant than in the present international economic situation. This is a crisis emanating from the post-colonial system of unequal partnership. This is a crisis which, because of its magnitude, dimension and potential of serious confrontation and instability, must be dealt with most urgently.

Both the developed and the developing countries, irrespective of their political systems or economic capabilities, share the common concern on the processes in which they deal with one another on economic matters, on the basis of the present institutional arrangements. For example, the United States, which imports nearly 30% of its energy sources and many raw materials from developing countries, could not remain unaffected by the inadequate availability of these commodities. Similarly, the Third World nations, which absorb more than one-third of American exports, could not remain unaffected, if these exports were not available. Trade and investment relations are vital to both your country and the Third World. Ideally, therefore, both should participate equally in the formulation and regulation of these relations. The New International Economic Order seeks to establish such a forum and a system which will provide for more equitable relations, based on genuine interdependence.

Under the existing structure of economic interaction, the developing countries will continue to remain poor and underdeveloped irrespective of their efforts to emerge from this degrading situation. They will remain poor because they are forced to sell cheap and buy dear whether they like it or not, while the rich, the developed, get richer because they can buy cheap and sell dear.

To the developing countries, therefore, the New International Economic Order means, as a first step, recovery and control of their natural resources and wealth and the means of economic development. The restoration to them of their inherent rights represents the initial step for the basic restructuring and democratization of international trade and financial/^{and}monetary institutions. The political imperatives were clearly proclaimed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, when he stated in 1975: "The achievement of political independence does not represent the end of the struggle. We are now engaged upon the achievement of economic decolonization and upon the creation of a New International Economic Order. In a very real sense, this is a liberation movement - liberation for the masses of humanity from poverty, hunger, unemployment and despair".

And if the plea of the poor for change is not sufficient to bring about the New International Economic Order, the present

economic problems of the developed nations would seem to demand a change, if only in self-interest. With monetary crisis, energy shortages and inflation, the deficiencies of the present order are self-evident. From the point of view of the affluent, change is necessary because the old order is in a chaotic state of affairs as it has brought about serious dislocations in their economies. It is likewise in the true interests of the wealthy industrial nations to have a stability in world trade.

The New International Economic Order indeed seeks to elaborate and redress the ever deteriorating terms of trade. For experience has taught us that it is not enough for the developing countries to work harder and produce more unless there is a viable international system to correlate these efforts to adequate return. We have learned in reality that more production has not, with the singular exception of commodities such as oil, meant more income. On the contrary, in most cases it has become harder, even with more production, to generate the income of, say, ten years ago.

The President of my country, Tanzania, Julius K. Nyerere, addressing the Royal Commonwealth Society in London in November 1975, remarked, "In 1965 I could buy a tractor by selling 17 to 25 tons of sisal. The price of the same model in 1972, needed 42 tons of sisal. Even during the much talked about commodity

boom of 1974, I still needed 57% more sisal to get the same tractor than I did 9 years before." This serves to illustrate the malaise which afflicts the developing countries under the present economic system.

The present initiatives of the developing countries, therefore, are aimed at receiving the true value for their labour and fair prices for their raw materials in relation to the manufactured goods they import from developed market economies. The prerequisite for this reform in the field of trade, it goes without saying, is once again the spirit of genuine interdependence.

In the monetary and financial sector, it is a well-known fact that the monetary policies of this country will have direct relevance to the currencies of all the nations of the world, as well as to their trade relations. Fluctuations in the value of the American dollar as well as of the currencies of the developed countries may strike a deadly blow at the economies of the developing nations. What is needed is to de-emphasize the negative role played by national currencies and establish currency reserves which are free from such fluctuations attributable to individual governments. To this end, it is vital to effect reforms in the existing finance and monetary institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund or World Bank.

Much has been said of the need for the rapid industrialization of the developing countries. But to be able to industrialize, the developing countries must acquire technology and the developed nations, particularly the United States of America - the most technologically-advanced nation in the world - have a key role to play. Furthermore, the attempt to industrialize would be an exercise in futility if the developed countries do not accept the principle of the equitable production, distribution and marketing of the manufactured goods from the developing countries. The

sacred principle of free market, highly defended by the developed countries, must find expression in the free and unrestricted accessibility to markets by developing countries.

The issue of energy is understandably the most topical and talked about issue, particularly in this country. But this is a world problem with certain basic realities. Energy in the form of hydro-carbon is a non-renewable resource and thus must be utilized with caution and conservation; the industrialised West is overusing its resources; the energy crisis has affected most adversely the non-oil producing developing countries who have to pay for the higher price of not only energy but, more importantly, industrial goods and energy related commodities such as fertilizers, and many of those countries' economies are on the brink of ruination.

The question of energy should, therefore, top the agenda of international economic negotiations. But it cannot be discussed, and indeed it would be wrong to be discussed, in isolation and therefore, the call is for global negotiations encompassing such issues as trade, raw materials, money and finance and of course energy.

There is no alternative to stringent energy conservation measures, particularly in the major energy-consuming countries, such as the United States, including the adoption of technologies that are less wasteful of energy, combined with the rapid

development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy. In the developing countries, in particular, it is imperative to undertake a massive investment effort to make available the required supplies of energy, renewable as well as non-renewable. And, in the interdependent world economy, the large-scale financial transfers entailed will also add to the effective demand for the output of technologically advanced, high-productivity industries in the developed countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have dealt rather extensively and in depth with the ever-increasing necessity for bringing about a world unity based on true and genuine interdependence which guarantees human dignity for all, the developed and the developing. There is no better institution for the promotion and realization of this objective than the United Nations. In his statement to the General Assembly on 4 October 1977, President Jimmy Carter aptly declared: "We have all survived and surmounted major challenges since the United Nations was founded, but we can accelerate progress even in a world of ever-increasing diversity. A commitment to strengthen international institutions is vital ... We can see a world at peace. We can work for a world without want. We can build a global community dedicated to these purposes and to human dignity".

The very same theme was reiterated by Pope John Paul II when His Holiness addressed the Assembly on 2 October this year and characterized the United Nations as follows: "It unites

and associates: it does not divide and oppose. It seeks out the ways for understanding and peaceful collaboration, and endeavours with the means at its disposal and the methods in its power to exclude war, division and mutual destruction within the great family of humanity today."

Indeed, in the three and a half decades of its existence, the United Nations has made a steady, exhaustive, and, sometimes undramatic and therefore unheralded, effort to give constructive form to the changes necessary in an interdependent world. The threefold increase in its membership since its establishment - from 51 in 1946 to 152 today - is itself a reflection of the importance of the Organization as a most unique forum for international dialogues. The United Nations has thus grown to be an unprecedented major institution in meeting the ^{ever-}growing challenges of our time. The singular concern of its Members and the foremost challenge of the day which confront the Organization arise from the accepted awareness and recognition: that a just and lasting peace is impossible to attain when one-third of the world over-consumes, while two-thirds live in squalor and near starvation; that the world is intractably interdependent; and that collective action is required to bring about a fundamental change in the present world political and economic order.

The United Nations has provided an irreplaceable forum for the new nations to articulate the concerns of their people - some two-thirds of humanity - an articulation not possible in colonial days. It is sometimes suggested that all the United Nations cares about these days is the Third World. If it seems that way, one must recall that for more than a century the concerns of that vast majority were not only not heard at all, there was not even a place where they could be expressed.

As clearly implied by President Carter, it is not only for the poor and deprived that the United Nations is an essential forum; its mechanisms are equally available to and utilized by the powerful. In today's nuclear age, the ultimate direct confrontation of force by the militarily powerful is unthinkable, yet the unthinkable can happen without timely containment and ultimate resolution of the dispute. There have been a number of disputes and conflicts since 1945 which if uncontained were capable of resulting in a world-wide conflagration, and the powerful have, sometimes only at the last moment, recognized the need to defuse the issue by international action, within the framework of the United Nations as a court of appeal for public ventilation and as a place to buy time for diplomatic action to resolve the

disputes. The world-wide communications network through the United Nations interlocks the capitals of the world, brings to them the attitudes and needs of others and often brings about the required flexibility and compromises, as an essential aspect of interdependence fundamental to a peaceful globe.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In my address today, I have talked in general terms about some of the vital issues which form an inescapable part of the international agenda. I have sought to emphasize not only the seriousness and significance of these issues but also to stress how each and every one of them affects the international situation today. Clearly on an occasion of this nature and given the constraints of time, it is neither possible nor, for that matter desirable to attempt a lengthy analysis of the issues. Nor could I do due justice to the attention they deserve. But the essence of my message

and it is my fervent hope that this message has been heard.

is to demonstrate the interdependent nature of our world. Some of you, justifiably anxious to receive your degrees and to leave this hall so as to celebrate the occasion rightfully,

may wonder why it is necessary for you to be subjected to such a long exposé of world problems. You have your own problems. You have your own immediate priorities, including the search for an appropriate career or further education. Why should you listen to the problems of poverty in the Third World, crisis in the Middle East, southern Africa or South East Asia? The truth is that these issues are of direct relevance and of vital concern to you all.

The problems of unemployment, inflation and recession - to name but a few in the economic field - which your country is facing or may face, cannot be treated in isolation from the overall problems of the international economic relationship. The crises, such as the one in Iran, have clearly demonstrated the concern and involvement of your country.

The perpetuation of the miserable conditions of poverty and squalor in the greater part of the Third World must be of concern to you, not just out of respect for the principles of morality and equity but indeed out of recognition of the enlightened self-interest. This is because of the fact that the failure to change this situation will necessarily lead to a confrontation with imponderable consequences.

The deteriorating situation in southern Africa must be of interest and concern to you, because the humiliation and

indignities to which the black people in South Africa are constantly subjected constitute the most serious affront to the conscience and dignity of humanity and represent a grave challenge to the freedom of all of us. In addition, the United States, with a population of more than 30 million people of African descent, cannot and could not remain indifferent to the dehumanization of the Africans in South Africa on the grounds of their race and the pigment of their skin.

In sum, you must all be concerned because in one way or another, you are involved. To pretend otherwise is to adopt an ostrich-like behaviour. And to adopt such an attitude would be doing tremendous injustice to the knowledge and skills that you have acquired during your studies at this important and historic institution of higher learning.

I remain confident that all of you are fully aware of the challenges that face you. I am convinced that you will make best use of the wisdom and knowledge that you have acquired at Cheyney State College in pursuit of better and productive lives for yourselves, for your families, for your country and, indeed, will make an important contribution to render our one world a more secure, just, peaceful and stable place.

I wish you all the best and success for the future.



CHEYNEY STATE COLLEGE
CHEYNEY, PENNSYLVANIA 19319

THE PRESIDENT

(215)-758-2229

December 4, 1979

His Excellency, Salim A. Salim
Tanzanian Ambassador to the United Nations
Tanzanian Mission
201 East Forty-second Street
Eighth Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We are most pleased that you have accepted our invitation to deliver the main address at our Commencement Convocation on Sunday, December 16, 1979 at 12 Noon in Alfred Cope Hall.

A service purchase contract covering your honorarium of \$1,500.00 will be forwarded from our Business Office. Please sign this contract and return it to the Cheyney State College Business Office in order that your honorarium may be processed.

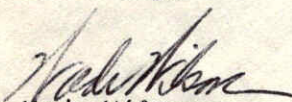
In driving from New York City to Cheyney State College please allow a minimum of two and one-half hours traveling time; planning to arrive on campus by 11:30 a.m. In lieu of a map, I have enclosed directions which I feel represent the best route to take in traveling to the college from New York. After review should you feel further clarification is necessary, please contact my office.

In order that we may place the order for your academic attire, please advise us at your earliest possible convenience of your height, hat size, highest degree and alma mater. We will then have on hand your academic regalia.

We would appreciate if you could arrange your busy schedule to remain on campus with us for the President's Reception immediately following the convocation.

Again, we are delighted that you have accepted our invitation and I look forward to greeting you on December 16, 1979.

Sincerely,


Wade Wilson
President

Encls. (2)



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3 December 1979

Dear Dr. Wilson,

Further to our telephone conversation of today, this is to confirm my acceptance of your kind invitation of 5 November 1979 to deliver the Commencement address for the December graduating class of the Cheyney State College at a Convocation to be held on Sunday, 16 December 1979.

I am very honoured by your invitation and look forward to the occasion, but as already explained in our telephone conversation of today, because of other commitments relating to my functions as President of the General Assembly, it will not be possible for me to stay very long at the College and will have to return to New York soon after the ceremony.

As requested, I am enclosing herewith a copy of my curriculum vitae together with the photographs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "SA Salim".

Salim Ahmed Salim

Dr. Wade Wilson
President
Cheyney State College
Cheyney, Pennsylvania 19319

2

Wilson by telephone
12:00 noon and confirmed my
promise, with request to send
him my C.V. & photos. Please
take necessary action.
Salim
3/12/79



CHEYNEY STATE COLLEGE
CHEYNEY, PENNSYLVANIA 19319

THE PRESIDENT

November 5, 1979

His Excellency, Saliam A. Saliam
Tanzanian Ambassador to the United Nations
Tanzanian Mission
201 East Forty-second Street
Eighth Floor
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Saliam:

The December graduating class of Cheyney State College and the Faculty join me in our respectful request that you deliver the address for the Commencement Convocation on Sunday, December 16, 1979, at 12:00 Noon in Alfred Cope Hall.

Cheyney State College was founded in 1837 and for 142 years this institution has been offering students a quality education which provides a cultural and intellectual base for professional studies. Cheyney is, and has always been, an opportunity college. We are a state-owned institution and for many years we specialized in the training of teachers. Now, however, fewer than half of our graduates go into the teaching profession. We are developing more and more profession and career-oriented programs. Determined graduates from career-oriented programs are finding employment in expanding job markets.

Cheyney State College is a predominantly black institution, however, approximately fifteen percent of our 2,500 student body is non-black.

I might add, also, that our international population is growing and we now have many international students registered from countries which include Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Gambia, Ecuador, Columbia, Senegal, India, Sri Lanica, Korea, Jamaica, Trinidad, the Virgin Islands and British Honduras. A number of these students are given a full waiver of tuition and housing fees.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the President's Reports, Revolt, Remedy, Renewal-1968-1973; and A Decade of Growth - 1967-1977. You will note that many of the promises of Revolt, Remedy, Renewal are expressed as realities in A Decade of Growth.

Ambassador Saliam, our entire college family is eagerly awaiting your featured appearance as our commencement convocation speaker. I trust that you will accept a modest honorarium, \$1,500.00 including expenses, should your busy schedule permit you to accept our invitation.

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His Excellency, Saliem A. Saliem
November 5, 1979
Page 2

Should you accept, we can assist in facilitating your transportation to and from the Philadelphia International Airport or in the arriving/departing Metroliner train station at Philadelphia or Wilmington, Delaware.

With your letter of acceptance, please include three (3) glossy photographs together with your biographical sketch for public relation purposes. #

Sincerely,


Wade Wilson
President

Size any
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