

## HONORARY DEGREE

### DOCTOR OF LAWS

Presented by Professor AS Skeen BAHons (Rhodes) BLHons LLB(Rhodesia) MPhil (Cantab)

Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law

### KOFI ANNAN

Kofi Annan was born on 8 April, 1938, in Kumasi, Ghana. He studied at the University of Science and Technology at Kumasi and completed his undergraduate work in economics at Macalester College in St Paul, Minnesota, USA. From 1961 to 1962 he undertook graduate studies in economics at the Institut Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva. As a 1971 Sloan Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), he was awarded a Master of Science degree in Management. From 1974 to 1976 Mr Annan served as the Managing Director of the Ghana Tourist Development Company.

After joining the United Nations he served in Addis Ababa, Cairo, Geneva, Ismailia and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Most recently, from 1 March, 1993, Mr Annan was Under-Secretary General for Peace-keeping Operations. In these positions, he helped formulate new approaches to the complex uncertainties of a post-cold-war world marked by unprecedented levels of international cooperation, as well as widespread strife fuelled by fierce assertions of national and ethnic identities. Throughout this volatile period, Mr Annan worked to strengthen the capacity of the Organization to undertake both traditional peace-keeping missions and multi-functional operations, and to shoulder new tasks in the area of international peace and security such as 'preventive deployment'.

To cope with the dramatic growth in the number of operations - 28 of the 43 operations in United Nations history have been mounted since 1989, the majority of them since 1993 - Mr Annan oversaw the creation of a 'situation centre' that monitors United Nations peace-keeping operations around the clock. He also concentrated on enhancing the Organization's readiness for peace-keeping, canvassing Member States for commitments on 'stand-by-arrangements' for the provision of troops, equipment and other resources. As of 2 June, 1997, 66 Member States

' had confirmed their willingness to provide stand-by resources totalling some 87,000 personnel.

On 17 December, 1996, Mr Annan was appointed the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations by the General Assembly, to serve a term of office from January, 1997, to the end of 2001.

Mr Annan has had a remarkably varied United Nations career, focusing not only on questions of management - administration, budget, finance and personnel - but also refugee issues and peace-keeping. He has also carried out a number of sensitive diplomatic assignments, including negotiating the repatriation of over 900 international staff and the release of Western hostages in Iraq following that country's invasion of Kuwait in 1990; initiating discussions on the 'oil-for-food' formula to ease the humanitarian crisis in Iraq; and overseeing the transition from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia to the multinational Implementation Force (IFOR) led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement.

Complementing this strong grounding in management and in peace-keeping is the new Secretary-General's commitment to economic development and social justice. As he stated in an address to the General Assembly following his appointment, 'a new understanding of peace and security must emerge.' The world is beginning to recognize, he said, that conflict has many roots, that peace rests on economic and social stability and that 'intolerance, injustice and oppression - and their consequences - respect no national frontiers. Similarly, he continued, we now know more than ever that sustainable economic development is not merely a matter of projects and statistics. It is, above all, a matter of people - real people with basic needs: food, clothing, shelter and medical care.'

It is with great pride and pleasure that the university confers upon Kofi Annan its highest accolade, the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.