

Mayor David T. Kennedy

Thank you, Dr. Perry. Honorable U Thant, Honorable Governor Askew and other distinguished guests...

Annually, we welcome many newcomers of note to our city, but today the red carpet should really be rolled out the full length of the runways on this old Tamiami Airport to welcome to Miami one of the most eminent additions in our history -- Florida International University. Education has been the forge that has shaped and formed the progress of America, and, from all that we have heard that Dr. Perry and his advance staff are planning, we can expect some special progress.

We have been fortunate in Miami in having such excellent private institutions of higher education and public junior colleges, but there has long been need for a public, baccalaureate and graduate degree-granting university. With the creation of Florida International, we are not only getting such a university, but one that holds promise of national and

international significance...one that will give new purpose and pride to our city...one that will not only build a greater future for Miami and South Florida but bridges of understanding for the Americas, for the world. On behalf of the grateful people of the City of Miami, I bring warm expressions of appreciation and congratulation.

And now I have the honor and privilege to introduce to you a man who, like Florida International University, is dedicated to progress.