

Secretary-General U Thant, President Perry, Mayor Kennedy, Mayor Clark, Mr. Speaker and honored guests:

This is a significant day for Florida and for the people of the Americas and the world. It marks the beginning of a major new institution dedicated to building understanding which can promote peace and a better way of life.

Mr. Secretary-General, we in Florida are thrilled that you are here, and on behalf of this university and the people of Florida, I say welcome and thank you for coming. You, sir, are a symbol of international understanding which is one of the basic goals of this institution. We have followed with interest your distinguished career, and we have observed with enthusiasm and with hope your efforts to reconcile the age-old differences among people and relieve the fears and frustrations which cause men to war with one another.

The fact that you are here gives us much inspiration. The honor that you are about to receive at Florida International University is a token of our respect for your efforts and the organization which you represent.

As a member of the State legislature and as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Select Council on Post-High School Education in Florida, I have followed with great interest the progress which has been made in the shaping of this university. I have watched with excitement the development of a new university, the University of West Florida, in my own part of the state. I have seen a modern university of more than 3,200

students rise out of a heavily-wooded hilltop north of Pensacola and have observed its influence extend throughout Northwest Florida.

There is something thrilling about participating in the birth of a new university, bringing as it does the hopes for a better and more productive life for the thousands of students who will pass through its doors.

I congratulate the people of Dade County and of the entire lower east coast of Florida on the realization of their aspirations for a new state university. I commend the legislative delegations, past and present, for their perseverance--Senator Haverfield and all others who have had a part in this.

As we look out across this open field which once served as the Tamiami Airport and note the temporary structures which house the administrative offices of this university, it is difficult to visualize that in less than a decade this campus will be swarming with more than 20,000 students and more than 2,400 faculty and staff members.

We in Florida, and particularly those of you who live in this dynamic urban community, are so accustomed to instant growth that we sometimes lose sight of how far and how fast we have come. Within this century, this state and our institutions of higher learning have accomplished things which would have staggered the imagination of those who lived in the late 1800s.

In 1905, when the State University System was established, Miami was a fishing village of 500 people, and Miami Beach was

still a mangrove swamp. Now, there are living within commuting distance of this university and its proposed second campus at the Interama site almost two million people.

The State University System has grown to seven universities with an enrollment of more than 73,500. By the fall of 1972, when this university and the new University of North Florida at Jacksonville open their doors, the combined enrollments of all nine state universities will be nearly 100,000.

The urban area of Greater Miami is one of dynamic growth with all of the complex problems attendant to fast-growing urban areas. Many families in the Greater Miami area are bilingual, and some are even multi-lingual. Their business and cultural interests reach southward into Latin America, as well as northward. Miami is indeed located at the crossroads of America.

President Perry and the Board of Regents have taken note of this hemispheric influence in the naming of this institution and in the advance planning efforts. It is especially gratifying that -- in addition to "education of students" and "service to the community" -- one of the three major thrusts of this institution is "to become a major international education center with a primary emphasis in creating greater mutual understanding among the Americas and throughout the world."

It has been written that neither province, parish, nor nation; neighborhood, family, nor individual can live profitably in exclusion from the rest of the world. There was a time, perhaps,

when Florida and this nation could content themselves to restrict their interests to internal affairs. But all of that has changed.

The twenty-five years since the end of World War II have witnessed violent changes in the shape and form of international relations and have resulted in a revolution in U. S. foreign policy. The Latin American nations, along with the newly-independent African and Asian nations, struggle in a revolution of rising expectations. The specter of a mushrooming world population and a polluted environment threatens us all.

At the same time, the world has shrunk due to new transportation and expanded services of the mass media.

In this day of rapid and even violent change, yesterday's solutions obviously will not meet today's problems.

The problems of urban blight and pollution, equal educational opportunities, human interaction, poor housing and health conditions, crime and delinquency are but a few facing our urban communities. Indeed, to be a catalyst for constructive, imaginative community action is a logical goal for a university such as Florida International. In this bold endeavor, we all wish it well. It is my hope that this institution, along with our other colleges and universities and various state agencies working in concert with the community, will help solve some of these problems.

In these brief remarks, I have stressed the need for greater international understanding in accomplishing this end. It is equally important that we promote understanding among our own people here within the United States and develop acceptable solutions toward internal problems. Unless we in this country

can settle our own differences, we cannot make a very meaningful contribution toward the ambitious goal of world peace.

I would like to conclude my remarks on an optimistic note. I am not as versed on world tensions as the Secretary-General; but I do note in our own nation, and particularly here in Florida on the basis of my recent campaign tours, that there is increasing evidence of a change in public attitudes.

I have noted an increasing spirit of reconciliation among people with different viewpoints. The public is tired of war and violence and confrontation and demonstrations. It wants to get to work toward a more peaceful existence. It wants to get back on the road toward progress.

The many complex problems which confront us won't go away. They probably will become more intense. But with understanding and a spirit of good will, we can work toward their solution.

All of this is why today's groundbreaking for the new Florida International University and the presence of Secretary-General Thant are so significant.

We may have reached a turning point in the attitudes of people toward world peace and domestic unrest. The efforts of institutions such as Florida International University in the education of our citizens for a solution of the complex problems of our day and the building of understanding can help insure a brighter and more peaceful day for all of our children--and, hopefully, in some small way for all children all over this world.

For, truly, the hope of the world lies ultimately in their hands.

And so our prayers are with them and, more specifically on this occasion, our prayers are for the success of what I believe will become a great institution--The Florida International University.