

(Address given by the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President, University of Notre Dame, at the Installation of Dr. Joshua Lederberg as President of The Rockefeller University, New York, New York, on Monday, October 16, 1978)

A year ago in Washington, I was sworn in as the United States Ambassador for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, which will take place next August in Vienna. Since then, with the help of some distinguished members of this University community, Fred Seitz, Rod Nichols, Pat Haggerty, we have been searching for a theme for our participation in the Conference. There is nothing official in what I now say, but it is a thought: that perhaps this Conference will be the capstone for the earlier Mega Conferences on environment in Stockholm, population in Bucharest, food in Rome, women's rights in Mexico City, trade and later desertification in Nairobi, habitat in Vancouver, law of the seas in Caracas and Geneva. Perhaps this Conference will produce more than the ten million words produced at the last Conference on Science and Technology for Development which I attended in 1963 in Geneva. Might we not launch a crusade next August to eliminate the worst aspects of global poverty before the coming of the next millennium in the year 2000?

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the human pettiness and selfishness, the national pride and religious prejudice, the cultural imperialism and color consciousness that have caused our beautiful spaceship earth to be so humanly unbeautiful and unjust and unpeaceful today. A new millennium is possible, but we must make it happen.

Let us pray

Lord God, Father of us all, we pray first today for this great Rockefeller University. May it continue to shine with the splendor of knowledge and wisdom, of research on the uttermost edges of our ignorance, and be wise in working for the good of mankind everywhere. We pray for all who work mightily here to illumine minds and elevate hearts. We also pray, especially today, for Joshua Lederberg who will give new leadership here, especially by what he is and also by what he says and does, to give further luster to all that has been and is being done here in the name of science and humanity.

Lord, may we also pray that truth and justice and peace may be the result of all that the President and faculty and students do together. Inspire us all to reach beyond our grasp, to dream and to share visions of what may yet be, to give new hope to those in darkness and to hasten the coming of a new age. Bless us and keep us and let your light shine upon us, and beyond us to a darkened world awaiting a new sunrise. Amen.