

Introduction of Dr Condoleezza Rice, US Secretary of State for “Remarks on Foreign Policy” at The University of Sydney’s Conservatorium of Music.

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🎵 When Condoleezza Rice’s parents welcomed her into the world they named her after an Italian musical term — “con dolcezza – *with sweetness*”. As Chancellor of the University of Sydney, alongside our Vice-Chancellor Professor Gavin Brown, and sharing this venue of sweet harmony with its director Professor Kim Walker, late of the University of Indiana, may I extend a specially warm welcome to Dr Rice. She will give us not only sweetness but light when she addresses her “Remarks on Foreign Policy”. Then, since she is educator as well as musician, she welcomes questions. It says much about her values as a distinguished academic in her earlier life, that today’s gathering is centred on students from the universities of this city as well as so many of its civic leaders.

One only has to read Dr Rice’s interviews and writings to realise that scholarship and teaching are the very wellspring of how she both leads and communicates the foreign policy of the most powerful nation on earth. Yet her style is both incisive and deliberately understated; not for her to describe the United States as “the indispensable nation”.

There is indeed an enduring connection between the ideas that Dr Rice articulated in her seminal article in *Foreign Affairs* at the commencement of the year 2000 while still at Stanford University and the global initiatives of US foreign policy and its recurring themes that today she pursues with such extraordinary energy.

One theme which underlies almost everything she says and does is the conviction that education and information recognises no intellectual trade barriers. You cannot have a dynamic commercial economy, knowledge-based and open to external influence and run an ignorance-based political economy devoid of democracy for any length of time. But her proposition is not simplistic. While pointing out that “*some states still hope to find a way to decouple democracy and economic progress*” she recognises that democracy does not begin with elections. Democracy depends for its foundations on patient building up of trusted liberal institutions, a robust economy and freedom from corruption; for without stability and sufficient prosperity you cannot maintain a civil society. She instances the transformation of the Ukraine. I quote: “*You would never have guessed that the Orange revolution in 2004 was actually going to be led by a combination of opposition and civil society groups. But those groups have been strengthened and supported over a period of time. So democracy is more than just elections. It is also institutions and civil society and you have to work at all elements of it.*” In short, democracy is never instant gratification, as recent events have underlined.

Professor Robert O’Neill is a founding father of Sydney University’s Graduate School of Government, who served on its advisory council which included also Martin Indyk and James Wolfensohn, two of our distinguished alumni. He described to me how he first met Condoleezza Rice. He remembered her as an extraordinarily brilliant contributor at the age of 27 at his “New Faces Conference” at Lake Como. Just Twenty-five years later, in January this year, Dr Rice announced her “Transformational Diplomacy Project”. The symbolism, that she did so at Georgetown University, should not be lost. Her bold vision is to transform the way the United States undertakes its

international representation; by fostering deeper connection at the regional level in the critical areas of the globe. It is no less important than her initiative in bringing about closer collaboration between the Pentagon and the State Department. In that context, and with the Cold War over, transformational diplomacy has meant bringing key US diplomats not only to the Middle East but also to Asia where Australia, as a leading Asian-Pacific nation and (with Britain) America's closest ally, must carve its future.

That Dr Rice is here today to engage in tri-lateral discussions with Japan and Australia recognises Australia's independent role in this Region. We have a close relationship both with Japan and China. But I am reminded also of what Dr Rice herself emphasised just six months ago "*You must call on your friends before you need them, so that you can call upon them when you do need them.*"

I now call on the Secretary of State to address her Remarks on Foreign Policy feeling, I hope, especially at home in this our Conservatorium of Music.

G F K SANTOW

Chancellor