

NUSAS

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

The issues raised in this message deeply affect not only students, parents and academic staff of all educational institutions, but also the future of our country and all its inhabitants. I appeal to all readers to read, debate these issues and determine their involvement and commitment to freedom and justice in South Africa.

WM 2/13/87

Beyers Naudé
Honorary President, NUSAS

● TO ALL NEW STUDENTS

Most of you will have come out of the schools or even the army. NUSAS welcomes you to the universities. You will meet NUSAS at Wits, Pietermaritzburg, Durban, UCT, Rhodes and Stellenbosch. NUSAS campaigns in the service of students and society. We believe that there can be no peace in South Africa until Apartheid is ended. Students on the campuses campaign for a democratic, non-racial South Africa where we all have the right to participate politically and at all levels of South African life. We hope you make the most of your university education: explore alternatives, have fun, get involved: join student organisations in your centre's orientation week.

● TO ALL STUDENTS RETURNING TO NUSAS CAMPUSES:

In 1986 you sent your NUSAS representatives to visit the ANC on a mandate from 10 000 students nationwide. Police invaded our campuses. Yet more than ever 1986 saw students taking action for democracy through getting involved in NUSAS. In 1987 we need to answer urgent questions. How can we carve a place for ourselves in South Africa's future? How can we build a university to meet the demands of this future?

● TO PARENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

Soon an 'all-white election is to be fought amidst an eight-month old state of emergency where we have seen over 25 000 detentions, growing confrontation and violence and the harshest press restrictions ever in the history of South Africa. We appeal to you to actively support those involved in pressurising for genuine democratic, non-racial alternatives. Support the call for the unbanning of the ANC, the release of political prisoners, the lifting of the emergency and the right of all to vote in a democratic, non-racial South Africa. Support the organisations in the white community challenging the further erosion of democratic rights under apartheid and the emergency; in particular JODAC and ECC whose members face constant harassment and detention. Encourage your sons and daughters to use their time at university to explore avenues for change and in making their contribution to a democratic future.

● TO ALL STAFF:

As members of the university community faced more and more with the reality that the university is not an ivory tower, join students in making the universities representative of the majority of people in this country. Encourage critical thought in the lecture theatres. Actively make academic freedom a possibility and a reality.

● TO VICE-CHANCELLORS, SENATES, COUNCILS AND ADMINS:

Open the doors of learning to all. Both at the level of the student body and in the representative structures of the university. Let 1987 be the year when universities not only come out clearly against all forms of invasion of Academic Freedom on our campuses, but begin to construct the university of a future, free South Africa.

● TO ALL WEEKLY MAIL READERS:

NUSAS wishes you and the *Weekly Mail* a good year. Let us ensure that 1987 will be remembered as the year in which great strides forward were made towards freedom and justice in South Africa.