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Press Release No 4

The 1967 National Day of Affirmation of Academic and Human Freedom in South Africa

Professor Erwin N. Griswold, Dean and Langdell Professor of Law at Harvard University has accepted the invitation of the National Union of South African Students to deliver the annual lecture at the ceremony for the Affirmation of Academic and Human Freedom in South Africa. Professor Griswold has been granted a visa to visit South Africa by the South African Government.

Professor Griswold is one the United States' most eminent legal men. Since 1946 he has been Dean and Langdell Professor of Law at Harvard University and is in addition, a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association and a state delegate for Massachusetts in the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. He is a Director of the American Bar Foundation, a member of the Council of American Law Institute and a trustee of Oberlin College where he received a B.A. and M.A. degree in 1925.

Professor Griswold has been a strong advocate of Civil rights in the United States and since 1961 has been a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

He has honorary degrees from, amongst other universities, Harvard, Columbia, Michigan, Sydney, Melbourne, University of British Columbia, Toronto, Dalhousie, Edinburgh and Oxford. In 1964 he was invited to deliver the Hamlyn lectures in England, the subject of his lectures being "Law and Lawyers in the United States -- The Common Law under Stress".

Professor Griswold will arrive in South Africa on June 21, and will depart from South Africa on June 28. He will deliver his main address at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg on June 23. The title of his address has not yet been released. University principals, student leaders including all the University SRC Presidents and members of staff from the universities throughout South Africa have been invited to attend the ceremony, and it is expected that a large number of these will be present.

Professor Griswold will also visit the University of Witwatersrand, Cape Town and Durban where he will address student meeting. He has also asked, in particular, to meet students in the law faculties.

The ceremony on June 23 will be the fifth of its nature which has been organised by the National Union of South African Students. Last year Senator Robert F. Kennedy of the United States delivered the fourth lecture in Cape Town.

In a statement issued in Cape Town, the President of NUSAS, Miss Margaret Marshall said:



"The decision to invite Professor Griswold was taken at the annual Congress of NUSAS which was held in Durban last year. Professor Griswold was elected to be Senator Kennedy's successor because we felt that he was a man eminently suited to deliver this address. He is an internationally respected figure and is well known for his active participation in the civil rights movement in the United States. He is in fact, a member of the United States commission on civil rights. The ceremony that he will address is one in which the students of South Africa reaffirm their belief in academic and human freedom, freedom which have been almost totally destroyed in South Africa.

"We are deeply honoured that a man of Professor Griswold's stature has consented to join us in that Affirmation. Like Senator Kennedy, his presence in South Africa as our guest is an indication of the respect that is granted to those students who continue to oppose the government which has consistently denied to recognise individual freedom in our country."