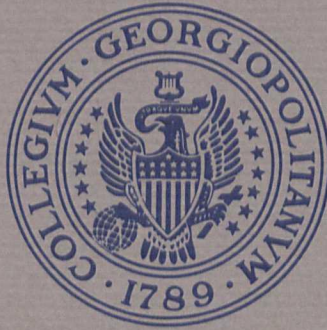


GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



Honorary Degree Ceremony

for

The Right Honorable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of Great Britain

Friday, February 27

1981

HONORARY DEGREE EXERCISES

I. OPENING OF THE CEREMONY

Rev. J. Donald Freeze, S.J.
Provost

II. INVOCATION

Rev. James A. Devereux, S.J.
Rector of the Jesuit Community

III. ALMA MATER

Georgetown University Chorus
Dr. Paul Hill, Director

IV. READING OF THE UNIVERSITY CHARTER

Virginia M. Keeler
Secretary of the University

V. READING OF THE DEGREE CITATION

Dr. Dorothy M. Brown
Coordinator of Academic Planning

VI. CONFERRING OF THE HONORARY DEGREE

Rev. Timothy S. Healy, S.J.
President

VII. ACCEPTANCE

The Right Honorable Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of Great Britain

VIII. BENEDICTION

The Rev. Jo Tartt, Jr.
Rector, Grace Episcopal Church

Born: Grantham, Lincolnshire, England, 1925

Educated: Somerville College, Oxford, Bachelor's Degree in Natural Science
Oxford University, Master of Arts Degree
Called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn, 1954

Service: Elected to Parliament, 1959

Appointed Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance, 1961
Front-bench spokesman in the House of Commons 1964-1970
Member of the Shadow Cabinet, 1967
Appointed Secretary of State for Education and Science, 1970
Elected Leader of the Conservative Party, 1975
Appointed Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, 1979

MARGARET THATCHER



THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS OF GEORGETOWN COLLEGE: TO ALL WHO SHALL VIEW THESE PRESENTS: GREETINGS AND PEACE IN THE LORD

Thirty-one years ago this month an embattled Winston Churchill, leading the Conservative Party challenge in the British elections, declared: "We are not going to promise you smooth and easy times. What we promise is . . . we will faithfully and resolutely carry forward the policy we have proclaimed. We will do our best for all and build on a sure foundation the structures of British greatness and world peace." In February, 1981, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher leads her party and nation reaffirming that promise of work, resolution, and faith.

The first woman elected to lead a European nation, Margaret Thatcher has explained her success simply: "What I have, and where I am is the result of continuous effort and the courage to take the next step." She learned the lessons of work and achievement from her father, who, leaving school at twelve, apprenticed to a grocer and then owned two grocery stores and served as mayor of Grantham, Lincolnshire. Her own education followed a traditional route of access through the public grammar schools and a scholarship to Oxford where she earned a B.Sc. in Chemistry. Later, in her first cabinet post as Secretary of State for Education and Science she won headlines for budget cutting, but fought to defend the continuance of the grammar schools and to protect the new Open University.

She began her apprenticeship in politics as the President of the Oxford University Conservative Association, the second woman to hold that position. She was the youngest candidate in the national election of 1950 in the first of two unsuccessful runs for a strong Labour seat. Marrying in 1951, she left active campaigning to raise her family. She read for the Bar and developed a specialization in taxation, before becoming a Member of Parliament for Finchley, a constituency she has represented for twenty-two years. In 1975, after serving on shadow cabinets and cabinet, she successfully challenged the incumbent and then four rivals for the leadership of the Conservative Party. She brought the party to victory in May 1979, with the most decisive margin in a generation of British politics.

Margaret Thatcher accomplished this in spite of what her countrywoman Rebecca West has described as her two major handicaps: her sex and her beauty. Patiently she has endured commentary on her clothes, hair, eyes, and accent before the substance of her speech is analyzed; constantly scrutinized for weakness, she has earned the title "Iron Lady." Her experiences as a woman and a political leader have confirmed her early faith in freedom, work, merit, and responsibility.

In foreign policy, her government brought the long struggle for selfgovernment in Zimbabwe to a successful conclusion; in the Afghanistan invasion and the Iranian crisis, Britain resolutely spoke and acted for freedom. In the turmoil and anguish of Northern Ireland, her administration quietly works to achieve a solution of shared responsibility.

Like Churchill, she has promised no "smooth and easy times" for Britain in dealing with stagflation, unemployment, taxation, and investment, exhorting rather: "Let us go down in history as the generation which not only understood what needed to be done but had the strength and self-discipline and the resolve to see it through."

For her forthright leadership, her life of service, her steadfast courage, Georgetown University proclaims:

MARGARET THATCHER *Doctor of Laws, honoris causa*

VIRGINIA M. KEELER
Secretary

T. STEPHEN CHESTON
Acting Dean

TIMOTHY S. HEALY, S.J.
President

MICHAEL P. WALSH, S.J.
Chairman, Board of Directors