Manfred Lachs is a graduate of the University of Cracow, — the second oldest University in central Europe, which numbers among its earlier sons the great astronomer Copernicus. In terms of his profession, Dr. Lachs wears three hats. By first choice, he is a Professor — a specialist in International Law and Relations and in the Science of Government, and his academic qualifications, as evidenced in a constant flow of scientific monographs and articles over the past thirty years, — in English, French, and other major languages, — are of the first rank. But he has also been a diplomat — one of the original band of idealistic young intellectuals from many countries who helped to initiate the United Nations Organisation in the immediate post-War years, and who stayed on as national delegates to preside over the key Committees of the General Assembly. And he has, most recently, been a Judge of the World Court in The Hague — first elected in 1966 and later chosen by the Judges of the Court themselves to serve as President for three years, and then re-elected to the Court in the Fall of 1975 with the highest number of votes ever recorded and with the public support of the Canadian Government in addition to that of other Western and Eastern European countries and also, significantly, of the Third and Fourth Worlds.

Professor Lachs' intellectual and scientific interests are fully represented in his work in each of the three professions that he has mastered. As a scholar, he resisted traditional University compartmentalisation or "Balkanisation" of knowledge into narrowly specialised disciplines, calling for inter-disciplinary teaching and research as between the Social Sciences and the Natural Sciences. an approach he later carried over to his work as Chairman of the United Nations Committee on Outer Space which pioneered in the development of international scientific cooperation between the Communist and the Western countries in the exploration and utilisation of the resources of the Moon, the Planets, and other celestial bodies in the common interest. As a scholar and a diplomat, he was one of the first to plead the case for East-West détente in place of the old Cold War conflicts, and this as early as a decade and a half ago when to call for an international dialogue across the political-ideological frontiers that then divided the World Community was an exercise in civil courage as well as in intellectual foresight — in the East not less than in the West. Finally, as scholar, diplomat, and judge, Dr. Lachs has been a prime leader in the movement for imaginative re-shaping and re-writing of the institutions and the "ground rules" for调节ing/relations between states, so as to take account of the vast political, social, and economic transformation in the World Community of our times.

Dr. Lachs has, in this sense, been an intellectual bridge between the developed societies, both Western and Communist, and the emerging societies of the Third and Fourth Worlds. He is one of the most articulate and also reasoned spokesmen for that New International Economic Order that seeks to redress the current, dangerous North-South imbalance in the World Community — the massive disparity in terms of wealth and material well-being and also elemental human dignity, between the economically-privileged post-industrial societies of the Northern Hemisphere (both Western and Communist) and the great mass of humanity in the rest of the World.

In the range of his intellectual and professional accomplishments and experience, and in the cultural eclecticism and the rich Humanism that have inspired and guided all his activities, Professor Lachs stands as a contemporary Renaissance man in an era quite as troubled and uncertain and yet as rich in hope of ultimate human betterment and of driving away ignorance and suspicion and intolerance as that earlier period in World history that saw the end of the Mediaeval Dark Ages. I present to you a genuine citizen of the World in that wider, more inclusive, interdependent World Community that is now finally beginning to emerge — as candidate for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa — Manfred Lachs.