Mr. Chancellor, I present to you Douglas Roche, a man whose life and work are inextricably linked to no less a cause than the very fate of the earth.

While many in public life have reacted to the growing terror of nuclear annihilation by withdrawing into cynicism or self-indulgence, Douglas Roche has committed his energies ever more resolutely to the cause of nuclear disarmament and universal justice.

A journalist, lecturer, author, and politician, he was first elected to the House of Commons in 1968, and re-elected in 1974 and 1979. Then, to the surprise of many of his colleagues, he retired from elected politics and devoted himself entirely to the development of global security and social justice. Today, as Canada’s newly-created Ambassador for Disarmament, he travels widely throughout the world — a strong and persistent voice for peace in the global arena.

Douglas Roche brings to this compelling and difficult assignment not just his political acumen, but the perspective of a true visionary. Mankind, he has said, must recognize and foster a network of human interdependencies that are every bit as sensitive and critical to the future of life on earth as the biological and physical interdependencies that make up the very structure of our planet. Douglas Roche has become an ecologist of human survival.

He is also a deeply religious man, who believes that the achievement of social justice should be fundamental to all political goals. Besides his work as an elected politician, he has served as President of the Canadian Church Press, and as a Director of the World Conference of Religion for Peace and the Council for International Co-operation. In 1977, in recognition of his service to society, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity by St. Stephen’s College.

As well, he is the author of a number of books and articles about the consequences of increasing world tension, and recently wrote the very provocative and influential book Parliamentarians for Peace. He was also instrumental in organizing the Five Continent Peace Initiative, which called for the destruction of all existing nuclear weapons.

In an age of despair, Douglas Roche is a beacon of reason and hope.

Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of this University, I now ask that you confer upon Douglas James Roche the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.