

CLOSING REMARKS

CHRIS ROE: Before we close the conference I should like to thank a few people. I'm sure you will all agree that things have gone extremely efficiently; they certainly have from my perspective. Firstly I should like to express my thanks to our two fantastic helpers, Emel Sebüktekin and Annemarie Visser, who have both worked so hard to ensure our smooth progress through the range of activities and venues that make up this conference. Despite having no background in parapsychology they have been so interested in and enthusiastic about everything that has been going on, and have made the whole experience a very pleasurable one. Susan MacWilliam as well has our gratitude for her efforts to film and record all our deliberations that will be included hopefully in a conference proceeding volume. Also thanks to our local host, Wim Kramer, for his warmth and hospitality, for introducing us to this beautiful city, and for discreetly keeping us organized and on time. Of course I want to thank the Het Johan Borgmanfonds Foundation for its financial support making this conference possible in the first place and last but not least I want to thank the Parapsychology Foundation, Mrs Eileen Coly and most especially Lisette Coly, for conceiving a vision of what this conference could be and protecting and nurturing that vision through the planning process, from mapping its content to populating it with a body of people who represent a broad cross section of our discipline, from senior figures to those just starting out in their careers, from various nations and cultures, and from different academic disciplines and perspectives concerning the phenomena of parapsychology. Without her vision and hard work, her sense of the field, its needs, and its future, there would not have been a Utrecht II. But more than this, I'd like to thank Mrs Coly and Lisette Coly for being fast friends of parapsychology for over half a century. Many of the people in the field—myself included—owe you a considerable personal debt for all the support and encouragement you have given us, and without which some of us literally would not be in parapsychology today.

LISETTE COLY: Thank you Chris for your generous comments which touch us greatly. It's very hard to believe that all our deliberations are over. The last three days have been gruelling but challenging and stimulating. All of us within the Parapsychology Foundation and the

Het Johan Borgmanfonds Foundation who have worked to coordinate this conference must thank, of course, our staff, but above all you, the attendees of Utrecht II, who have given of yourselves and of your expertise so generously as we have all sought to chart the future of parapsychology. Our moderator, Dr Chris Roe, has been of inestimable value to keep us all to the task at hand and on time—which keeps Wim and I very happy—with the able assistance of Utrecht II's advisory committee. As we close this second Utrecht International Conference it is with the very strong hope that our deliberations here will be taken up once again by future generations. In the spirit of Utrecht I, it would be good at this time to recall the timeless words of Gardner Murphy from 1953

We need fuller understanding from the scientific public, fuller support for long and strenuous investigation, a much more effective way of finding the young men and women who will be the parapsychologists of the decades ahead. Personally, I doubt whether parapsychology will bring us this larger understanding of human nature by our own efforts alone. Rather, it seems to me, a scientific spirit working through the mediums of history and the social sciences, through the insights of the physical sciences, biological sciences, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, and catching the spirit of the Rembrandts, the Beethovens, the da Vincis, who have described man not in sober prose alone but in color, in tone, and in eternal principles of form can lead us to an integrated conception of the nature of man more satisfying than that which we now possess. But in this integrative effort, of all the modes of understanding man parapsychology will, if our work be well done, play a vital role.

On behalf of my mother, Eileen Coly,—and, I presume, my grandmother, Eileen Garrett—I can say that it has been a privilege through the years, an honor to work with you and see you doing such good work. I just wish that my own organization still had the wherewithal to push you over the top. But we have confidence in your tenacity; you are all too obstinate to give up, and that gives us hope for the future. We have done our best to play a vital role, but it is to future parapsychologists that we will pass Utrecht II's baton, and we should take heart and take with us as we leave these hallowed halls of Utrecht the words of Frances P. Bolton, PF's co-founder and benefactress, who addressed the first Utrecht conference as follows

Man's knowledge is limited only by his all too great readiness to stay within the boundaries of the proven. Here, men dedicate themselves anew to the task of the search for knowledge, and for truth in the realms beyond those upon which science as such has set its seal of approval.

And so the proceedings of *Utrecht II: Charting the future of parapsychology* is adjourned.