

Notes

WALK TO FREEDOM

We cannot let go the momentous event of Nelson Mandela walking to freedom after 27 years of ruthless captivity, pass without comment. This historic occasion marks the end of an era of racial regime and suppression of the will of a large majority of the population of South Africa. It is a victory to democracy and end to racial discrimination.

The dawn of the year 1990 is witnessing momentous changes. The winds of democracy are blowing over a greater part of Europe, over Asia and now Africa. Mandela stands as a symbol of the South African quest for freedom. He has stood for a non-racial society without political preference either to the whites or the blacks.

It is heartening to see the entire world hailing the event and offering cordial welcome to the released patriot. We do trust that with this change, South Africa will again enter into the main stream of intellectual collaboration with the rest of the world and Indian geologists will be able to learn at first hand the geology and mineral resources of that wonderful land.

A LETTER FROM PROF. JOHN G. RAMSAY

The following letter has been received from Prof. John G. Ramsay, F.R.S., addressed to the Editor, Geological Society of India urging the appointment of a commission to judge whether accusations of fraud made on Dr. V. J. Gupta are justified :

Zurich, February 14th 1990

Dear Sir,

I have become aware of accusations of scientific fraud made on Dr. V. J. Gupta of the University of Chandigarh and have seen very damaging articles published in 'Nature' and 'Geology Today'. In view of the seriousness of these accusations, not only to him personally but also to the prestige of the Panjab University and to Earth Science studies in India, I do think that a commission should be set up to judge whether these accusations of fraud are justified. Although I am not personally a specialist in Palaeontology I have worked for many years in the Himalayas and so I do see the enormous scientific damage that will have been incurred by the activities of Dr. Gupta if these accusations are correct. His name should be cleared or, if the accusations are correct in any part, he must be exposed as a scientific imposter.

Yours faithfully

(Sd.) John G. Ramsay

PROFESSOR JOHN G. RAMSAY, F.R.S.

RESIGNATION OF DR. V. J. GUPTA

Dr. V. J. Gupta has tendered his resignation to the membership of the Geological Society of India. We wish he had simultaneously stepped down from the position he holds in the Panjab University and allowed for a free and impartial enquiry into the alleged accusations of fraud.