

13 To what extent would you say does South Africa's past influence the developments of today?

I think you will always find the individual exception that proves the rule. I think to an extent that there may be certain people, especially in the older generations, who still think back of this particular part of our history and then consider it to be a defining feature of the relationship that they might have with English-speaking people. In my generation, and in the younger generations, I think it plays hardly any role, if at all. Especially given the new atmosphere, you know, the new South Africa that we have and the way in which people are really working very hard to establish good solid dependable relationships between people from different races and different cultures.

14 For a number of years, South Africa suffered from an international boycott because of its policy of apartheid. How do you look back upon it?

I can answer the question in two ways, in a more sort of general ... way and in a more personal way. If I look back at, at, at that particular period in, in our history, of course, it was a rather sad, a very sad period. We were isolated and quite understandably so. I've never thought, well, it wasn't fair. It was understandable. On a more personal level it was also a sad period in, in, in my life. I never had the opportunity to go overseas as an ac-, academic, for instance. I remember very clearly that in 1990, just after Nelson Mandela was released, I had my first opportunity to go to an, an international conference. And it was fantastic. It was it was very good, simply to meet people from other, from other countries – see their different points of view and so on.

If I look back now, then of course, then of course, I can see what we've lost, what we've missed, in a sense.

15 Africa as a whole faces enormous problems. What sort of help do you expect from the rest of the world?

If someone is going to solve the problems of Africa, it will have to be Africa itself. OK. We cannot look to Europe or the United States of America, or whoever, to solve our problems on the continent. And then you do need some kind of leadership. South Africa then becomes a rather obvious candidate for this role, simply because we have very good leadership potential in, in government at the moment. But if we take up the leadership, we should do it in such a way that it doesn't cause more problems for us. We do not have economic wealth to share. We have too much problems of our own, but we do have a lot of ideas. And some of it has already actually been implemented in a way, you know, in decisions that have been made, devising policies, for instance.

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