DR. HANNES ANDROSCH:

Your Excellences,
My Lords,
Dear friends of Eric Hobsbawm, most especially my dearest Marlene
Distinguished guests
Dear Eric

Let me begin by thanking the four members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, for joining us this evening and contributing so impressively to the uniqueness of this special occasion.

Dear Eric, it is a singular honour for us to be gathered here this evening to commemorate your extraordinary life and your outstanding intellectual achievements. This gathering is but one of many to be held, in the past few days and in the days to come, with the specific purpose of honouring you both as a person and as an intellectual giant of the 20 century. We have come here to convey to you the acclamation of a country, and a city, where you still have some roots and where you have always retained a sound footing. We also come with a deep sense of gratitude for the reflected glory your labours have bestowed upon our beloved land.

For me, personally, this is an especially moving occasion. I first got to know you after I had read your books and I am particularly grateful to Hella Pick for bringing us together. I am not going to repeat the many extraordinary and appropriate tributes paid to you as a remarkable and outstanding historian on the occasion of your milestone birthday; suffice it to say that I whole-heartedly share the respect,
admiration and affection for you which they express. However, I would like to draw attention to a comment in the Spectator, which described you as, and I quote:

“.... our greatest living historian – not only Britain’s but the world's”

I would just like to add, “and a little bit Austria’s”.

For this reason it gives me a very special pleasure that Austria has awarded you the First Class Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art in recognition of your outstanding achievements in promoting understanding in our age. In addition, the Council of the City of Vienna has just decided to offer you the distinction of Honorary Citizen of the City of Vienna.

My personal gift to you on this occasion is of the musical variety. I know that you have a great love of music, especially jazz, in which you are an acknowledged expert. However, you also delight in the pleasures of classical music. For this reason, I brought along this distinguished string quartet to mark this celebration in a most fitting manner.

Let me finish by congratulating you, once again, on your birthday and wishing you many years of youthful vitality along with intellectual vigour and agility. Above all, we wish you continued and robust good health. Thank you.
„Von selbst wird die Welt nicht besser”


ZIECHEN DER ZEIT

Die Presse


„Nothing can shape a historian’s mind more than a defeat.” Eric Hobsbawm, geboren am 9. Juni 1917 in Alexandria, aufgewachsen in Wien.


„Von selbst wird die Welt nicht besser”


von Helene Mainmann

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