

NOTES FOR A SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, THE HON. E. G. WHITLAM,
Q.C. M.P., IN REPLY TO A WELCOME BY THE BURGERMEISTER OF HAMBURG, SATURDAY,
18 JANUARY 1975

1. MY VISIT TO HAMBURG COMES AT THE END OF A LONG AND BUSY PROGRAM IN EUROPE. I CAN THINK OF NO HAPPIER CONCLUSION TO MY VISIT THAN A DAY SPENT IN YOUR CITY. THE TRADITIONAL 'GATEWAY TO EUROPE' IS FOR ME A DEPARTURE GATE, NOT AN ENTRY GATE. IT WILL BE THE LAST MEMORY I CARRY WITH ME OF MY PRESENT JOURNEY. I THANK YOU, MR BURGERMEISTER, AND THE SENATE FOR THE CORDIAL WELCOME YOU HAVE GIVEN TO ME AND MY WIFE.

2. THIS IS MY VISIT TO HAMBURG; MY WIFE'S SECOND. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE AMONG PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT THEIR MARK INDELIBLY ON MY COUNTRY'S HISTORY AND CULTURE. BY THE MIDDLE OF THE 19TH CENTURY, GERMAN MERCHANTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM HAMBURG, WERE WELL ENGAGED IN TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA. HAMBURG CONSULATES WERE ESTABLISHED IN AUSTRALIA IN THE 1840S AND ONE OF THE FIRST GERMAN SHIPS TO VISIT MELBOURNE BORE THE NAME OF THE OLD HAMBURG MERCHANT FAMILY GODEFFROY. SINCE 1945 MORE THAN 100,000 GERMAN PEOPLE HAVE MIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA. ONE OF THE EARLIEST GERMAN IMMIGRANTS WAS THE HAMBURG MATHEMATICIAN CARL LUDWIG RUMKER THE FIRST GOVERNMENT ASTRONOMER OF NEW SOUTH WALES. HE DISCOVERED IN THE SOUTHERN SKIES FOUR NEW COMETS, AND PREPARED A CATALOGUE OF 17,000 HEAVENLY BODIES BEFORE RETURNING HOME AS DIRECTOR OF THE HAMBURG OBSERVATORY.

3. ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S BEST KNOWN LANDSCAPE PAINTERS, HANS HEYSEN, WAS BORN IN HAMBURG. HE EMIGRATED TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS A CHILD IN 1884. ANOTHER EARLY IMMIGRANT FROM HAMBURG WAS BERNARD HALTERMAN. HE DISCOVERED THE WORLD'S LARGEST SPECIMEN OF REEF GOLD, AND - MORE IMPORTANTLY - HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTRODUCING GERMAN LAGER BEER TO AUSTRALIA. SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS OF AUSTRALIANS HAVE HONOURED HIM AND HIS HOME CITY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

4. HAMBURG HAS BEEN PROMINENT IN AUSTRALIA'S TRADE WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. MANY GOODS FROM AUSTRALIA ENTER GERMANY THROUGH THE PORT OF HAMBURG AND AN EVER INCREASING PROPORTION OF YOUR EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA GO THROUGH THIS PORT. HAMBURG HANDLES APPROXIMATELY 75 PER CENT OF ALL AUSTRALIAN TRAFFIC THROUGH GERMAN PORTS.

5. SHIPPING AND SHIPBUILDING HAVE LONG BEEN SIGNIFICANT IN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN US. IN 1888 THE GERMAN-AUSTRALIA STEAMSHIP COMPANY WAS FOUNDED, AND ITS SUCCESSOR, THE HAMBURG AMERICA LINE, HAS CONTINUED THE SERVICE TO THE PRESENT DAY. MANY OF THE CONTAINER SHIPS, WHICH NOW PLY BETWEEN EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA, WERE BUILT IN HAMBURG SHIPYARDS.

6. I KNOW OF HAMBURG'S LONG HISTORY OF FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. THE WORD 'FREE' OCCURRED IN THE EARLIEST CHARTERS OF YOUR CITY FROM THE EMPEROR BARBAROSSA, AND HAS CONTINUED TO THIS DAY IN THE TITLE OF THE 'FREE AND HANSEATIC CITY'. THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE HAVE THIS SAME FREE AND INDEPENDENT SPIRIT. LIKE YOU WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH FREEDOM PLACES ON OUR CITIZENS. VOLUNTARY MUNICIPAL SERVICE, WHICH I UNDERSTAND IS ONE OF HAMBURG'S OLDEST TRADITIONS, IS A FEATURE OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE.

7. MY WIFE AND I ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE INVITATION TO VISIT YOUR GREAT CITY AND FOR THE HOSPITALITY YOU HAVE SHOWN US. I LIFT MY GLASS TO THE SENATE AND STATE OF HAMBURG AND INVITE YOU ALL TO DRINK TO THE CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES.