

NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER,
FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE
BRISBANE DEUTSCHER TURN-VEREIN,
BRISBANE, FRIDAY 23 MAY 1975

1. ONE OF THE GREAT FEATURES OF MIGRANT LIFE IN AUSTRALIA, IS THE STRENGTH OF ETHNIC SOCIAL CLUBS AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS. IN EVERY CITY I VISIT I FIND FLOURISHING MIGRANT ORGANISATIONS, CLUBS, SPORTING GROUPS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS. I HAVE SPENT MANY HAPPY HOURS AMONG ITALIANS, GREEKS, GERMANS AND OTHER NATIONALITIES IN SURROUNDINGS SUCH AS THESE. EVERYWHERE THE ATMOSPHERE IS WARM AND THE HOSPITALITY IS EXCELLENT.

2. I SOMETIMES FEEL MORE AT HOME WITH THE GERMAN COMMUNITY IN QUEENSLAND THAN I DO WITH THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY. I KNOW YOUR PREMIER IS OF NORTHERN EUROPEAN EXTRACTION, BUT HE HAS NEVER INVITED ME TO DINNER. THE ONLY TIME I INVITED HIM TO DINNER HE DECLINED TO ATTEND.

3. I KNOW YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO BE REMINDED THAT I WAS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ONLY FOUR MONTHS AGO. I HAD TALKS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN BONN AND PAID VERY HAPPY VISITS TO THE CITIES OF COLOGNE AND HAMBURG. I WAS ABLE TO REMIND MY HOSTS OF THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY GERMAN MIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA AND OF THE STRONG ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LINKS BETWEEN US. I WAS THE SECOND AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC THE FIRST SINCE SIR ROBERT MENZIES IN 1959.

4. GERMANS WERE AMONG THE VERY FIRST PEOPLE TO SETTLE IN QUEENSLAND. A GROUP OF GERMAN MISSIONARIES ARRIVED IN THE MORETON BAY DISTRICT IN 1838. THESE WERE SENSIBLE ENOUGH TO REALISE THAT MORETON BAY IN THOSE DAYS WAS PART OF NEW SOUTH WALES. THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS PROBABLY MORE PROGRESSIVE THAN THE ONE YOU HAVE NOW.

5. SHORTLY AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF QUEENSLAND AS A SEPARATE COLONY IN 1859, THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT - I SUPPOSE WE COULD STILL CALL IT THE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT - BEGAN TO ENCOURAGE IMMIGRATION FROM EUROPE. AT THE FIRST QUEENSLAND CENSUS IN 1861 THE COLONY HAD 2124 GERMAN-BORN PEOPLE. TODAY THERE ARE ROUGHLY 10,000 QUEENSLANDERS BORN IN GERMANY. THE 1971 CENSUS ALSO SHOWED THAT APPROXIMATELY 31,000 QUEENSLANDERS HAD EITHER ONE OR BOTH PARENTS BORN IN GERMANY.

6. IN RECENT YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG CULTURAL CONTACTS BETWEEN GERMANY AND AUSTRALIA. THE STUTTGART BALLET HAS COME TO AUSTRALIA AND THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HAS PLAYED IN GERMAN CITIES. VERY MANY GERMANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ARTS, SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA.

7. GERMAN-AUSTRALIAN CONTACTS GO BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING OF AUSTRALIA. GOVERNOR PHILLIP'S FATHER WAS A GERMAN; A GERMAN SURVEYOR, THEODORE ALT, SAILED WITH PHILLIP IN THE FIRST FLEET; FREDERICK BRECKER, REGARDED AS THE FATHER OF THE QUEENSLAND MERINO STOCK, SETTLED IN QUEENSLAND IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY; THE EXPLORER AND NATURALIST, LUDWIG LEICHARDT, MIGRATED FROM GERMANY IN 1842; GERMAN WINEMAKERS ARE FAMOUS IN AUSTRALIA; KARL RASP CAME TO AUSTRALIA IN 1869, DISCOVERED SILVER, LEAD AND ZINC DEPOSITS AT BROKEN HILL, AND FOUNDED A SMELTING COMPANY WHICH WAS THE FORERUNNER OF B.H.P.

8. CLUBS SUCH AS YOURS ARE KEEPING ALIVE THIS GREAT TRADITION OF FRIENDSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING. IT IS GOOD TO BE AMONG YOU AND TO SHARE YOUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR COUNTRY AND ITS FUTURE.