

SPEECH NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN CLUB JAHRESBALL, CABRAMATTA, 6 SEPTEMBER 1975

---

1. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE WITH YOU HERE TONIGHT WITH MY WIFE, BACK IN MY OWN ELECTORATE, BACK AT THE GERMAN AUSTRIAN CLUB FOR THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF YOUR CLUB BUILDING. I WAS PROUD TO BE INVITED TO LAY THE FOUNDATION STONE BACK IN 1965, WHEN I WAS THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AS WELL AS YOUR LOCAL MEMBER. I THOUGHT THEN THAT YOU SHOWED GREAT FAITH, GREAT POLITICAL ACUMEN. I KNEW THAT YOU COULDN'T BE ACCUSED OF PLAYING REALPOLITIK, BECAUSE A DEPUTY LEADER OF AN OPPOSITION CAN BE AS FAR AWAY FROM LEADERSHIP AS THE LEADER OF AN OPPOSITION IS FROM LEADING THE COUNTRY. BUT I LIKE TO THINK THAT SOME OF YOU BACK IN 1965 BELIEVED THAT IN YEARS TO COME, GOUGH WHITLAM MIGHT RETURN AS PRIME MINISTER, AND I DID, IN 1972.

2. IT WASN'T SO APPARENT IN MARCH 1965, WHEN I LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE, THAT 1965 WAS TO BECOME A WATERSHED IN GERMANY'S MODERN POLITICAL HISTORY. IN SEPTEMBER THAT YEAR, 1965, JUST TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH, A MAN CALLED WILLI BRANDT WAS ELECTED TO THE BUNDESTAG. BUT ALTHOUGH HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, HE CHOSE NOT TO TAKE HIS SEAT IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE HE WANTED TO REMAIN AS GOVERNING BURGERMEISTER OF WEST BERLIN. ER WAR BERLINER, TO RECALL THAT GREAT PHRASE OF JOHN F. KENNEDY. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU ALL KNOW OF MY OWN GREAT ADMIRATION FOR WILLI BRANDT. I WAS ONCE ASKED TO NOMINATE THE GREAT WORLD LEADERS AND STATESMEN OF OUR TIME.

I HAD NO HESITATION IN NOMINATING WILLI BRANDT; I HAVE NO HESITATION IN NOMINATING WILLI BRANDT. MY INVITATION TO HIM TO VISIT THIS COUNTRY STANDS, WHATEVER HIS POLITICAL FORTUNES. AND AS IT HAPPENS HE IS NOW AGAIN CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, JUST AS HE WAS IN 1965.

3. BUT ANOTHER EVENT OF GREAT GERMAN POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE WAS TO HAPPEN BY THE END OF 1965, AND I DON'T MEAN THE OPENING OF YOUR CLUBHOUSE BY THE AUSTRIAN CONSUL GENERAL, THEN AND NOW PROFESSOR FELSER.

I REFER TO THE RESIGNATION, ON CHRISTMAS DAY 1965, OF KONRAD ADENAUER AS HEAD OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION, A POSITION HE HAD HELD SINCE 1946. HE WAS TWO WEEKS OFF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY. CHRISTMAS DAY 1965 MARKED THE END OF AN ERA IN GERMANY.

4. BUT THE LAST DECADE HAS SEEN UNIMAGINED CHANGES IN THE WORLD, NOT JUST IN GERMANY. THE POST-WAR LEADERS WERE ALREADY CHANGING IN 1965; SOME INDEED HAD ALREADY GONE. HOW MANY OF THE WORLD'S LEADERS AND STATESMEN WHO WERE IN POWER IN 1965 ARE STILL THERE TODAY? THINK OF CHARLES DE GAULLE, LYNDON JOHNSON, SUKARNO, HO CHI MINH, U THANT, EVEN OF COURSE SIR ROBERT MENZIES. IT IS SOBERING TO CONTEMPLATE, BUT WE CAN ALL TAKE HEART FROM THE FACT THAT THE AGELESS MARLENE DIETRICH IS STILL WITH US, AND MOREOVER, WITH US IN AUSTRALIA, TONIGHT, "FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN".

5. OF COURSE, I HAVEN'T HEARD HER SING ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR YET, BUT I RECALL BEING QUITE ENCHANTED, MANY YEARS AGO, ON HEARING THE VIENNA BOYS CHOIR SINGING VALZING MATILDA AND GOD SAVE YOUR GRACIOUS QUEEN. IN THESE DAYS OF FREQUENT REFUGEE CRISES IT IS WORTH RECALLING THAT AUSTRALIA BENEFITED IMMEASURABLY BY TAKING CARE OF AN EARLIER TOURING VIENNA BOYS CHOIR, STRANDED HERE AS A RESULT OF THE WAR. BUT TO RETURN TO ANTHEMS, I MUST TELL YOU OF THE THRILL MY WIFE AND I FELT WHEN WE ARRIVED IN KÖLN IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, TO BE GREETED BY A SUPERBLY STIRRING RENDITION OF BOTH THE AUSTRALIAN AND GERMAN NATIONAL ANTHEMS.

6. WE HAD ONLY TWO DAYS IN GERMANY DURING OUR EUROPEAN VISIT, BUT VERY FULL AND PRODUCTIVE DAYS THEY WERE, IN BONN, KÖLN AND HAMBURG. RECALLING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION MADE TO AUSTRALIA'S DEVELOPMENT BY MANY THOUSANDS OF GERMAN SETTLERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT MY VISIT TO GERMANY WAS ONLY THE SECOND BY AN AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER. THE PREVIOUS VISIT HAD BEEN BY SIR ROBERT MENZIES 16 YEARS EARLIER. I BELIEVED IT WAS HIGH TIME TO RECTIFY THAT STATE OF AFFAIRS. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED TO RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE, THE VALUE OF OUR LINKS WITH EUROPE.

7. WHILE I WAS IN GERMANY, I NOT ONLY HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING FORMALLY WITH THE CHANCELLOR, HELMUT SCHMIDT, AND WITH THE PRESIDENT, HERR SCHEEL, IN BONN, BUT I ALSO HAD INFORMAL AND VERY FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF GERMANY INDUSTRY (THE B.D.I.) IN KÖLN.

IN EACH CASE I WAS ABLE TO REMIND MY HOSTS OF THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY GERMANY MIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA, AND OF THE FLOURISHING CLUBS YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED TO KEEP ALIVE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF WHICH YOU ARE JUSTLY PROUD.

8. IN MAY WE RECEIVED A GERMAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION LED BY HERR GRUENER, PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY, AND INCLUDING SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY. THIS VISIT AROSE DIRECTLY FROM THE SUGGESTION MADE BY THE GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HERR GENSCHER DURING MY VISIT, THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY VALUABLE IN PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY. I READILY AGREED. IN NOVEMBER WE WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF THE COMPANY OF PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE, HERR MOERSCH WHO WILL BE VISITING AUSTRALIA AS PART OF A TOUR OF SOUTH EAST ASIA DESIGNED TO PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH THE LATEST POST VIETNAM DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR REGION. ONE THING WHICH WILL BE OF OBVIOUS INTEREST IS THE PROGRESS MADE BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA, WHICH BECOMES INDEPENDENT ON 16 SEPTEMBER. SINCE NEW GUINEA WAS ONCE A GERMAN MANDATED TERRITORY, AND SINCE AUSTRALIA HAS HAD THE MOST RECENT TRUSTEESHIP TASK, OUR INTEREST IS MUTUAL.

ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT VISITOR SCHEDULED TO COME TO AUSTRALIA IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH NEXT YEAR IS THE MAYOR OF WEST BERLIN, HERR KLAUS SCHÜTZ. AS I MENTIONED BEFORE THERE IS A STANDING INVITATION TO ONE OF HIS PREDECESSORS, WILLI BRANDT, JUST AS THERE IS FOR CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.

9. I FIND IT GRATIFYING THAT TOP LEVEL VISITS OF THIS NATURE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES ARE BECOMING THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION. IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE REGULAR CONTACT BETWEEN THE LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE OF GERMANY AND AUSTRIA AND AUSTRALIA. CERTAINLY MANY MORE AUSTRALIANS ARE TRAVELLING TO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA THAN WAS THE CASE TEN YEARS AGO, NOT LEAST BECAUSE INCREASING NUMBERS OF AUSTRALIANS ARE WANTING TO SEEK THE SNOW RATHER THAN THE SUNSHINE DURING THE AUSTRALIAN SUMMER MONTHS.

AND TOURISTS COMING TO AND TRAVELLING ROUND AUSTRALIA CAN BE IN NO DOUBT AS TO THE CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION MADE BY AUSTRIAN AND GERMAN SETTLERS IN AUSTRALIA. THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATION PRODUCES A PUBLICATION, NOW IN ITS SECOND EDITION, CALLED "AUSTRALIA - A LAND OF THINGS TO DO." THIS DEALS WITH THE ATTRACTIONS, SCENIC, CULTURAL, CULINARY, SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL OF EACH STATE IN TURN. IT ALSO LISTS THE FESTIVALS WHICH TAKE PLACE IN OUR MAIN CITIES. THERE AREN'T THAT MANY, AS IT HAPPENS, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS EITHER AN OKTOBERFEST OR A SCHUTZENFEST, FROM DARWIN TO SYDNEY, FROM HAHNDORF TO HOBART. AND WHENEVER I POSSIBLY CAN, I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO PROCURE AN INVITATION - WHICH IS VERY EASY - AND TO ATTEND - WHICH IS OFTEN QUITE HARD.

10. NOW THIS YEAR I HAVE BEEN INVITED TO BOTH BRISBANE'S OKTOBERFEST, AND TO YOUR OKTOBERFEST. AND SINCE THIS YEAR YOUR OKTOBERFEST, OUR OKTOBERFEST, IS COMING HOME TO FAIRFIELD - AFTER BEING HELD IN ANOTHER PLACE - YOU WILL KNOW WHICH OKTOBERFEST I WILL ATTEND. I'LL TRY TO GET TO BRISBANE AS WELL, BUT I HAVE A FIRM ENGAGEMENT TO ATTEND OUR OKTOBERFEST

ON 4 OCTOBER, AND I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN FOR THAT ANNUAL FESTIVAL. I HAVE THE FONDEST MEMORIES OF THE MANY OKTOBERFESTS I HAVE ATTENDED OVER THE YEARS. I AM SURE THIS WILL BE NO EXCEPTION.

11. I PAY TRIBUTE TO EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH THIS EVENING'S JAHRESBALL, AS WELL AS THE OKTOBERFEST, AND TO ALL THOSE OF GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN DESCENT WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH TO MAKE AUSTRALIA A MORE DIVERSE, A MORE STIMULATING, A MORE ENJOYABLE PLACE TO LIVE. AT THE LAST CENSUS IN 1971, THERE WERE 23,941 PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA WHO WERE BORN IN AUSTRIA AND 110,811 WHO WERE BORN IN GERMANY. THIS COMPARES WITH 1902 FROM AUSTRIA AND 38,352 FROM GERMANY WHO WERE HERE IN 1901, THE YEAR OF FEDERATION.

THEY AND THEIR DESCENDANTS HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES AND OF THEIR HERITAGE TO EACH OF THE AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORIES IN THE YEARS SINCE FEDERATION, THAT AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE, AND IS GRATEFUL TO THEM. YOU CAN BE SURE THAT I STRESSED THIS ON MY VISIT TO GERMANY EARLIER THIS YEAR. THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE ALL DONE FOR MY HEIMATLAND, AND THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME SO WELCOME HERE AND IN GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.

\*\*\*\*\*

CURRENT PENSION/BENEFITS  
PAID TO PEOPLE RESIDING IN  
AUSTRIA AND GERMANY

<u>Pension/Benefit</u>	<u>N.S.W. Total</u>		<u>Australian Total</u>	
	<u>Austria</u>	<u>W.Germany</u>	<u>Austria</u>	<u>W.Germany</u>
Age	13	23	33	105
Invalid	6	5	14	16
Wives	2	1	4	8
Widows	0	4	3	22
Supporting Mothers	0	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>153</b>

Social Welfare Branch  
3 September 1975