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Title:

Speech by the Acting Premier, Mr Des Corcoran, Proclamation Day ceremony, Glenelg

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PROCLAMATION DAY CEREMONY, GLENELG, 28TH DECEMBER, 1976.

YOUR EXCELLENCY AND LADY NICHOLLS, YOUR HONOURS, YOUR WORSHIP,
MY MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

WE LOOK BACK TODAY WITH PRIDE TO THE TIME - 140 YEARS AGO TODAY - WHEN
A BAND OF PIONEERS GATHERED AT THIS PLACE TO PROCLAIM A FREE COLONY.

THOSE PEOPLE WERE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD LEFT THEIR HOMES AND THEIR
FAMILIAR AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT TO MAKE A JOURNEY WHICH MUST HAVE
SEEMED DAUNTING AND AWESOME EVEN TO THE BRAVEST.

THEY WERE PEOPLE OF COURAGE AND IDEALISM WHO WERE TO ESTABLISH THE BASIS
OF THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STATE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

...2.

DESPITE THEIR OUTSTANDING QUALITIES, THOSE PIONEERS WERE HUMAN BEINGS
WITH ALL THE HOPES, VIRTUES AND FAULTS THAT PEOPLE STILL HAVE TODAY.

FROM THEIR EFFORTS WE HAVE DEVELOPED A SOCIETY WHICH HAS BEEN FORGED
IN THE FACE OF SOMETIMES BITTER HARDSHIP, OF CRUEL CLIMATIC EXTREMES
AND IN LONELY ISOLATION FROM BOTH THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CIVILISATIONS
IN WHICH OUR PIONEERS HAD ORIGINATED.

THOSE PEOPLE WERE PRACTICAL AND HEROIC, AND THEY NEEDED TO BE. THEY ALSO
HAD A STRONG STRAIN OF IDEALISM WHICH REFLECTED ITSELF IN THE PIONEERING
OF FORMS OF DEMOCRATIC JUSTICE WITHIN THE SOCIAL FRAMEWORK OF THIS STATE
IN SUCH FIELDS AS ADULT SUFFRAGE, THE SECRET BALLOT AND VOTES FOR WOMEN.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S EARLY HISTORY IS REMARKABLE FOR ITS INNOVATION AND
FREEDOM.

BUT THERE IS ONE BLEMISH ON THAT PROUD RECORD AND THAT IS IN THE ATTITUDE OF MANY OF OUR PIONEERS TO THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THIS CONTINENT.

IN THIS AREA THE ACTIONS OF THE PAST ARE NOT SOMETHING WE CAN BE PROUD OF AND THE LEGACY OF THOSE MISDEEDS IS STILL WITH US TODAY.

WHILE ADMITTING THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST, THE CHALLENGE TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND INDEED TO OUR WHOLE COUNTRY, IS TO WORK TOWARDS WAYS OF RECTIFYING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THOSE ACTIONS. SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS MADE MANY ADVANCES IN IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN BRINGING THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO THE LEVEL OF JUSTICE AND DIGNITY SHARED BY ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIANS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S LEADERSHIP IN THIS ENDEAVOUR WILL CONTINUE AND I BELIEVE YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY, SIR DOUGLAS, AS THE GOVERNOR OF ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIANS, IS IN PART A MEASURE OF THAT PROGRESS.

...4.

ONLY THROUGH TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING CAN ALL THE DIVERSE GROUPS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY SHARE IN THE BENEFITS THAT OUR SOCIETY IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY IS PERHAPS THE MOST CONSCIOUS OF ALL AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES OF THE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THE POTENTIAL OF OUR STATE IS REALISED AND THAT THE PHYSICAL, MATERIAL AND SOCIAL RESULTS OF THAT POTENTIAL ARE SHARED EQUITABLY.

WE HAVE, IN OUR STATE, AN ATTITUDE OF SHARING OUR TASKS AND WORKING TOGETHER. THAT ATTITUDE HAS ENABLED SOUTH AUSTRALIANS TO TURN THIS STATE - WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN OVERENDOWED WITH PHYSICAL RESOURCES - INTO A PROGRESSIVE AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY. WE ARE STILL DOING THAT THROUGH THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH COMMUNITY VENTURES PLAY THEIR PART IN BUILDING AND DEVELOPING OUR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LIFE.

THE CHALLENGE OF THE PAST HAS BEEN OVERCOME IN A SPECTACULARLY SUCCESSFUL WAY : I AM SURE SOUTH AUSTRALIANS, WORKING AND PLANNING TOGETHER, WILL OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE JUST AS EFFECTIVELY.

AN OCCASION SUCH AS THIS, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR STATE'S FOUNDATION AND ON THE EVE OF A NEW YEAR, IS THE TIME TO PAUSE AND THINK NOT ONLY OF OUR PAST BUT TO LOOK AHEAD. WE MUST CONSIDER OUR FUTURE NOT JUST FROM A COMFORTABLE OR EUPHORIC VIEWPOINT, BUT WE MUST LOOK AND TRY TO ANTICIPATE THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NEXT FEW DECADES WHICH WILL AT THE TIME SEEM AS TROUBLESOME TO US AS THE EARLY CHALLENGES SEEMED TO THE PIONEERS.

THEY APPROACHED THEIR PROBLEMS WITH A PRACTICAL AND SERIOUS SENSE OF PURPOSE WITH AN UNDERLYING IDEALISM AND CONVICTION. OUR ASPIRATIONS MUST MATCH THEIRS.

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WE HAVE A FINE HERITAGE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WHICH STARTED AND WAS NURTURED BY THE PEOPLE WHO GATHERED HERE 140 YEARS AGO.

IT IS A HERITAGE THAT HAS BEEN GREATLY ENRICHED BY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER, OLDER CULTURES IN EUROPE AND ASIA.

IT IS A HERITAGE WHICH WE HAVE ADAPTED AND MADE OUR OWN. THE WAY IN WHICH WE FURTHER DEVELOP THAT HERITAGE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIANS WILL BE PROOF THAT WE CAN CONTINUE THE PROUD TRADITION THAT STARTED ON THIS SPOT 140 YEARS AGO.

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