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**Title:**

Speech at the South Pacific Regional Conference of the Association of Country Women  
of the World

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, HON. DON DUNSTAN, G.C., M.P., AT THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD. 25.9.67.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AND GUESTS, AND LADIES :

I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PRESENT WITH YOU ON THIS SIGNIFICANT OCCASION TO OPEN THIS SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD. I CONGRATULATE YOUR ASSOCIATION ON MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR THIS CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT MUCH GOOD WILL ARISE FROM THE DISCUSSIONS, LECTURES AND EXHIBITIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE. IT IS FITTING THAT THIS CONFERENCE SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, FOR OUR STATE HAS ALWAYS HAD AN ENLIGHTENED OUTLOOK TOWARDS THE WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY. SOUTH AUSTRALIA WAS THE SECOND PLACE IN THE WORLD TO GIVE THE FRANCHISE TO OUR WOMEN RESIDENTS. A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LADY WAS THE FIRST LADY IN AUSTRALIA TO BE APPOINTED

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A QUEEN'S COUNSEL - A HIGH HONOUR IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION. THIS SAME LADY, MISS ROMA MITCHELL, THEN BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE TO BE APPOINTED A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT. ALL THESE FACTS INDICATE THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THAT WOMEN ARE ABLE TO MAKE IN ALL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH ADMINISTRATION, THE PROFESSIONS AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

IN OUR STATE, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE SEXES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, AND AS A RESULT OF THIS, MANY DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS PROFESSIONS ARE WOMEN. IN ADDITION WE HAVE WOMEN IN OUR STATE PARLIAMENT AND WOMEN ACTIVE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS. ONE OF THE POLICIES UPON WHICH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS ELECTED TO OFFICE WAS THE PROVISION OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK OF EQUAL VALUE. SINCE MY

GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN OFFICE, IT HAS TAKEN THE ACTION NECESSARY FOR THE INTRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY. ALL THESE THINGS CLEARLY INDICATE THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS AWARE OF THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE WOMEN IN OUR MIDST CAN MAKE TO THE GENERAL WELLBEING OF OUR COUNTRY.

WHILST IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH WOMEN CAN MAKE IN GOVERNMENT, PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE HOME, WE MUST NEVER OVERLOOK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN AS WIFE AND MOTHER IN HOME LIFE. AS A MAN BUSILY ENGAGED IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, I OWE A GREAT DEBT TO MY WIFE FOR THE VALUABLE SUPPORT SHE HAS ALWAYS GIVEN TO ME AND THE LOYAL SUPPORT OF A WIFE ALWAYS HAS MUCH TO DO WITH THE SUCCESS OF HER HUSBAND IN HIS DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES. LIKEWISE THE TRAINING OF A CHILD AT THE HANDS OF THEIR MOTHER FORMS THE BASIS FOR THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND IN ASSESSING

THE VALUE OF WOMEN TO OUR COMMUNITY, WE MUST NEVER OVERLOOK THESE IMPORTANT FACTORS.

MADAM PRESIDENT, IN EXPRESSING THE WISH THAT THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE MAY BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATE IN THEM, I ALSO EXPRESS THE WISH THAT OUR VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING AT FIRST HAND SOME OF OUR AUSTRALIAN ACTIVITIES IN THIS STATE AND ALSO SOMETHING OF THE NATURAL BEAUTY AND ATTRACTIONS WHICH OUR CITY AND OUR STATE HAVE TO OFFER. I HOPE THAT THEY WILL TAKE WITH THEM FROM THIS CONFERENCE A VERY HAPPY MEMORY OF THEIR STAY IN ADELAIDE, AND THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF CLOSER TIES AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ASSOCIATED TOGETHER IN IT.

IT IS WITH MUCH PLEASURE THAT I DECLARE THIS SOUTH  
PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN  
OF THE WORLD TO BE OFFICIALLY OPEN.

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