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Speech Opening Adelaide Chess Centre

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1901 10

SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING ADELAIDE CHESS CENTRE

12/4/72

MR. KOSHNITSKY, MR. KNAGGS, MR. LIDUMS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;
THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME HERE THIS EVENING TO OPEN YOUR NEW CHESS
CENTRE. AND, AS PREMIER AND PATRON OF YOUR ASSOCIATION, IT'S
A PARTICULAR PLEASURE TO WELCOME TO ADELAIDE AS DISTINGUISHED
A FIGURE ON THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS SCENE AS PROFESSOR EUWE.

PROFESSOR EUWE'S CONTRIBUTION TO CHESS, BOTH IN THE ELEGANCE
OF HIS GAMES AS AN INTERNATIONAL GRANDMASTER AND FORMER WORLD
CHAMPION, AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD CHESS FEDERATION IS TOO
WELL-KNOWN BY THIS AUDIENCE TO NEED ELABORATION. WE WELCOME
HIM AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING FROM HIM SOME DAZZLING PLAY.

SIR, YOUR ASSOCIATION IS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON THE ENTERPRISING
WAY IN WHICH THIS CENTRE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED.

PAGE TWO

IT'S BEEN BROUGHT OVER SIX YEARS TO THE STAGE WHERE IT'S
UNDOUBTEDLY THE BEST OF ITS KIND IN AUSTRALIA. AND IT DOESN'T
DETRACT FROM THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION TO SAY THAT
THIS IS ONLY TO BE EXPECTED.

ONE WOULD EXPECT A CITY WHICH HAS AT VARIOUS TIMES BEEN LABELLED
THE ATHENS OR EDINBURGH OF THE SOUTH AND WHICH HAS A TRADITION
OF INTELLECTUAL EXCELLENCE, TO HAVE HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT WITH
THAT MOST RIGOROUS AND MENTALLY DEMANDING OF GAMES, CHESS.
AND WE HAVE, IN FACT, THE ~~LARGEST~~^{2nd} LARGEST CHESS HISTORY OF ANY
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL - ONE WHICH GOES BACK TO 1864 AND THE
FOUNDING OF THE ADELAIDE CHESS CLUB. THE FIRST TOURNAMENT
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP WAS PLAYED HERE IN 1887, AND,
I'M HAPPY TO SAY, WON BY A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN. THESE NEW PREMISES
SHOW THAT THIS TRADITION IS VERY MUCH ALIVE TODAY.

PAGE THREE

AND I SOMETIMES THINK ONE NEEDS TO BE A CHESS PLAYER TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE RECENT MOVES ON THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL SCENE ON THE OPPOSITION SIDE. WHEN THEY BEGAN A FEW WEEKS AGO, I THOUGHT IT WAS, AT LEAST AN INTERESTING GAMBIT. NOW I THINK IT LOOKS MORE LIKE AN ENDGAME.

IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHICH KING IS TOPPLED.

SIR, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I AM IN TWO WAYS UNIQUE IN THIS AUDIENCE. I'M THE ONLY PREMIER HERE AND I'M PROBABLY THE WORST CHESS PLAYER. MIND YOU, IT'S NOT FOR WANT OF TRYING. I GOT MOST OF MY TRAINING FROM MY WIFE, GRETTEL. A FEW YEARS AGO SHE DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR CHESS AND SHE WAS DETERMINED THAT I SHOULD, TOO. IT GOT TO THE STAGE WHERE, WHEN I CAME HOME FROM A LATE SITTING OF PARLIAMENT, SHE'D BE SITTING UP IN BED WAITING FOR ME WITH A CHESS BOARD SET OUT READY FOR A QUICK MATCH BEFORE LIGHTS OUT.

PAGE FOUR

IT WAS A WAY OF LIFE THAT HAD TO STOP WHEN GRETTEL ALSO DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR BRIDGE. AFTER ALL, BRIDGE IS A GAME FOR FOUR.

SERIOUSLY, SIR, THE OPENING OF THIS NEW CENTRE WILL GIVE PLEASURE TO MANY PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS AND IT'S A MOST WELCOME ADDITION TO OUR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

AMONG THE MOST WELCOME ASPECTS OF CHESS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS THE ATTRACTION IT HAS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE PART IT HAS PLAYED IN THE ASSIMILATION INTO OUR COMMUNITY OF MANY MIGRANTS. I'M SURE THAT WITH THIS CENTRE AS ITS FOCAL POINT, THIS WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE AND THAT CHESS AS A GAME WILL THRIVE IN ADELAIDE.

IT GIVES MUCH PLEASURE NOW TO DECLARE THE CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPEN.