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Speech at 1976 Schuetzenfest, Hahndorf

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, DON DUNSTAN, AT 1976 SCHUETZENFEST, HAHNDORF.

10.1.76

Your Excellency Dr. Blomeyer-Bartenstein, Mr. Diestel-Fedderson, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It's always a pleasure to accept the South Australian German Association's invitation to come to the Schuetzenfest, because this festival is now one of the most enjoyable and notable events in South Australia each year.

Many people probably think it's a much older festival than it is, but it was only twelve years ago that the first Schuetzenfest was held here on Hahndorf oval. Since then, the Schuetzenfest has grown in size and popularity to the point where not only do people come here from all round our State, but many visitors come from interstate for the fun and the food - and probably for the occasional drink as well.

The South Australian German Association has done a marvellous job in staging and promoting the Schuetzenfest each year so that the entire community can share in part of the German heritage which has been such an important influence on South Australia.

German settlers came to our State very shortly after the first colonisation and since then the German community have made a unique and striking contribution to South Australian life.

In every facet of our community people of German descent have excelled. Although we tend to think of Australia as being settled mainly by people from Britain, we owe a great deal to the other community groups who made Australia their home. That diversity gave Australia the opportunity to develop a life-style which took the best from very many cultures, but it has not been until the last few years that we have realised the pleasure and benefit of encouraging distinctive community cultures.

Fortunately, the suspicions and conformity of the past are now being replaced by a willingness to taste and experience cultural backgrounds other than those of Britain. I think this is a good trend and one which can only add to the standard of living the whole community enjoys. Today's Schuetzenfest is just one example.

The community will benefit in a more concrete way from today's Schuetzenfest as well, because while we are all enjoying ourselves here, we are also supporting a number of charities and organisations which are working in the community to help others. I think the South Australian

German Association should be congratulated on encouraging these groups through the Schuetzenfest.

I am very glad that His Excellency Dr. Blomeyer-Bartenstein was able to open this festival and emphasise the links between South Australia and Germany. The State Government is anxious that those relationships are maintained, and at the moment we are encouraging the restoration of German place names which were changed during the First World War. Last year, eight places reverted back to their original German names. It is only fitting that the history of our State should be reflected faithfully in the place names which the original settlers decided on.

Certainly I feel that events such as today's Schuetzenfest are enjoyable reminders of our history.

Thank you once again Mr. Diestel-Feddersen for your invitation here today and I am very pleased to name this year's Shoot King and Queen.