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Title:

Message of welcome to Greek University Student Convention

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MESSAGE OF WELCOME TO GREEK UNIVERSITY STUDENT CONVENTION.

By Don Dunstan, Premier of South Australia.

On behalf of the South Australian Government I extend a cordial welcome to delegates to the Greek University Student Convention. I regret that my absence overseas coincides with your Convention and that, as a consequence, I am not able to welcome you personally.

Successive waves of migration have been of inestimable value to Australia and migrants have made great contributions not only to the economic development of their adopted land but also to its social and cultural life. Indeed, insofar as there is a distinctive Australian consciousness it is a synthesis of diverse cultures.

The values to be derived from a liberal, forward-looking migration policy are exemplified by the contributions made by Greek-speaking immigrants who have been readily and speedily assimilated into the general community but who have retained a pride in their own great classic traditions and values with a spin-off of benefit for all Australians.

I believe that in formulating migration policies we must aim at the welfare and integration of all citizens, the preservation of democracy and the avoidance of difficult social and economic problems through a planned and balanced intake.

We must also have regard to Australia's geographic and political place in the world and avoid restrictions based on purely ethnic or racial considerations.

We must judge our migrants on the basis of the contributions they can make rather than on some arbitrary and insulting genetic categorisation. All countries have the right to select from potential migrants those whom it is felt will be most valuable, and countries such as Canada have demonstrated that this need not presuppose a colour bar.

We should welcome diversity and take in a flow of migrants balanced in both background and education, irrespective of national or racial origins, who would fit easily into the mainstream of Australian life and who could make their own contribution to an Australian culture.

South Australia, in particular, has gained tangible economic and cultural benefits from the presence of a large Greek population which has traditionally taken an active part in community life.

My Government looks forward to, and will encourage, continued settlement within our borders by Greek speaking newcomers.

Once again welcome to Adelaide. I wish you a pleasant stay and a successful Conference.

27/4/71.