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8th Biennial Conference of the Australian Crime Prevention Council

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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE
HON. D.A. DUNSTAN.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome delegates to the 8th Biennial Conference of the Australian Crime Prevention Council.

Parliamentary duties do not allow me to convey this welcome personally, but nevertheless delegates may be assured that it is warm and real.

The South Australian Government - like Governments in developed countries throughout the world - has noted trends in juvenile crime that are disquietening in both their general and specific criminalological and social implications.

Such trends led my Government in December 1971 to appoint the Criminal Law and Penal Methods Reform Committee. Its task is to examine and report, and to make recommendations, to the Attorney-General in relation to the Criminal Law in force in this State, and in particular as to whether any changes should be effected in the substantive law; in criminal investigations and procedures; in court procedures and rules of evidence; and in penal methods.

The Committee is composed of The Hon. Justice Mitchell of the Supreme Court of South Australia and; Professor Colin Howard, the Hearn Professor of Law, Melbourne; and Mr. David Biles, the Assistant Director (Research) of the Australian Institute of Criminology. It has presented

two reports so far, one on Penal Methods and one on Criminal Investigation, and later this year it is expected that it will complete its third and final report, which will deal with the substantive Criminal Law.

The recommendations in the two reports received from the Committee so far are presently being used as a basis for the formulation of Government policy and administrative directives. With the receipt of the report on the substantive law, I believe South Australia will be able to take action to achieve wide-ranging legislative and administrative reforms that take proper account not only of rapidly changing community attitudes, but also of the role social, community and domestic situations influence or determine criminal behaviour and rehabilitation.

Because of this programme of reform it is appropriate that your Conference is being held in Adelaide this year since you can expect that one of the close observers of your deliberations will be the State Government itself. Accordingly, may I on behalf of the Government, repeat my welcome in the confident expectation that your deliberations are fruitful and in the hope that those of you who are visitors will find Adelaide and its weather enjoyable.

DON DUNSTAN.