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Title:

Message to the Staff and Readers of La Fiamma

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MESSAGE TO THE STAFF AND READERS OF LA FIAMMA FROM THE PREMIER
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.

I welcome this opportunity to congratulate La Fiamma on its first twenty years and to wish it continued success as an Italian Language newspaper for many years to come.

We in South Australia are proud of the fact that although we have only 9% of Australia's population, we have in recent years received over 15% of all new arrivals to this country. Indeed since the Immigration policy of this country was commenced in 1946 by the Chifley Labor Government with Mr. Calwell as the first Minister of Immigration, South Australia has received per capita many more immigrants than any other State. A high proportion of these "new" South Australians have been Italians.

All of us in this State are, or should be, appreciative of the contribution which Italians have made to our way of life. For my own part, I not only greatly value the many friendships I have with people born in Italy, but marvel at the great skills which Italians have been able to lend to industry in South Australia especially in such fields as textiles, quality clothing, building and precision engineering. Equally important has been the European vitality which Italians in particular have given to our culture.

In all of this, I consider that La Fiamma has played a valuable part. It is not our desire that new arrivals to Australia from Europe should be forced to abandon all their own customs for those of their new country, but rather that they should merge their own with ours in order to create for all a better society in which to live, and of paramount importance in this process are national language newspapers of the same high quality as La Fiamma.

Once more, I congratulate you on your twentieth anniversary and wish you well in the future.