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Title:

Speech welcoming HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at state banquet

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, WELCOMING H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AT STATE BANQUET. ADELAIDE. 1.3.74

Your Royal Highness, Your Excellency, Your Honours, My Ministerial and Parliamentary Colleagues, My Lord Mayor, Your Worships, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I know that tonight I speak for all South Australians in welcoming you once more to South Australia.

We deeply regret that current events in Britain mean that Her Majesty could not be here. However, we're consoled by the knowledge that she will return to open the Adelaide Arts Festival. I'd mention here, Sir, that one of these functions will take place in our new Festival Theatre. Her Majesty has recent experience of an Opera House elsewhere.

Constitutional propriety forbids that she should make any comparison. Besides, we've already done so.

In your brief visit so far and on the previous occasion when you were here, last November, you will have noticed that South Australia is changing very rapidly.

The very location of this banquet emphasises that there is continued and dramatic growth of industry.

But, some things, do not change.

South Australia is still, in my view, the most beautiful State in the Commonwealth and the finest in which to live -and its people are determined to keep it that way.

And you will certainly find that the warmth of welcome here is constant. It is, I think, most fitting that your visit centres around the Centenary Celebrations of the University of Adelaide.

The University is living testimony of the enduring regard South Australians have had since the foundation of the colony, for excellence.

And in its teaching and research activities today it is proof that this is still a humane and dynamic society.

It's appropriate, too, that the Crown's personal representative here, Sir Mark Oliphant, is one of the most renowned of its graduates.

Again, Sir, a most sincere welcome to South Australia.

I only hope that you will enjoy your stay here as much as the people of this State enjoy your being here.

I now have very much pleasure in inviting you formally to open the University Centenary Celebrations.

Thank you.

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