

A MEMORANDUM OF PROTEST

AGAINST THE OFFICIAL INVITATION BY THE

PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA TO THE YUGOSLAV DICTATOR,

JOSIP BROZ-TITO, TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

**REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH COMMUNITIES AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
IN AUSTRALIA**

P.O. Box 225

Cabramatta, N.S.W. 2166

25th June, 1975

Rt Rev. Bishop D.W. Robinson
St John Church Hall
Church Str.
Parramatta, NSW

Dear Sir, Bishop,

With this letter we wish to introduce you to the enclosed Memorandum of Protest against the official invitation by the Prime Minister of Australia to the Yugoslav Dictator, Josip Broz-Tito, to visit Australia, which has been sent to the Prime Minister of Australia and a copy to all Australian decision-making and opinion-forming leaders and institutions.

The Memorandum of Protest, on behalf of the stipulated church communities and national associations of the Australian Serbian community, includes arguments which we believe to be both convincing and truthful.

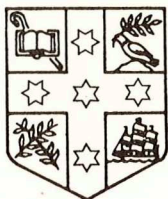
We sincerely hope that our arguments lead to a rational criticism of the Australian Government's invitation to Tito and accordingly we urge you to use any influence you may possess to effect a change in the Government's attitude.

Yours truly,

President



M. Lalatovic



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D.W.B. Robinson.....

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REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH COMMUNITIES AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

P.O. Box 225
Cabramatta, N.S.W. 2166.

2nd June, 1975.

On behalf of

- Free Serbian Orthodox Church-Diocese for Australia and New Zealand with its Council of Diocese and following church-school Congregations.

St. Nicholas, Brisbane, QLD.
St. Naum, Newcastle, NSW.
St. George, Cabramatta, NSW.
St. Nicholas, Blacktown, NSW.
St. John, Wollongong, NSW.
St. George, Canberra, ACT.
Sts. Peter and Paul, Wodonga, VIC.
St. Sava, Melbourne, VIC.
St. George, St. Albans, VIC.
St. Nicholas, Geelong, VIC.
Holy Trinity, Yallourn, VIC.
St. Archangel Michael, Melbourne, VIC.
St. Sava, Adelaide-Hindmarsh, SA.
Holy Trinity, Perth, WA.
St. Sava, Wellington, NZ.

- Yugoslav Ex-Servicemen Association "Draza Mihailovic": Central Committee for Australia and States Branches of WA, SA, VIC, QLD and NSW.
- Serbian Defence Council: Central Committee for Australia and States Branches of SA, VIC, QLD, NSW and ACT.
- Serbian Chetnik Organization "Ravna Gora" of NSW.
- Serbian Cultural Club 'St. Sava' of SA.
- Movement of The Serbian Chetniks "Ravna Gora": Central Committee for Australia and States Branches of WA, NSW, VIC and QLD.
- Serbian War Veterans of SA and VIC.
- Serbian Brothers Help of VIC.

Forwards

This Memorandum of Protest to the Prime Minister of Australia.

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Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

During your official State visit to Yugoslavia in January 1975, you extended an invitation for an Australian visit to the Yugoslav dictator Josip Broz-Tito. It was reported that he accepted the invitation. This action has given rise to unrest and protest throughout the communities of new settlers in Australia who were forced to leave Yugoslavia thirty years ago due to the persecution and terror unleashed by Tito and his Communist Party as the new dictatorial Government of Yugoslavia. Thousands of Australian citizens of Yugoslav origin lost dearly loved members of their families in the post-war pogroms, as totally innocent citizens, at the hands of the new Titoist regime. A visit by Tito to this country would open tender and dangerously sensitive wounds.

Therefore, the above-named organisations throughout this country hereby raise their voices in protest and most sincerely and profoundly urge you and the Australian Government to withdraw your invitation to Tito in the interests of peace and order at home and in order to safeguard the reputations abroad of Australia and her immigrant newcomers.

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

The members of the above-named organisations are Serbs from Yugoslavia, the victims of Tito and Communism. For the entire duration of the Second World War they were all loyal to the Allied cause and engaged in combat for the high ideals of freedom, thereby severely paying a high price for their commitment to Democracy, not only with huge physical losses but also with the loss of their freedom and their homeland.

With hundreds of thousands of other exiled compatriots they refused to return to Yugoslavia in 1945 due to the illegal usurpation of power by the Communist dictatorship, and chose instead the difficult road of exile. They are now, after almost three decades, loyal and worthy citizens of their new homeland whose children, born in Australia, comprise a new generation of young Australians, many with superior educational and social achievements.

We wish particularly to emphasise that these organisations, which represent the silent majority of immigrants from Yugoslavia and which have over one hundred thousand members and sympathisers, have never in the last three decades in this country protested, demonstrated or embarrassed in any way the Government or the people of Australia, but the official invitation to the dictator Tito transcends the limits of their tolerance.

Allow us, therefore, for the first time the privilege, by way of this Memorandum of Protest, to enlighten you and your Government in respect of Tito's tyranny and to present our reasons for regarding Tito's visit as unworthy of Australian Democracy and its people and for urging that the invitation be withdrawn.

TITO THE DICTATOR AND TYRANT

Josip Broz-Tito is an inhuman dictator and merciless tyrant of his people and a relentless liquidator of all his political opponents. Due to his dictatorial intransigence and systematic murder of respected individuals in the first decade of his terrorist rule, he succeeded in institutionalising a sense of fear throughout the country to the extent that Yugoslav citizens bear his Government's injustices without reaction. He has to a great degree succeeded in eliminating all basic human rights.

Tito was never elected as President of Yugoslavia by way of democratic means or by popular will. The means by which he usurped power were exclusively force, terror, treachery, foreign aid, pogroms and revolution and it is by these means that he governs today. Towards the end of the Second World War, in October of 1944, Soviet troops carried him into Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia, on their tanks and presented him with the reins of power. From that day until today he has effectively eliminated all his political opponents and no faction dared or was able to remove him from his position. His Communist Party is the only legal political party in Yugoslavia, other potential parties being outlawed and their leadership and membership persecuted and eradicated.

The dictator is a master in developing the personality cult. He has in a demented fashion erected monuments to himself throughout the country. "Tito" is not his original given name. The four letters in translation stand for the initials of his Communist Movement: the Secret International Terrorist Organisation. His highest qualifications are blacksmith, Austrian sergeant and communist terrorist.

Trained by the Bolsheviks in Russia, Tito's major preoccupations were revolutions and bloodshed: Russian, Spanish and Yugoslav. As secretary of the Yugoslav Communist Party before the war Tito was, by order of Stalin, one of the organisers of the Spanish Civil War of 1936-'39, recruiting Yugoslav Communists for Spain in the interests of world Communism, regardless of the tragedies suffered by the Spanish people. From this group of Yugoslav "Spaniards" Tito later created twenty-six generals, none with academic or military qualifications, and with their help precipitated a revolution in Yugoslavia during the Second World War, spilling innocent blood during the years of 1941-'45, in order to gain power.

Should the Australian people and its Government accept such a tyrant as Tito as an official guest?

Would anyone have seriously taken an official invitation to the dictator Stalin, were he alive? To invite Tito would be just as horrific an analogy. In the final analysis there is no difference between the tyranny of "generalissimo" Stalin over the Russian people and the tyranny of "Marshal" Tito over the Yugoslav.

ELECTIONS AND FREEDOM IN YUGOSLAVIA

Since the Communist takeover in Yugoslavia there have never been free elections. Whenever "elections" are held, only the Communist Party

has the right to present candidates. Such elections were in fact mere farces or, as it were, one-horse races: the victorious jockey with ninety-nine percent of the votes would always be Tito.

Once he assumed dictatorial power, and to this day, Tito bases his right to govern not on popular will freely expressed in elections but on the so-called "fruits of revolution" and on his leadership of the Party during the last war. The Yugoslav people have never during his reign been consulted by way of referendum on any issue since all decision-making is restricted to Tito and his select clique. He ridicules Democracy and makes a mockery of the democratic principles basic to Australian political life.

The "Parliament" of Yugoslavia is merely the Communist Party's rubber stamp. Members of Parliament are of necessity members of the Party. Since the Party is the only legal political entity an Opposition does not exist. It follows that all parliamentary decisions are unanimous, following religiously the Party line.

In so-called Socialist and self-governing Yugoslavia freedom of speech and freedom of the Press are non-existent. Journalist and the Press are vassals of the regime and must comment and interpret events according to its dictates.

For the first fifteen years of Titoist rule Yugoslavia was virtually a prison in which the regime relentlessly experimented with its terrorist methods: the incarceration, torture and extermination of many segments of the populace. The Minister for the Police at the time A. Rankovic, today himself in gaol, officially observed that for this period alone Yugoslav prisons catered for six million citizens, one-third of the population at the time.

Even less civilised Asian and African tribes have achieved more in respect of political and civil liberties in the last thirty years than the people of Yugoslavia. In many cases they have the right to self-determination and to free expression of the popular will at elections, a right which is absent in Yugoslavia today.

Under Tito's regime civil rights are awarded by political discrimination. The great percentage of the people are second-class citizens. All those citizens who were not actively engaged in the Communist Party's struggle for power, who are nationalists, do not qualify in respect of pensions and other social security benefits, and their children miss out on educational scholarships. In Yugoslavia today the law of the jungle and revolution are supreme.

Should such a Communist despot be invited to such a genuinely democratic country as Australia?

TITO THE "NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED" COMMUNIST

Josip Broz-Tito is the only pre-war surviving Communist Party secretary who hasn't fallen victim to Stalin. Aware of this possible fate Tito outmanoeuvred his superior and declared himself "independent" and a

"national" Communist. In fact this was nothing more than internecine strife in the Communist hierarchy, and not a revision of Communist ideology, or even less the creation of an "independent" Communism. We would emphasise that world communism, whether Russian, Chinese or Yugoslav, is uniform and with the same goals: denying freedom, enslaving the people and establishing dictatorship.

In your Report to the Nation of the 22nd January, 1975, after your return from Europe, you announced, Mr. Prime Minister, that you were the first Australian Prime Minister to visit Yugoslavia and in justifying your visit you emphasised the importance of Yugoslavia as a founder and leader of the non-aligned nations. May we submit that to hold that Tito is non-aligned is to display an extreme naivete. Tito is a Communist first and foremost, undeniably aligned in the Communist Bloc nations behind the Iron Curtain. Wherever he goes he is a commissar and travelling ambassador of world Communism. This duty and title he has obtained from the Soviet Union as its agent, executing the directives of Moscow.

The "non-aligned world" is a clever communist ploy and tactic with which it is hoped to turn many nations away from the democratic West. Moscow has found in Tito the most reliable agent of such tactics. Tito himself has said: "I am a Communist and nothing but a Communist". It is in this way that he describes his philosophy of life as a professional terrorist and revolutionary and today he is actively engaged in the Communist world conspiracy. His "non-alignment" is merely a facade with which to continue receiving American aid and retaining power at home.

We wish to remind you, your Government and other Australian political leaders, that Tito's visit to Australia would ultimately be under the control and directives of Moscow. Before he leaves for Australia, He shall receive guidelines from Moscow as to how to react officially in respect to such sensitive questions as the Soviet Union's policy of aggrandisement in the Indian Ocean and as to how to kindle the flames of the delicate Aborigine question in Australia.

With a firm belief in dictatorship and terror, as a means of governing, Tito is an intransigent enemy of freedom and Democracy, and is thus an enemy of every country whose people defend freedom and Democracy, and thus primarily an enemy of Australia and its democratic social order. It is for this reason that we should not allow a national enemy to enjoy Australian hospitality.

TITO'S ESCAPE FROM THE WAR

Through his propaganda Tito has attempted to create a myth of his heroism during the last war, in which he was in fact a coward and deserter. During the most war-torn periods in Yugoslavia he escaped from the centres of combat and spent six months in 1944 in a cave on the island of Vis on the Adriatic Sea under the protection of English soldiers who had liberated that island.

He was aware that he was not popular with the people and that he

would never attain power by popular will so he chose other means. Without the cognizance of the English military command on Vis he escaped to Moscow with Soviet support for a clandestine meeting with Stalin. It was there he asked for Russian troops to enter Yugoslavia through Bulgaria and to carry him victoriously into Belgrade. This occurred on the 20th October, 1944.

In his book "Triumph and Tragedy" British statesman Winston Churchill, speaking of Tito's treachery and desertion, explains on page 200 of volume six:

"... Tito having lived under our protection for three of four months at Vis, suddenly levanted, leaving no address, but keeping sentries over his cave to make out that he was still there. He then proceeded to Moscow, where he conferred, and yesterday Mr. Molotov confessed this fact to Mr. Eden. The Russians attribute this graceless behaviour to Tito's suspicious peasant upbringing and say that they did not tell us out of respect for his wish for secrecy..."

FREEDOM OF THE CHURCH AND RELIGION IN YUGOSLAVIA

Tito has withdrawn the freedom of the church. The majority of churches and monasteries, especially Serbian Orthodox, which had represented the culture of the Serbian people, have been destroyed, and all church properties have been taken over by the State. The episcopacy and the clergy loyal to the church have been subject to persecution, intimidation and torture, many being liquidated as "enemies of Socialism". For instance, Bishop Joanikije was burnt alive at the stake in Arandjelovac in 1945 and Bishop Varnava died in 1963 after unspeakable tortures while in prison.

The people of Yugoslavia in the last thirty years have received absolutely no instruction in respect of religion or Christianity, since religious instruction is banned in schools, as are all traditional church holidays and manifestations. The regime has stacked church institutions with political commissars and commissions, in order to strictly control the church politically. Since immigrant groups are a thorn in the side of the regime, the major task of these religious commissions was to disrupt these communities and to create a war of nerves, sending missions to Australia and other western countries.

TITO'S REGIME AND IMMIGRANTS FROM YUGOSLAVIA

In a conversation with you in Belgrade, Mr. Prime Minister, Tito reminded you that there were about two hundred and fifty thousand Yugoslavs in Australia, as if attempting to interpret this as his gift to this country. We wish to emphasise that the dictator has nothing in common with these immigrants, since the majority were exiled for political reasons and sentenced to death in their absence, while the others were forced to leave later through adverse economic conditions.

Further it is very interesting to note Tito's request to yourself, namely that the Australian Government liquidate all "right-wing" elements in the

Yugoslav immigrant groups. It seems, then, that the dictator did not limit himself to terrorists, but rather seeks the liquidation of all "right-wingers". It was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald of 11th January, 1975 that you replied that your Government would carry out its duties in respect of this question. Tito in this way wishes to bring the Australian Government to a position of persecuting its citizens for the sake of Communism and thereby equating the Government with the Yugoslav totalitarians. We trust that your Government will be motivated by clear reason in respect of Tito's requests, but we are concerned with your confirmation that you were ready to meet with his request!

The organisations responsible for this Memorandum of Protest have always condemned and will continue to condemn every terrorist action and this is evidenced by the fact that we escaped from such extremism and terrorism.

An interesting question follows from the above: who for Tito and his Communist Government, qualify as "right-wingers"?

Our reply is: for Tito and his Government "right-wingers" are all those who champion human rights and Democracy, who are against Communism, who promote the culture, customs and traditions of their people, who promote Christianity, build churches and all those who are not subservient lackeys of his regime.

POLITICAL TRIALS AND MURDERS IN YUGOSLAVIA

As an agent of Moscow Tito, with Stalin, bears the responsibility for the murder of a great number of leading Yugoslav Communists, during the Party purges of 1934-'36, including the general secretary of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia M. Gorkic, whose place Tito assumed.

Such executions Tito and his thugs continued in Yugoslavia during and after the war, very often by horrific means. Mass graves were often adorned with the crude epitaph "Dogs' Graves". Yugoslavia is full of such mass graves particularly around Belgrade. In Kocevlje in northern Yugoslavia and in Bleiberg on the Austrian border, forty thousand nationalists were massacred after the conclusion of the Second World War in the month of May, 1945, upon the personal command of Tito.

As president of his country and secretary of the Communist Party Tito is similarly responsible for the murder of hundreds of thousands of Yugoslav citizens, whose only "crime" was their opposition to Communism.

Political trials in Yugoslavia never abate. Professors, writers, lawyers and many other intellectuals are continually appearing in courts accused of political crimes. Tito has secured the extermination or incarceration of even his most reliable henchmen.

In 1974 thirty-two men were convicted for up to fifteen years in prison for attempting to create an oppositional political party. The verdict was pre-ordained by Tito who promulgated the following words only shortly before the handing down of the judgment: "... These men must be

punished in such a way so that in the future anyone else who would attempt the same action will lose all interest . . ."

In February of this year a seven year gaol sentence was imposed on Professor Mihailo Mihajlov primarily because he demanded in a published article that the civil rights guaranteed by the Yugoslav Constitution be in fact conferred upon the people.

The Yugoslav Security Police regularly brings to trial emigrants who return to their former homeland for a holiday. Their "crime" is their opposition to Communism and their expression of this in the last war.

Tito's greatest crime in this respect is that on the 17th July, 1946 he ordered the execution of his major political opponent General Draza Mihailovic, the genuine leader of Yugoslav Democracy. On the same day he ordered the execution of the entire leadership of the Mihailovic movement. General Mihailovic was the Yugoslav Minister for War, and the organiser and leader of the first guerilla movement in Europe to oppose the forces of the Axis Bloc.

It is not our intention here to repeat the words of praise and admiration bestowed upon General Mihailovic, as an Allied Commandant, by such Western political and military dignitaries as General Eisenhower, General de Gaulle, Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Admiral Sir Henry Harwood, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Marshal Tedder, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Anthony Eden and many others.

However we intend to remind the Australian Government and public opinion generally of an often ignored fact, namely that the United States of America posthumously decorated General Mihailovic with its Legion of Merit as a sign of gratitude and admiration for his role in the Allied Cause. The citation accompanying the award, signed by President Truman, on the 29th March 1948, read as follows:

"General Dragoljub Mihailovic distinguished himself in an outstanding manner as Commander-in-Chief of the Yugoslavian Army Forces and later as Minister of War by organising and leading important resistance forces against the enemy which occupied Yugoslavia, from December, 1941 to December, 1944. Through the undaunted efforts of his troops, many United States airmen were rescued and returned to friendly control. General Mihailovic and his forces, although lacking adequate supplies, and fighting under extreme hardships, contributed materially to the Allied cause, and were instrumental in obtaining a final Allied victory."

It was such a man, patriot Yugoslav democrat and friend of the West, that Tito ordered to be killed.

YUGOSLAV WORKERS—SLAVES OF THE GOVERNMENT

The greatest victims of Tito's dictatorship and of Yugoslav Socialism are, ironically, the working class. They are the slaves of the regime who do not have the fundamental right of seeking improvement in working conditions nor the right to organise themselves into critical workers' organi-

sations and unions. The government is the sole employer and at the same time, the sole Trade Union. All industry and manufacture are under its control. Private enterprise and personal initiative are either disallowed or subject to crippling revenue laws.

Traditional worker weapons such as strikes, demonstrations, bargaining for better conditions, which workers in Australia do enjoy, are clamped upon in Yugoslavia where such actions are regarded as treacherous and directly critical of the regime. The worker must tolerate the conditions which the government creates for him.

We would find a trip to Yugoslavia by a delegation of Australian Trade Unions and the A.C.T.U. extremely informative for those bodies in witnessing the effects of Socialism on workers' living standards and rights. Upon the creation of a socialist system similar to that in Yugoslavia, workers lose their freedom and their rights and become in effect the slaves of the regime. It is for this reason that Yugoslav workers share the lowest working standard in the civilised world.

As we have already pointed out the workers have no associations of their own whatsoever. They are forbidden to organize within themselves by their professions or trades, as for example metal workers, miners, textiles, clerks, shop assistants, etc. Their "rights" begin and end in the factory or place of work. There is no such thing as a basic wage, as given by the State. This system Tito calls "Workers' Self-management".

Tito and his Communist regime have brought Yugoslavia to a state of pauperism, and the economy to the brink of collapse. Because of these conditions one and a half million Yugoslav workers were forced to leave the country and seek employment in Western Europe, Canada and Australia in order to secure a viable existence. Workers are transported from Yugoslavia by rail as "white slaves" and Tito has sold them by way of contract to the governments of western Europe, securing a third of their collective incomes in the interests of the regime. To complete the comedy, were it not so tragic, Tito has given these unfortunates the title "guest workers".

Thousands of young doctors and other Yugoslav intellectuals are forced today to wash dishes in the kitchens of Paris, Vienna, Bonn, Zurich and other cities, since they don't have the opportunity of questioning Tito's regime and securing better conditions for themselves in their own homelands.

The Communist Party has imposed on every factory and workplace a political committee or cell with a commissar and secretary, who present mandatory political lectures to the workers, and who keep a close watch on the workers' political activity and interest.

We firmly believe that it is an insult to the average Australian worker that his country is host to a dictator who has, despite his regime's self-governing trappings, in effect quashed workers' conditions and rights and has brought them close to the status of slavery. The correlation between the pauperism and misery of Yugoslav workers and the extravagant luxury which Tito enjoys is a disconcertingly positive one.

OUR POSITION IN AUSTRALIA

As a distinct ethnic group, the abovenamed organisations have created in the last three decades in Australia free national and church associations throughout the country. These organisations have built fifteen Serbian Orthodox Churches and as many halls and cultural centres. We have organised folklore groups, youth groups, dramatic art groups, choral societies and sports clubs in order to retain some of our traditions and customs and also in order to contribute to the enrichment of an increasingly heterogeneous and cosmopolitan Australian culture. The same regard which we had towards our own homeland we now hold towards Australia, and our physical contribution to its development in the last twenty-five years has been huge.

Having witnessed Communist terror in Yugoslavia we have continued the struggle against this ideology as a dangerous enemy of mankind. We are fortunately able to do this by way of the democratic rights embodied in the truly democratic Australian Constitution: through freedom of the Press, of speech, of Assembly, and by way of cultural, traditional and church manifestations.

We would submit that all immigrants who engage in terrorism or other subversive activities in Australia should be subject to strict deportation laws. We do not wish that political problems esoteric to the peoples of Yugoslavia should be the preoccupations of immigrant groups in this country. Our political opinions rest on the assumptions of the future prosperity of Australia and her freedom, peace and order and our assimilation into the predominant way of life in this country.

It is specifically for this reason that we energetically oppose the visit of the tyrant Tito who can only bring discord and harmful controversy.

In respect of our old homeland Yugoslavia we simply look forward to its liberation from Communism, her attainment of a freedom similar to the one which we enjoy in Australia, so that the people through its freely elected representatives establish the political and social order best suited to its interests and wishes. We consider it part of our collective duty to foster this aim within our legal and moral capabilities in Australia.

EFFECTS OF THE VISIT

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, as Australian citizens we consider it our duty and responsibility to remind you and your Government that Tito's visit will have a harmful aftermath. He is beyond doubt a professional and perfidious agent of international Communism, experienced in the methods of underground activity, well aware of the means by which lawful orders are subverted and how chaos and disorder are promoted.

The Australian Government must keep in mind that Yugoslav immigrants have settled in Australia at various times, in various forms and with differing reasons, political economic or purely adventuristic. With such a characteristic heterogeneity these groups could easily become the victims

of Communist infiltration and propaganda from Yugoslavia, especially if Tito's visit were to proceed.

Allow us to remind you that Communism and Democracy are two radically distinct entities and that the interests of Australia and of the Yugoslav regime, in respect of the immigrants in this country, are totally different. The Australian Government wishes to see immigrants create for themselves a meaningful future in this country and to attain assimilation by way of citizenship. On the other hand, the Yugoslav Communist regime wishes to combat assimilation, to promote disharmony, to keep immigrants dependent on Yugoslavia, on its laws, directives, amnesties and passports through its consular and diplomatic representatives. Furthermore, it is active in creating its political cells in this country.

We consider that you and your government, and the Australian people, are well aware of two actively subversive groups amongst Yugoslav immigrants—fascist and Communist—which over at least the last decade have brought consternation and embarrassment to the Federal Parliament, the Government, the Judiciary and the Australian police. Tito's visit to Australia would surely promote such terrorism and subversion.

We want to bring to you and your Government's attention, Mr. Prime Minister, the tragic happenings which have occurred in the countries of Western Europe. In these countries Tito's specially trained assassination groups are operating with the aim of liquidating immigrants. In the last decade these groups have assassinated extensive numbers of prominent immigrants, great Serbian patriots from Yugoslavia, in Paris, Munich, Vienna, Stockholm and Brussels. To prevent such assassins from establishing their cells in the cities of Australia, is to withdraw the invitation for Tito's visit.

In the light of the above the following question emerges: which is of more importance to Australia—the doubtful benefits of a visit by Tito or the diminution of extremism and terrorist activity in Australia?

A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER

In your letter, Mr. Prime Minister, of 27th February, 1975 addressed to one of the abovenamed organisations, regarding Tito, you advised that "Australians of Yugoslav origin should be proud of a man who has given Yugoslavia such importance . . .". Allow us to note immediately that we cannot be proud of the change or volte-face in your political position since the days when you were a guest speaker in our halls, whereupon you praised our position and condemned Tito. Perhaps your motivating factor at that time was the wooing of the ethnic vote!

We respect your right to your personal views, even in respect of Tito, but not any attempt to force such opinions upon us. Rational men with clear consciences, Mr. Prime Minister, cannot be proud of political tyrants.

With your advice that we should be proud of such a malefactor you have shown extreme disrespect for the memory of hundreds of thousands of

innocent victims for whose deaths Tito was responsible. Further, with your advice you have insulted the integrity of all new Australian citizens who left their country because of the discrimination, injustices and terror imposed upon them by Tito's regime.

Is the logical consequence of such a position to lead to a situation where an Australian Prime Minister advises his citizens of Russian origin to be proud of Stalin, notwithstanding his role in the extermination and incarceration of millions of their countrymen? Are Australians of German origin to be advised to be proud of their political leaders, one of whom in particular gave such "importance" to Germany?

It seems to us that it is much more important to ask you, Mr. Prime Minister, whether you, as leader of a democratic nation, put to Tito the following questions and propositions:

- (a) Who is the leader of the opposition in Yugoslavia?
- (b) Did you have discussions with such a leader in order to ascertain his opinions?
- (c) How many political parties are represented in Parliament?
- (d) Is there in effect freedom of speech, the Press, Assembly and religious faith?
- (e) When have there been free elections held or referendums presented for popular decision?
- (f) Does the working class in effect have the right to strike or press for better working conditions?
- (g) Why have one and a half million Yugoslav workers left their country and is this not in itself sufficient grounds for a change of government?
- (h) Is it not true that political trials and imprisonment continue with a renewed vigour?

Your citizens would be extremely interested in the answers which you would have received to such questions. Should anyone express doubts in respect of the terror and tragedy which Tito and his party have brought to the people of Yugoslavia, he may find ample material for analogy at this very moment with the terror and tragedy which Vietnamese communists are imposing on their countrymen.

CONCLUSION

How can one invite Tito for a visit to Australia when it is well known that his "Prime Minister" Mr. Bijedic spent three days of virtual incarceration in Canberra. The security precautions for Tito's visit would certainly amount to an astronomical burden on the taxpayer. The visit by Tito as an international Communist conspirator is, in our estimation, irrelevant to the vital problems of Australian society, and would be a harmful and extremely costly farce which we feel would bring the Aus-

tralian Government to a shameful position for the reasons mentioned in this Memorandum.

We again urge the Prime Minister and the Australian Government to withdraw the invitation to Tito. The Australian Government could take a much more positive attitude towards helping the people of Yugoslavia by initiating an official request through the United Nations for internationally controlled and free elections in Yugoslavia and all eastern European countries under Communist control, so that these peoples may at long last be rewarded with the freedom which they deserve.

SECRETARY:

S. Nicotini

PRESIDENT:

M. L. L. L. L.

* A copy of this memorandum will be sent to all members of parliament, both federal and state, church dignitaries and most other prominent organisations in Australia.

THE MANLY DAILY, 24-26 SYDNEY ROAD, MANLY — 977 3333.
