

The Opening of the Sydney Exhibition on Finnish Migration to Australia



Fig. 1

At the Finnish Festival in Sydney at Easter, Kalevi Sorsa, the Finnish Foreign Minister, opened an exhibition on Finnish migration to Australia at Forest Community Centre. The exhibition is now on tour around major Finnish centres in Australia.



Fig. 2

The program of the Finnish Festival included volleyball and Finnish baseball matches, musical events, folk dancing, and other features

Fig. 3

Dr Olavi Koivukangas greets the Festival on behalf of the Institute of Migration and of the Finnish-Australian Society.

A Comment of the Exhibition:

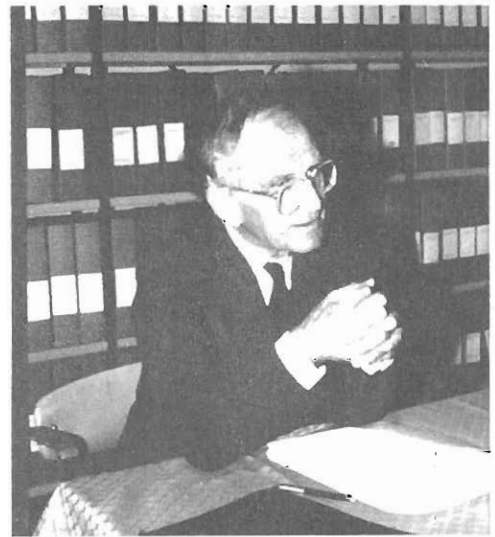
"We found the exhibitions very interesting, particularly the photograph display of the 'History of Finns in Australia'. I have not seen a better display of the history of any ethnic group in the development of Australia."

PAUL and HILJA COUVRET
Sydney, Australia

Visit to Finland by a Pioneer of Multiculturalism in Australia, Prof. Jerzy Zubrzycki, 4-12 June 1988

Emeritus Professor Jerzy Zubrzycki, AO, CBE, FASSA, of the Australian National University, is one of Australia's most distinguished sociologists. He was born in Cracow, Poland in 1920. During the war he was awarded the Polish Cross of Valour (1939) and the Silver Cross of Merit with Swords (1943). He became a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1945, a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1978, and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1984. He studied at the University of London, graduating B.Sc. (Econ)(1948), M.Sc. (Econ)(1952) and Ph.D.(1954).

For thirty years until his retirement in 1985 Professor Zubrzycki was a member of the Australian National University, rising from his initial appointment as Research Fellow in Demography in 1956 to become Foundation Professor of Sociology in 1970. He has published extensively in sociology and social theory, and is best known for his work on immigration and ethnic affairs. Widely regarded as the pioneer of multiculturalism in the 1960's, he is the acknowledged authority on Australia's post-war migrant experience. Besides his academic research and writing, he has served as chairman and member of several advisory councils and committees of inquiry into various aspects of Australia's population and immigration development. He is currently writing a book on the transition in Australian society from the



assimilation of immigrants to multiculturalism.

During his visit to Finland, Professor Zubrzycki gave four public lectures on Migration Policy and Post-industrial Civilisation:

Lecture 1: June 5, 1988 '**Old Immigrants and new: the USA and Australia**' at the Institute of Migration.

Lecture 2: June 6, 1988 '**The Post-Industrial Society Revisited**' at the University of Turku.

Lecture 3: June 8, 1988 '**Multiculturalism in Theory and Practice**' at the University of Helsinki.

Lecture 4: June 10, 1988 '**Immigration,**

Ethnicity and Nation Building in Australia, the US and Canada' at the University of Tampere.

Professor Zubrzycki's visit to Finland was arranged in conjunction with the current Bicentennial of European Settlement in Australia. Professor Zubrzycki explained that traditional immigration policy in Australia had discriminated against coloured and non-European nationalities; but this policy had been revised in 1974. Although immigration in Australia is still subject to selective controls, the criteria for selection no longer include colour, religion or race; instead, selection is carried out according to points allocated to applicants on the basis of their occupational skills, knowledge of English, etc.

Australia is in fact the country which has accepted the largest proportion of refu-

gees in relation to its own population since the Second World War. The annual number of persons applying to immigrate to Australia is approximately 1.6 million, of whom about 130 000 can be accepted. The largest group nowadays consist of Asian refugees. It is intended gradually to increase their quota to one per cent of the Australian population, which currently stands at sixteen million.

Professor Zubrzycki expressed his approval of the immigration policy being practised in Australia. He suggested that refugees are often active persons, who can in time become a major resource in the population. He also expressed his hope that Australian practice might provide examples for the development of migration and refugee policy in Finland.