

102 South Terrace,
BANKSTOWN, 2200,
22nd November, 1972.

The Hon. Malcolm Mackay,
ASHFIELD, N.S.W. 2131.

Dear Sir,

I beg you to treat this request as an urgent one.

I, Lena Gustin M.B.E. ("Mamma Lena") appeal to you with regard to a problem which concerns all migrant groups in Australia.

At the end of January, 1973 all bilingual programs will be discontinued by Radio Station 2CH Sydney and all migrant listeners will be deprived of the entertainment and source of information which they have enjoyed until this moment.

It is now 14 years since I started my Italian programs on Station 2CH and on other stations 2 years before then, and I am deeply conscious of the need of the members of the migrant communities to be able to relax after work to the sound of music of their native land and to be able to listen to news in their own language.

Notwithstanding the fact that the bilingual programs earn the station over \$ 200,000.00 per annum, the station has decided to cancel them with the result that the newly arrived migrants will be left without a word of comfort, which fact will invariably lead to a general demoralization in the migrant communities.

The purpose of my appeal to you, Dr. Mackay is to seek your, and your Party's, support to enable a proposed Company to be formed by myself and all the directors of bilingual radio programs for the purpose of obtaining the F.M. Broadcasting Licence which has been allocated to the Parramatta area.

On the basis that you and your party have always shown to be deeply aware of the needs of migrants and have in fact actively promoted their interests, I feel confident that you will be able to help this venture.

It goes without saying, that your help will attract the goodwill of all the migrant groups.

It is proposed to broadcast for 18 hours per day as follows:

- (a) From 5.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. - items of social, religious and commercial interest (exclusively in the English language) with international music if so required by the authorities.
- (b) From 4.00 p.m. to 12.00 midnight - bilingual programs (Greek, Italian, Spanish, French, Maltese etc.).

It is proposed to create a comprehensive program covering the interests of all migrant groups, so that listeners of all nationalities can enjoy broadcasts in their own language. We must, at all costs, avoid a situation where Australia will become a totalitarian state looking to the migrant only as a source of labour and not providing him with any comfort in the situation where he does not speak, or fails to properly understand, the English language.

This decision is a fundamental one, the impact of which will not be felt until a later time. I have no doubt however, particularly in the light of what you and Mr. Bowen have said recently, that your party is deeply conscious of it and it will be taken into consideration particularly at this important time.

This, therefore, is my aim:

1. To obtain the F.M. Licence at Parramatta.
2. To create a company to be called, subject to approval "F.M. Radio (Australia) International Pty. Ltd." to be financed entirely by Australian Capital, to be managed by a suitably competent Australian, so that all the guidelines of the Australian Broadcasting Commission can be adhered to.
3. The F.M. Radio Station programs to be of bilingual nature between 4.00 p.m. and 12.00 midnight and the rest will be in the English language with commercial information.
4. All equipment to be Australian (A.W.A.) and to be maintained by Australian technical staff.

This project will mark a new step in the history of Australian immigration. The beneficial effect on migrants who can enjoy their own programs will no doubt reflect itself in better understanding and a happier disposition.

If you consider that it can be of benefit to your electoral campaign, thought can be given to organising a press conference to highlight this important venture which should materialize within the next two years.

I have pleasure in informing you that the following managers of bilingual programs have signified their interest and approval:

Con Sahar

Greek program.

Ivan Lovrich

Yugoslav program.

Mrs. Zammit

Maltese program.

Managers of bilingual programs on Station 2CH in other languages will also participate.

I trust that the above will be taken into consideration by you and should any points need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Lena Gustin M.B.E.
("Mamma Lena")