

27 December, 1972.

Honourable Minister
L.F. Bowen
Postmaster General's Department
Parliament House
CANBERRA
A.C.T. 2600

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 programmes will be discontinued on 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 programmes 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 programmes 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, a fact which will invariably lead to a general demoralization in the migrant communities.

The purpose of my appeal to you, Mr. Bowen, 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 programmes and the director of the Italian newspaper La Fiamma, for the purpose of obtaining the Broadcasting licence which has been allocated to the Sydney 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 5.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. - items of social, religious and commercial interest (exclusively in the English language) with international music if so required by the authorities.
- (b) From 4.00p.m. to 12.00midnight - bilingual programmes (Greek, Italian, Spanish, French, Maltese, etc.)

It is proposed to create a comprehensive programme covering the interest 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.

This, therefore, is my aim:

1. To obtain the Broadcasting Licence for the Sydney area or immediate access to the availability of radio time for bilingual programmes.
2. To create a company to be called, subject to approval, "Radio International Fiamma Pty. Ltd." to be financed entirely with Australian capital, and to be managed by a suitably competent Australian so that all the guidelines of the Australian Broadcasting Commission can be adhered to.
3. "Radio International Fiamma Pty. Ltd." would broadcast programmes of a bilingual nature between 4.00p.m. and midnight with the rest of the time being taken up by English language programmes with commercial content.
4. All equipment is to be Australian 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 programmes will no doubt reflect itself in better understanding and a happier disposition.

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

Con Sahar	Greek programme
Mrs. Zammit	Maltese programme

Managers of bilingual programmes on Radio 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,

Cav. Lena Gustin M.B.E.
(Mamma Lena)

Copies: Prime Minister G. Whitlam - Canberra
Minister of Immigration Mr. A. Grassby - Canberra
Leader of the Opposition Mr. W. Snedden - Canberra
Ambassador of Italy Dr. P. Canali - Canberra
N.S.W. Premier Mr. Askin - Parliament House Sydney