

Doubts on opening ethnic radio to foreign influence

By Our Ethnic Affairs Reporter

A director of NSW's Greek Orthodox community, Mr J. Calomeris, warned yesterday that commercial ethnic radio could be used by foreign governments.

He said: "Placing ethnic radio in the hands of people who have in mind making profit would not prevent them making deals with foreign governments or foreign individuals of questionable character.

"For this reason I am totally and irrevocably against a commercial ethnic radio.

"It should be financed by the Government."

Mr Calomeris was one of the members of the broadcasting sub-committee of the NSW migrant task force which was set up two years ago

by the then Minister for Immigration, Mr Grassby.

He is now a member of the NSW Consultative Council on Ethnic Affairs.

Mr Calomeris said that the committee had totally opposed commercial ethnic radio.

The editor of the weekly newspaper, Polish News, Mr J. Dunin-Karwicki, said yesterday that the largest communities, such as Greek and Italian, could sponsor ethnic radio programs.

"But, there is a danger that the smaller and poorer communities would be dominated by the interests of political regimes outside Australia," he said.

"They would be greatly influenced through provision of financial support."

In Melbourne, the manager of the ethnic

radio station 3EA, Mr John d'Andrea, said yesterday that he was deeply concerned about the future of ethnic radio should it go commercial.

"It's a well-known fact that some of the ethnic press is owned by overseas political parties.

"Should ethnic radio go commercial it could be easily controlled by overseas interests as well," Mr d'Andrea said.

"And if newspapers and radio fall into the same hands, you can control all public opinion in the ethnic community.

"There are all sorts of things which the Government is not considering at all."

In Sydney, a number of ethnic community leaders, who asked to remain anonymous, confirmed that some ethnic newspapers were financed by overseas governments.

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third man

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in anniversary