



Australian Patriots Attend Sydney Forum

The weekend of September 7-8, saw Sydney play host to the second gathering of far-right figures.

The forum's advertising literature stated that "there is a crying need for political formation, ie. the articulation of precise ideas that can serve the mobilisation of Australians in the fight for our "identity, independence and freedom".

Topics to be addressed included The War-threat and the Iraqi Position on Palestine, Sanctions and Aussie Trade; Australian Independence, Not Wars on Terror; The United Nations; Economic Meltdown; Firearms; and National Defence Policy.

Speakers at the event included:

- * Dr Saad Al Samarai, Charge D' Affairs of Iraq.
- * Jim Saleam, NSW leader of the neo-Nazi group National Action. Saleam has served time in prison for fraud and for the 1989 shotgun attack on the home of the African National Congress representative in Australia.
- * Doug Giddings, Executive Director of the right-wing Australian Freedom Foundation, which has been associated with conspiracy theorists who espouse racist and antisemitic views. He believes that the U.N. and others are behind the world government scenario.
- * Neil Baird, NSW treasurer of the One Nation Party, and the publisher of a far-right online newsletter 'The News Report'.
- * Bob Doring, President of the Australian Right to Bear Arms Association, who supports the Port Arthur conspiracy theory that the Federal Government masterminded the shootings to justify tough new gun laws.
- * W. van Blitterswyk. The ADC notes that a Wayne van Blitterswyk joined the white supremacist Australian Nationalists Movement (ANM) as an early member and served time for offences committed in the 1980s. Several members of the ANM, torched and bombed Chinese restaurants in Perth to scare Asians into leaving Australia. Its leader Jack van Tongeren was sentenced to 18 years without parole. In 1999, Wayne van Blitterswyk re-emerged, describing himself as director of ANM, which he claimed was "alive and well".
- * MC for the evening was Mr Welf Herfurth, a former executive member of Germany's most active neo-Nazi group, the NPD, organiser of the racist group, Australian Friends of Europe, and president of the One Nation Party, Riverstone NSW branch.

Where Truth is no Defence

Dr Fredrick Toben, founder of the Adelaide Institute, Australia's leading holocaust-denying organisation, recently addressed like-minded believers at "The Barnes Review" conference in Washington D.C. In front of a large, appreciative local and overseas audience, Dr Toben described the intrigue of "the thought police Down Under", and related how he had been their focus ever since publishing "scientific reports" debunking the severity of the Holocaust. He claimed that Australian authorities had requested him to sign a document renouncing his scientific findings and "promising never to publish any works on the Holocaust", or risk a prison sentence.

Operation Delegitimation

Much of the antisemitism of the racist-right in recent years has been dressed in anti-Zionist attire. It is true that in the current Israel-Palestinian imbroglio, its various branches have thrown in their lot with the Palestinians on one condition. That is that they remain on home soil. An absolute no-no is Palestinian immigration to Australia, no matter whether legal or illegal. Especially if they are Muslim, these Palestinians should not be allowed to bolster another pet aversion of the racist right, multicultural Australia.

The racist right frequently alleges that contemporary Jews are frauds, and hence their national claims are false. At least three variations on this theme appear. Christian Zionists disgust people like Jeremy Lee of the *Australian League of Rights*, who accuses them of being ignorant of the Scriptures. These Jews, he suggests, are descendants of the Khazars who allegedly were converted into Pharisaic Judaism against which the Christian Messiah railed.

Another variant is expressed by Pastor Frank Dowsett, leader of the Covenant Vision Ministry and religious mentor of the extreme right-wing newspaper, *The Strategy*. Following the tradition of the Judeophobic British-Israel sect, he accuses contemporary Jews of being "Edomites who did not stem from Jacob" and hence could not be the beneficiary of the land promised his seed.

Then there is Bruce Hannaford of the *Australian Freedom Foundation*, who agrees with Dowsett, but laments the fact that most Christian Churches believe Jews are Jacob's children and have a right to the Promised Land. He employs an argument by which he seeks to kill two birds with the one stone. By rejecting the principle of "the ownership of the land determined by who first occupied and lived there", he damns the Australian Aboriginal claim to land rights, and also Jewish national claims to the Holy Land.

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