

CONSUL WILL RESIGN.

Yugoslav Protest Against Pact.

"GERMANY, MY ENEMY."

The Consul in Sydney for Yugoslavia, Mr. Joseph Mikulicic-Rodd, intends to resign as a protest against his Government's signature of the pact with the Axis.

Mr. Mikulicic-Rodd arrived in Australia in 1912, and served with the A.I.F. in the last war. He has been Consul since 1936.

"I will not," he said yesterday, "represent a Government which is in any way associated with Germany, which is my enemy."

He was addressing a deputation of Yugoslavs, who stated that they represented, not only Yugoslavs in Sydney, but also the Yugoslav Immigrants' Clubs and the Progressive Federation of Yugoslav Immigrants in Australia. They protested against the signing of the Axis Pact by the Yugoslav Government.

The Consul smiled when the question of the admittance of the Press to the deputation was raised.

"You might as well get all the publicity you can," he replied. "I don't think I will be in this position long."

The deputation was headed by Mr. John Sinkovich and Mr. J. Kosovich, president and secretary respectively of the federation, which has a membership of about 1,000.

DEPUTATION'S STATEMENT.

Members of the deputation signed and handed to the Consul for submission to the Yugoslav Government the following declaration:—

"We, the representatives of the Yugoslav Immigrants' Clubs and the Yugoslav immi-

Immigrants' Clubs and the Yugoslav immigrants generally in Sydney, Warriewood, and Cabramatta, and also of the Progressive Federation of Yugoslav Immigrants in Australia, protest against the entry of the Yugoslav Government into the Tripartite Axis Pact. We consider that action of the Yugoslav Government as a betrayal of Yugoslav neutrality and independence, and we therefore condemn and disavow that pact and the Government. We declare our whole-hearted support for the people of Yugoslavia who are in opposition to that Government policy and the Government itself, and declare our opposition to every Government that will carry out that policy. We request the Royal Yugoslav Consul to resign his position as a protest against the Government betrayal."

The Consul, in reply, said he would send the declaration to the Yugoslav Legation in London. He knew nothing about the position in Yugoslavia beyond what he had read in the newspapers. He proposed to resign, as he agreed with the terms of the deputation's declaration.

He might tender his resignation before he received official news of the Yugoslav Government's action. He would not represent a Government which was in any associated with Germany.

The secretary of the federation: I hope it will not be long before we see the independence of our country restored.

The Consul: I pray that she will stand up to it, even yet. My action in resigning as Consul is only fair to my fellow Yugoslavs in this country, whose friendship we value.

The president of the federation, in a statement afterwards, said that the deputation was most satisfied with the Consul's attitude.

"We feel that our country has been betrayed by our Government," he added.

(Picture on page 8.)