

# YUGOSLAVIA FINDS ITS SOUL

The Consul in Sydney for Yugoslavia (Mr. J. Mikulicic-Rodd) said yesterday that the developments in Yugoslavia meant that he would not have to resign. His country's red, white, and blue flag which, on Thursday was flown at half mast outside the Consulate, was at full mast yesterday.

"Now I can hold up my head with pride, instead of bowing it in shame and sorrow," Mr. Mikulicic-Rodd said. When I heard the news I felt as if I had suddenly become a new man. Yet, somehow, I was not surprised. At the back of my mind was a hope and belief that Yugoslavia would never tamely surrender her liberty and independence.

"Echoing the words of Mr. Churchill I can say the Yugoslavian nation has found its soul."

Many telegrams, including one from the Acting Consul in Melbourne (Lieut.-Colonel Downing), and telephone calls of congratulations have been received at the consulate.

Mr. F. J. Niketic, a Yugoslav estate agent and a J.P., with offices in Sydney, urged yesterday the formation in Australia of a Yugoslav Legion to fight for democracy.

"There are about 10,000 Yugoslavs in the Commonwealth, and I believe that from these a fine fighting force could be assembled," he said.

## Message To King

The Consul for Yugoslavia in Western Australia (N. Marich), who is senior Yugoslav Consul in Australia, said yesterday that at the request of the Yugoslav National Committee of Western Australia he had sent a message to the Royal Government at Belgrade expressing loyalty to the new Yugoslav Government. The Consuls of Sydney and Melbourne had heartily supported the message, and expressed a wish to be associated with it.

The message was, "On behalf of all patriot Yugoslavs in Australia we wish to express full support of the new Government. Long rule King Peter II over free and united Yugoslavia."

The main task facing the new Government in Yugoslavia would be to preserve national unity and internal order, the Minister for External Affairs (Sir Frederick Stewart) said in Canberra yesterday. These had been endangered by the conflict of opinion in Yugoslavia, which followed the signing of the pact between the deposed Government and the Axis Powers.

Government and the Axis Powers. Sir Frederick Stewart forecast that in preserving national unity, the new Government would have to contend with Nazi underground methods which had brought about the downfall of Rumania and Bulgaria.