

# Consul Gives Ex-envoy £500 Damages

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The Yugoslav Consul in Sydney, John Kosovich, has agreed to pay £500 to his predecessor, Joseph Mikulicic Rodd, in settlement of a libel action.

The terms of settlement, announced by the parties, were agreed to by Mr. Justice Owen in the Supreme Court yesterday. Kosovich will also pay costs assessed at £130.

Rodd claimed damages for libel in an editorial in the Yugoslav-language newspaper "Napredak" in 1944, when Rodd was consul and Kosovich the publisher of the paper.

The article called Rodd and three others traitors, contending that they had opposed Marshal Tito, leader of resistance, and supported General Mihailovitch (later executed as a traitor).

Branislav Andreyevich, another prominent Yugoslav in Australia who was named in the same article, recently sued for libel in the article, and was awarded £1,000. Kosovich has an appeal pend-

for libel in the article, and was awarded £1,000. Kosovich has an appeal pending against that verdict.

Two other Yugoslavs have libel suits pending on the same grounds.

Before Kosovich left for Yugoslavia recently on consular business he was arrested on writs which obliged him to deposit £2,270 as security for possible future verdicts against him.

Those writs were taken out by Rodd and Nikola Marich. The £630 settlement in Rodd's case will be paid out of the money deposited.

Publicity Press (1938) Pty. Ltd., which was also sued, consented to the settlement on condition that the payment came from Kosovich's money.

Mr. J. B. Sweeney, for Kosovich, stressed that the settlement was phrased as a payment, not a verdict. Translation of "verdict" into the Croat language, he said, meant using a word that had a far more damaging meaning.

Mr. Justice Owen last week made an order sanctioning release of the £1,010 deposited in Marich's case, and accepting bondsmen instead.

Mr. N. C. Smith for plaintiff Rodd; Mr. J. B. Sweeney for defendant Kosovich; Mr. N. H. Bowen for defendant Publicity Press.

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