

EXTRACT

Southern Cross Swastika

a short play

by

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Cast

HEINRICH

HERMAN

JOSEF

Setting

Bar.

Time

Night.

Southern Cross Swastika**Bar. Night.**

HEINRICH, JOSEF and **HERMAN** sit at a table. They drink beer.

HEINRICH: The Olympics were important -

HERMAN: Important? They were magnificent.

HEINRICH: The Olympics were important in terms of our progress as a nation. They were an important step in nation building.

JOSEF: (TO **HERMAN**) You must learn to listen friend.

HEINRICH: Don't make this personal.

JOSEF: No. It is where he falls down and he needs to know it. If you had read my last pamphlet you would -

HERMAN: I am listening now.

JOSEF: (POINTING TO **HEINRICH**) Our friend here has the ability to see the bigger picture. Where our current direction is taking us. The future.

HERMAN: Really?

JOSEF: Where as you only see the spectacle, the moment. The fun. That is why he is the Party secretary. That's why he won the vote.

HEINRICH: Joe. The election is over. I was lucky enough to win. (PATTING **HERMAN ON THE BACK**) Our friend was mature enough to accept the result with grace. Now we must move on. There is much to be done.

HERMAN: Thank you, friend.

HEINRICH: The Olympics. We all accept they were an important part of the process. Our athletes superlative performance announced to the world our true potential. What we can be.

HERMAN: Agreed.

HEINRICH: The superb facilities, the unequalled opening ceremony. It was widely accepted as the best Olympics ever.

JOSEF: To us.

HEINRICH: No. To our friends and supporters everywhere.

THEY CLINK GLASSES.

HEINRICH: But now we must take the next step. We have shown and continue to show our superiority on the sporting fields - but if this country is to develop. To be all that it can be. We have to be leaders now – not just followers.

HERMAN: But our allies –

HEINRICH: Our allies are only important in what they can do for us. How they can help to strengthen our position.

HERMAN: Dangerous talk.

JOSEF: We will never be truly great until we can stand alone. Proudly independent.

HEINRICH: True. And we have the resources and the ability to be a truly great power. But do we have the discipline. The ruthlessness.

HERMAN: Ruthlessness?

HEINRICH: Let's look at the current situation. It's embarrassing. A distraction.

JOSEF: Agreed.

HEINRICH: And that is why tomorrow I'm going to put to the Party another solution - as it is clear the current method is not working.

JOSEF: Clear.

HEINRICH: The camps are not working. We put these ...people in there, indefinitely, and then what are we left with.

HERMAN: Tell me.

HEINRICH: A burden. On manpower, on resources. It's a question of economics.
After all we must remember – we have a war to win.

JOSEF: Exactly.

HERMAN: So what is your solution?

HEINRICH: If this country is to continue it's upwards trajectory we need every dollar channelled where it is needed most. Defence, border protection, military strength. The rest of the world looks on our land with envious eyes. We

HEINRICH: (CONT) must make this country impregnable. If we don't act soon – we will be over run.

HERMAN: And that is precisely why the centres were initiated.

HEINRICH: These “centres” drain vital resources. They need to be phased out.

HERMAN: And replaced with?

HEINRICH: Not replaced. Modified.

HERMAN: Modified? How?

HEINRICH: There have been conversations behind closed doors friend.

JOSEF: (TO HERMAN) You are not privy to all discussions.

HEINRICH: Please Josef. We are all on the same team. Let us take a step back. These people do not belong here. We have no idea for what they are responsible. What crimes they have committed? Agreed?

JOSEF & HERMAN: Agreed.

JOSEF: They should be sent back to wherever they came from.

HEINRICH: We do not need people like this in our country. They will not help our country prosper. Agreed?

JOSEF & HERMAN: Agreed.

HEINRICH: We have enough problems of our own. Agreed?

JOSEF & HERMAN: Agreed.

HEINRICH: So what do we do?

JOSEF: We send them back.

HEINRICH: That has already proved impossible. Where these people come from is ... not somewhere we would want to live.

JOSEF LAUGHS.