

# 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 its 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.**

HERMAN: Then they must remain here.

HEINRICH: These people are primitive. Sub-human. You only need look at their faces. Suffice to say - their genes are not in demand. As our good friend Alfred pointed out.

MORE LAUGHTER.

HEINRICH: Who knows what strange diseases they carry ? The longer they remain in our country - the more damage they can do.

HERMAN: But you said we can not send them back.

HEINRICH: There is another ... answer. There have been other unsuccessful solutions. I propose what I think will be a successful solution.

HERMAN: I am listening.

HEINRICH: Like they themselves, their society is very primitive. There are no records, birth certificates, documents – like we have. Why do you think it is so difficult identifying who they are ? Where they came from ? In most cases they do not even know. Even the ones who have already infiltrated our communities – they have only the names we have bestowed on them.

JOSEF: (LAUGHING) I believe some of them even call themselves Josef.

HEINRICH: So if they do not know who they are – then how does anyone else know ? How does anyone know who actually reached our borders ? Or already lives among us ? Or if they ... perished in the attempt ? If they do not exist, no one will notice if they ... disappear.

PAUSE.

HERMAN: How would this be ...achieved ?

HEINRICH: In exactly the same way we achieved the Olympics. With efficiency, accuracy and speed. The qualities this country has become renown for worldwide. (PAUSE) There will no longer be any need for the camps or costly, time consuming re-locations. Our problem will simply cease to ... exist.

JOSEF: Brilliant. Brilliant.

HERMAN: But it is ... How can we ... conceal ...

HEINRICH: Come, come friend. What happens within our own borders is our business – and no one else's. Did you not listen the other day at the meeting ? We

HEINRICH: (CONT) will not be dictated to by outsiders. In our own land – we will govern. Without question.

HERMAN: But it is ... monstrous.

**HEINRICH LAUGHS.**

HEINRICH: Monstrous ? They are the monsters. Not us. Do you not remember the atrocities they have committed against our allies ? Against us. And atrocities they already plan – right here and now - to inflict upon our very own soil. A short memory my friend, is a very dangerous thing.

HERMAN: But you would make us ...

HEINRICH: Please. Don't be so over-dramatic. They are not people. They are dogs.

JOSEF: Stray dogs.

HEINRICH: Mongrels, that infect our purity. They need to be ... eradicated. They have committed atrocities, now atrocities will be committed on them. We need no other solution.

JOSEF: It is the perfect solution.

HEINRICH: It is the final solution. And tomorrow I shall put it to the party for approval.

JOSEF: You have my vote.

HERMAN: Perhaps some ... caution.

HEINRICH: We need action, progress, growth. To rid ourselves of those who would hold us back. Not caution.

HERMAN: And the ...children ?

HEINRICH: Little monsters only grow up to become big monsters.

**JOSEF LAUGHS.**

HERMAN: (TO **HEINRICH**) What are you afraid of ?

HEINRICH: I am afraid of nothing. Soon we all will have nothing to fear.

**HEINRICH FINISHES HIS DRINK.**

JOSEF: Another ?

HEINRICH: No. I need to go over my speech. I will see you at the meeting.

**HEINRICH STANDS. HE SHAKES THEIR HANDS.**

HEINRICH: (HE NODS) Tomorrow.

JOSEF: Tomorrow.

HERMAN: Tomorrow.

HE BEGINS TO LEAVE.

HERMAN: Heinrich. One last question.

**HEINRICH STOPS.**

HEINRICH: Yes Herman.

HERMAN: When do you plan to begin this ... solution ?

HEINRICH: One facility in Poland has already been modified. Near Dachau. Auchwitz.

**HEINRICH GIVES THE NAZI SALUTE.**

HEINRICH: Heil Hitler.

THEY RETURN IT.

HERMAN AND JOSEF: Heil Hitler.

**HEINRICH NODS AND EXITS. JOSEF LAUGHS AND WHACKS HERMAN ON THE BACK. HE FINISHES HIS BEER**

AS THE LIGHTS FADE.