



SANDERS: Well, let's move onto Mr. Bliss - he hasn't had a word to say yet, but I'll let him talk about his own subject. Mr. Bliss is an industrial chemist who came to Australia twenty-one years ago, and as he said at the beginning of the programme, he believes that

BLISS: There is a great need for a medium which can be understood in all languages of the world without translation.

SANDERS: And you think you've devised . . .

BLISS: Well, I was manager of the Patent Department of a large firm in Vienna, and I had to read patent specifications and scientific journals in many languages, and I found out that's very hard, and I found out too that people don't want to learn foreign languages, and Esperanto too is a foreign language. All peoples of the world like to talk in their mother-tongue. And therefore I found out that the best way to evolve an international medium of communication would be a writing of symbols, of pictorial symbols which can be read and understood in all languages of the world: just like the mathematical symbols $1+2=3$ (1 + 2 is 3) one plus two is three, un et deux est trois, eins und zwei ist drei, can be read in all languages of the world.

SANDERS: But do you think that people are going to go to the trouble of learning a new written language?

BLISS: No . . . that's a funny thing. My symbols are pictorial. You can almost recognise them, what they mean, and therefore it's the easiest thing - I have proved it a number of times - that I can teach children within a few minutes to read my symbols, to write full sentences . . right away . .

SANDERS: How many symbols are there, Mr. Bliss?

BLISS: Well, actually about fifty symbols of my own and thirty

BLISS:
(cont'd.)

symbols which are already used in . . internationally. Now, the thirty symbols are further, the ten symbols, the numbers - one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, zero; then there are six symbols of mathematical operations, plus, minus, and so on; then there is the exclamation mark, the question mark, the sto . . the full-stop, the comma, and then there is for . . a number of signs, for instance, and envelope which indicates mail, there is, there is the triangle which indicates safety, there is the musical note which indicates music, so we have already ~~thirty~~ thirty symbols which are already in use all over the world, and when I add now fifty pictorial symbols which are so simple, as I say, that children can grasp them withing a few minutes . . .

SANDERS: Do you think . . .

BLISS: . . . I can write down anything I want even philosophy and poetry, even religion, in chemistry, in physics, in biology, in botany, and I have proved it here in this large book. This large book is eight-hundred and eighty-two pages. Actually, it was a fight with myself, because I am an engineer, and we engineers know that a thing is practical when, when fools can handle it.

(GENERAL LAUGHTER)

And I wanted to convince myself that the whole thing is not practicable, ~~then~~ that I can get rid of it, but the more I wrote, the more I worked on it, for seven long years, I found out that this whole thing is possible, and I have already, ah, great acclaim from great scholars of the world and furthermore the Australian Federal Government has recommended my work to the United Nations after the, er, National University of Canberra has recommended it to the Government. So there is one thing only which I need, and that is another hundred years to live.

(GENERAL LAUGHTER)

SANDERS: Well, Mr. Bliss, what . . first of all you see this as being useful, ~~for~~ for example, to international travellers, they'd be able to understand, I mean even if you were in a hotel in Tibet, you'd be able to find, you know, the "Ladies"

SANDERS: if necessary, or what
(cont'd.)

BLISS: Yes . . well, yes, that's right. As a matter of fact, as a matter of fact, such symbols are already developed, and when I heard that Expo in Montreal is opening up, I wrote even two years before the opening, what about a few symbols to tell the people where to go to the toilets, and where to to this and that, and they wrote back and said: "Thank you very ~~much~~ much, we have already an international language." I said, what an international language! How many symbols? "Twenty-four". Well, twenty-four is not an international language. And now, what happened, and that was written in "Time", May . . the, the 12th of May, about the opening of Expo, and they said there that the symbols were so esoteric, that without writing what they mean underneath that people couldn't find the lavatories!

SANDERS: Yes . . .
(GENERAL LAUGHTER)

BLISS: . . Only after desperate inquiry!
(MORE LAUGHTER)

SANDERS: And what other help have you had in trying to generate this around the world?

BLISS: You mean, in what way? . . .

SANDERS: Yes, has any organisation tried to help you or . . .?

BLISS: I tell you one thing - when I started on this, I believed that when I will have it finished and completed, people, universities and all other organisations will say: "Mr. Bliss, you are the answer to our prayer. Thank . . Come come to my heart." And know what I find? Now that I have proved that it is possible a number of people are trying to get into the act, you know, and trying to get even money to devolve something similar, something separate, something different and so on, just to make money for something.

SANDERS: Well now, you're doing this completely out of a feeling for the need for it . .

BLISS: There is a need because, see, the International Union of Railways have already fifty symbols which are used, but these symbols are different from the airport organisation. The airport organisation symbols are different from the, from the, from the symbols used by the, say, by the hotel associations and so on. So the thing is this, as I said a hundred years must pass by until a whole babel of symbols will be developed and people will cry "For goodness' sake, let's stop working out different symbols

SANDERS: Yes

BLISS: "...there's one man in the world is dead for a long long time ago. He has evolved a complete system, and here is his book. Let's start again!"

SANDERS: Especially as European Common Market and other communities come closer and closer together.

BLISS: Yes, yes, yes, yes.

SANDERS: And also you're worried because of satellite transmission of television programmes.

BLISS: Well that is actually why I come here, why I come to the A.B.C. in the first place. When I heard that the, that there will be a world-wide satellite T.V. transmission I said, I ~~wax~~ wrote a letter to the A.B.C. and said: "Now what about the sub-titles. There will be, people who speak hundreds of ~~dialects~~ dialects and languages. How can they understand that?" I was told: "Well, we can't do anything now, but perhaps later on".
When that T.V. came off I saw that there was only a Melbourne tram which they showed to us, and I say this - If this Melbourne tram proves to people outside that we are fifty years behind the times, let's show them my work which is fifty years ahead!

(GENERAL LAUGHTER)

(Inconclusive chat among other guests. Because semantography is pictorial, Mr. Bliss is not able to transmit much of what he wants to explain on radio, is promised a television appearance by Bob . . .)

SANDERS: I'll have to move on, I'm sorry. You don't have a chance to answer that one.

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