

New Caledonia

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JUL 12 1944

My dear Mr. Crowley:

Thank you for your letter of July 4, 1944, enclosing a copy of a report from your field representative in New Caledonia relative to the situation for refugees in that area.

I will be very glad to have such reports as they are received from other countries.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Leo T. Crowley,
Administrator,
Foreign Economic Administration,
Washington 25, D. C.

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FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JUL 4 - 1944

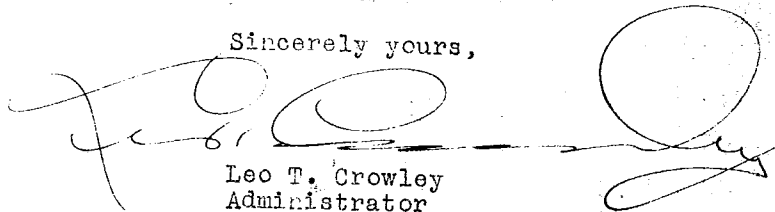
Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 26, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of a reply we have recently received from our field representative in New Caledonia relative to the situation for refugees in that area.

I hope this report will be helpful to you. We shall continue to forward these reports as they are received from other countries.

Sincerely yours,



Leo T. Crowley
Administrator

Enclosure

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Executive Director
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Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Leo T. Crowley

Leo T. Crowley
Administrator

Enclosure

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Foreign Economic Administration

13 June 1944

Mr. Leo T. Crowley
Administrator
Foreign Economic Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Crowley:

This letter is in reply to your letter (GC-700: OSC New Caledonia #92) of March 31, and relates to the resettlement of war refugees.

Upon receipt of the letter, which was considerably delayed in transmission, Mr. Ryerson and I called upon the Governor of New Caledonia in order to ascertain his official reaction to the suggestion that New Caledonia cooperate in handling the problem of war refugees.

The Governor has asked me to advise you that this matter goes beyond his authority: that all basic policy concerned with New Caledonia's share in the solution of the war refugee problem will have to be decided in Algiers. As soon as he has been advised by Algiers concerning New Caledonia's role, he added, he will communicate with us and discuss the details.

Since the Governor of New Caledonia, acting as Commissioner for the French National Committee throughout the whole South Pacific, also exercises authority over French Oceania, Wallis Island, and over French interests in the New Hebrides Condominium, his answer, stated above, applies also to these places.

We are addressing letters to the British High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, whose authority extends over Fiji, Tonga, Gilbert and Ellis, Solomons, and over British interests in the New Hebrides, to secure information concerning plans for assisting war refugees in those island groups.

We also requested the representative of the FEA in New Zealand, Mr. Teagle, to secure similar information from the New Zealand Government concerning comparable plans for New Zealand island territories, including Western Samoa, Cook Islands, and Niue.

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In the meanwhile, we can state that it is our opinion that the South Pacific Islands would constitute ideal locations for resettling war refugees possessing certain skills. In line with your request for information we are making detailed studies on the potentialities of each island group and these data will be forwarded later on.

As a preliminary indication we are of the opinion that the French colonies will provide more opportunities for refugees than will the British. This difference is due mainly to the British concern with placing the interests of resident natives above those of European settlers. There is a good deal of indirect evidence, for example, that white settlement will be discouraged in the Solomons Islands in order to develop that group into a native reserve. The French, on the other hand, have encouraged white colonization through various measures, including the offer of land under easy terms and provision of indentured Asiatic labor.

It is our recommendation that the War Refugee Board ascertain direct from the French Government in Algiers what its policy is concerning refugee resettlement in French possessions in the South Pacific. When we have this information in hand we can then discuss details with French authorities here. In the meantime we shall gather data throughout the islands concerning the economic possibilities of resettlement.

Very truly yours,

Douglas Oliver
Deputy Special Representative

cc: Ryerson
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