

STEINBERG, I. (Dr.)

000484

JUN 15 1944

Dear Dr. Steinberg:

I shall be delighted to see you when you are in Washington next Tuesday or Wednesday. When you are here we will see if Mr. Penle is free.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence S. Lesser

Lawrence S. Lesser
Assistant Executive Director

Dr. I. N. Steinberg
1819 Broadway, Suite 701
New York 23, N. Y.

LSLesser:als 6/15/44

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FREELAND LEAGUE
FOR JEWISH TERRITORIAL COLONIZATION
1819 BROADWAY, Suite 701
NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

June 14, 1944

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser,

As I intend to be in Washington on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week -- June 20 and 21 -- may I have an interview with you or with Mr. John Pehle on one of those days? There have been some new developments with regard to the matter of Jewish colonization in Australia, and I should like to tell you about them. I shall call you when I arrive, and perhaps we may then arrange a lunch appointment.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

J. Steinberg
Dr. I. N. Steinberg

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Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO Mr. Penle

June 6, 1944

FROM L. S. Lesser

✓
You will recall that when Dr. Steinberg visited us some months ago, serious consideration was given to discussing with Prime Minister Curtin, then about to arrive in the United States on his way to England, the Kimberley project for the colonization of Jews in Australia. If my recollection serves me, we even mentioned the matter to Mr. Berle who said that he would "try" to remember to mention the subject to Mr. Curtin. My guess is that Mr. Berle was unable to find an appropriate moment. Mr. Curtin is now about to arrive in the United States again on his return from England to Australia. Do you think anything can be done this time?

W.A.

W. J. R.

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APR 28 1944

Dear Dr. Steinberg:

Please accept this belated acknowledgment of your letter of March 24, 1944, and the memorandum with respect to the Kimberley colonization scheme transmitted therewith. Your memorandum is of considerable interest, and we have made inquiry to ascertain the present status of the plan therein outlined.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. I. N. Steinberg
444 Central Park West
New York, N. Y.

L.S.L.
LSLesser:als 4/28/44

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FREELAND

TERRITORIALIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA FOR JEWISH COLONIZATION

1819 BROADWAY, Suite 701

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

Please reply to:
444 Central Park West
New York City, N.Y.
March 24 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle,

I want, first of all, to express to you my deep appreciation and thanks for the most friendly attitude towards the Australian project you showed during our conversations in Washington. I am especially grateful for the swiftness with which you have familiarized yourself with the whole problem and introduced me to the Secretary of the Treasury. Let us hope that these first initial steps will be a happy augury for the realization of the plans.

As arranged I am enclosing the Memorandum on the Kimberley project with several documents attached. Short as this memorandum is it gives - I hope - a satisfactory picture of the physical, economic and political aspects of the project. I would be happy to know that this material might be useful for the Secretary in case he decides to mention our cause to Mr. John Curtin, the Prime Minister of Australia.

I should be grateful to hear from you about any further steps you intend to take in this matter.

I am writing this on a day when we all are terribly disturbed about the new blow of Nazism against the Jews of Hungary, - and I can see how fully you, dear Mr. Pehle, feel the responsibility of saving human lives. May your hands be strong in this holy war for life and God bless you.

INS/as

Very sincerely yours,

I. Steinberg
Dr. I.N. Steinberg

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M e m o r a n d u m

To: Mr. J.W. Pehle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board.
From: Dr. I.N. Steinberg, in behalf of the Freeland League
for Jewish Colonization.

In consequence of our conversations in Washington during March 12-13 of this year, and according to your request, I have the honour to submit for your consideration the following memorandum. It sets out a scheme for the establishment of a Jewish Settlement of refugees from Europe in the East Kimberley area of Australia.

(1) The Freeland League was founded in London, England, in 1935, with the aim of finding in some country overseas a territory suitable for a large-scale colonization of Jewish refugees and migrants. The activities of the League were intensified in 1938 when it became evident that the approaching catastrophe would uproot the Jewish people in Europe.

(2) The main idea of the League's program is to secure the possibility of a Jewish colonization on a non-political basis. The Settlement to be established was not to become a separate entity, but should be incorporated into the economic and political framework of the land of refuge. The laws and administration of that land should be introduced in the Settlement from the beginning, and the settlers - who would come from many states of Europe - would in due course become citizens. They would later, no doubt, take part in the political developments of the country but they would do so as citizens at large and not as a specifically Jewish political unit. Thus there would be no

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danger of "minority problems" arising.

(3) After considering the various unpopulated areas the League concentrated its interest and efforts on the East Kimberley district in Western Australia as the best suitable territory for a Jewish settlement. It was intended to take over a large area of 7 million acres of pastoral country stretching 50 miles south and east from Wyndham, alongside the Ord River. In May 1939 the League sent the undersigned, its Secretary, to Australia to investigate the possibilities of such a project. On arrival in Perth, and encouraged by the sympathetic attitude of the West Australian State Government, I, together with Australian experts, travelled through the area in view and we prepared tentative plans for its development.

(4) We found a huge country, undeveloped and unpopulated, yet full of the greatest potentialities. About 40,000 heads of cattle grazed on its pastures; the climate was hot but tolerable for Europeans; there was much fertile soil and sufficient water supply. The region has an average rainfall of 26 inches. Most important is the reliability of the rainfall; during 54 years of kept records there was no drought in that part of Australia.

A detailed description of that area is contained in the Report on our investigation (see appendix under No.1)

(5) The conclusions arrived at were confirmed by two other reports made by special investigators - one in 1937 by Prof. Prescott, - the other by the West Australian Government itself in 1941. On the basis of these conclusions was conceived a

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program of a mixed, agro-industrial, economy which should embrace both the development of pastoral pursuits and tropical agriculture, and the creation of the fundamentals of secondary industries. Such an economy, based on scientific planning, could reasonably give the settlers the necessary choice of occupations and thus make them even more attached to the soil and future of the new country. The development of the Settlement should proceed by stages; groups of younger people, men and women, should be among the pioneers of the first, relatively short, stage whose function would be the opening of the country for the next, ever growing, waves of immigrants.

(6) The above mentioned plans were submitted to the West Australian Government together with a formulation of the principles on which the Settlement should be based.

- a. The Kimberley Settlement should be build up on non-political lines so that the Jewish immigrants would become Australian citizens, with all the rights and duties involved.
- b. All the work connected with the pioneering stage would be undertaken by the Freeland League. It would be responsible for the selection of the settlers and organising their work and communal life.
- c. The economy of the Settlement would be scientifically planned, thus preventing waste of human and material resources within the new area, and competition with Australia's economic life from without. Most of the economic activities of the settlers in the initial stage should be established on a cooperative basis so that the Settlement might become self-supporting at the earliest

possible date.

- d. The communal organization of the Jewish Settlement (instead of far-flung and scattered settlements of individual migrants) is bound to produce energies and enthusiasm far beyond the numbers of people settled. As history has shown, colonization has the best prospects of success when it is based on common spiritual and religious bonds among the pioneers. On the other hand, the communal organization would enable the Australian Government to supervise and support easily the process of the adjustment of the settlers to the country.

(7) On August 25, 1939, the Government of Western Australia gave its approval to the proposal in the form of a letter from the Premier to the undersigned. The main part of that decision reads as follows:

"Your next step appears to be to approach the Commonwealth Government, and ascertain their attitude to the project and to the introduction of refugees for the purpose of forming a Settlement. To this end, therefore, we desire to advise that we have no objection to your making the necessary approach to the Government in Canberra. Should your approaches in that connection be met with success, this Government would desire its representatives to confer with you and reach agreement regarding many conditions."

(8) On several subsequent occasions the West Australian Government confirmed its positive stand on this project.

Before submitting the project to the Common-

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wealth Government it was found advisable to ascertain the attitude to the scheme of public opinion in the country, and of the many representative bodies of the Australian population. Thus, during the years 1940 to 1943, a systematic campaign of enlightenment was launched in many states of Australia, in order to acquaint the public with the main ideas and aims of the scheme. Churches, universities, chambers of commerce, the trade union movement, the Lord Mayors of the leading cities and the national press were approached - and the response of the majority of them was actively sympathetic. Of the many public statements made by them, some should be mentioned.

(9) The Anglican Bishop of Perth, who is at the same time the Primate of Australia, wrote to Prime Minister Curtin on February 27, 1943, in the name of "the great majority of the people" and urged "a decision from the Government in answer to the request that a considerable area in Australia be set apart as soon as circumstances permit for refugee settlement." (photostat of this letter is attached under No. 2). A document no less significant was the letter of April 5 1943, addressed to me by the leading Roman Catholic Bishop of Melbourne, Dr. Mannix (Photostat under No. 3).

(10) The Australasian Council of Trade Unions, the only central body of the trade union movement in Australia, stated in a letter to Mr. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labour on April 6 1943 that they "decided to support this venture." Similarly, the Labour Council of Sydney (representing more than 300,000 workers in New South Wales) stated: "We hope to see the Settlement an established fact in the near future."

Mr. E.J. Holloway, now the Commonwealth

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Minister for Labour, wrote in a letter to the Hon. E. Bevin, Minister of Labour in the British Cabinet, as follows: "The Federal Government were giving favourable consideration to the project when the war put all projects, other than war, on one side." (Photostats of this and other letters are attached under No. 4).

(11) It seems that not only humanitarian motives but also practical considerations dictated this positive attitude on the part of Australians. They feel that Australia stands on the eve of a new historical development and is going to play its part in the rebuilding of humanity. It will need in the postwar period a larger population.

Australia, no doubt, will succeed in developing her economic and trade relations with the world. Still, whatever might be the perspectives of international trade, it is generally understood that the most reliable market remains the domestic. It seems, therefore, necessary to build up at home a greater consuming power for the output of Australia's expanding industries. A no less important need will be the enrichment of the cultural life of Australia by the admission in greater numbers of European migrants. Whatever may be the approach to Australian plans in the future, they will demand first and foremost - people, people and people. The Kimberley project appeared to public opinion as one of the reasonable ways of contributing to Australia's need for population and economic development.

(12) These considerations seem also to have been in the minds of so many authoritative persons in Australia when they commended the Kimberley project to representative personalities in the United States. Mr. R.J. Curthoys, the chief Australian correspon-

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dent of the "New York Times" wrote on May 16 1943:

"The Kimberley project commends itself to me as one who
 "has long been convinced that what Australia most needs
 "is an infusion of varied national strains. The war re-
 "fugees who have come to us already have made a very val-
 "uable contribution to Australian life, and I am sure that
 "our experience will be that of America - that we shall
 "derive fresh vigour from the admixture of new types with
 "our people."

Sir Ernest Fisk, the head of the "Amalgamated
 Wireless (Australia) Ltd." followed the same line in stating in a
 letter of April 15 1943:

"The project received much support and encouragement from
 "leading citizens of all kinds and from important organi-
 "zations. This support is based on a widespread sympathy
 "with the suffering of his people in Europe, also upon the
 "recognized necessity for a development in Australia."

It is also interesting to mention the presiden-
 tial address by the well-known Col. J. Drake-Brockman to the annual
 meeting of the Institution of Australian Engineers:

"Years of experience and personal study of the country
 "selected for the purpose led me to believe that the Kim-
 "berley scheme would be very likely to prove successful.
 "I am convinced a Jewish settlement scheme for the North
 "West, properly sponsored and financed by the Freeland
 "League, would become a benefit and stimulus to Australia."

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(13) Among the countless voices of sympathy and understanding, there was also a number of sceptical, detached and even hostile opinions. The objections touched usually upon two points: firstly, whether it was advisable to create in Australia a settlement of a specific group of immigrants, thus endangering the political coherence of the country - and, secondly, whether the Jewish settlers would stay in the colony and not disperse in the industrial cities thus causing unemployment.

The reply to the first point is that the proposed Jewish colonization is definitely intended to be on non-political lines. The Jewish people, who are settling a country of adoption, have no other allegiance than that of that country; they have no State or home behind them. As to the second question, there is little doubt that Jewish settlers from Nazi-devastated Europe, having all the great suffering behind them, will only gratefully and most actively grasp the happy opportunity of building a home for themselves and their children. After investing their energies, labour and inspiration in the soil of the new, free community, the pioneers will not be prepared to destroy it with their hands for the price of doubtful benefits in the cities.

(14) This was the reason why the majority of the Australian people readily accepted the plan and two Pro-Kimberley Committees of leading Australians were formed in Sydney and Melbourne in order to keep the idea before the public eye. Among the members of the committees are bishops, chancellors of the Universities, judges, labour leaders and leading personalities of the business world.

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(15) The position of the project at the present time can be described in the following way.

- a. The West Australian Government has given its approval to it; but a new factor must be taken into consideration insofar as the Commonwealth Government is now endeavouring to secure the "Wider Powers Bill" which would give the Government power to control the whole reconstruction policy in Australia, for five years after the war. Should this bill be accepted by a National referendum, all schemes of rehabilitation and immigration into Australia (including the Kimberley project) would be under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government only.
- b. Public opinion is favourably disposed.
- c. The Commonwealth Government has not yet considered it because of the war situation. The latest message on this subject is the letter from Mr. J. Curtin to me, of October 28, 1943 (photostat under No. 5) which combines the Kimberley project with "the whole question of immigration into Australia."

(16) An indication that the Kimberley project is in line with the Government's ideas on the development of the North, can be seen in Mr. John Curtin's speech of August 9 1943, made during the election campaign: "Australia could not discharge its important role without population. We have to double or treble our present seven millions. Even that will not be sufficient because it will be relatively small in number to the millions who are so close to us ... People will have to be encouraged to go into those northern parts of the Commonwealth where the climate is not too good."

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Conclusion:

In conclusion the present requirements of the Freeland League should be stated. However difficult it might be to start the colonization process during the war, it seems, however, advisable to use the present period for a more comprehensive investigation of the area in view and for careful preparation of the plans and financial estimates. Needed is:

- a. an indication by the Commonwealth Government that it would be prepared to permit the establishment in the Kimberley area of a Jewish settlement of refugees and
- b. the dispatch to the Kimberley area by the Freeland League, and at its expense, of an expert commission for the above mentioned investigation.

In presenting this project to the War Refugee Board, may I respectfully request its consideration in the light of the terrible experiences of the Jewish population in Europe, and its inclusion into the working program of the War Refugee Board so that its realization might be achieved at the earliest possible moment. The assurance of permanent homes for the persecuted Jewish people will surely facilitate the immediate task of saving as many Jewish lives as possible into the neutral countries of Europe.

000500

5. April. 43

St. Patrick's Cathedral,

Melbourne, C.2.

Dear Dr. [unclear]

When I came to Australia more
than three years ago, I found you had
just returned from [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

I wish I had been subjected and
expressed the information with-
out any [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
to find [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
and so help to wipe out the stain [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]. Unfortunately, the [unclear]
in the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
difficult, or impossible [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear].

Meanwhile, however, the [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] and
the annihilation of the Jewish race go on un-
checked. It has for [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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Australia is for our interest, but still
more in the cause of humanity, may
be able to do something to rescue our
Jewish brethren from other destinations.

Believe me.

Sincerely Yours.

J. M. S. and P.

000502

Telephones:
Office - B 3929
Private - B 4604
Please address all Correspondence
to G.P.O. Box D 144

From THE ARCHBISHOP OF PERTH,
THE CHURCH OFFICE,
CATHEDRAL AVENUE,
PERTH, W.A.

10th March, 1943

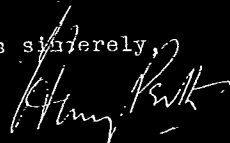
Dear Dr Steinberg,

I did not reply to your letter of January 27 because I was already in correspondence with a good many people on the subject and was not in a position to answer at that moment.

I sent a letter to the Prime Minister on February 27 after getting the signatures of the Presbyterian Moderator General and the Methodist President General. I published this letter in our own Diocesan paper and it was taken from there into the "West Australian" in Perth. I intended that it should get to the Eastern press also but you will know whether it has done so. I enclose a copy for any use you choose to make of it.

I am,

Yours sincerely,



P.S. I tried to get the Apostolic Delegate to sign also but he answered that the matter was "quite outside his province as Apostolic Delegate."

Dr J. Steinberg,
8, Beverley Hall,
Elizabeth Bay Crescent,
Elizabeth Bay,
S.D.B.Y. N.S.W.

Encl.

000503

CLAY.

1941 February, 1941.

Dear Prime Minister,

The civilized world has been shocked by the persecution by the Nazi Government of the Jewish race in Germany, and the persecution shows no sign of abating except that the scale of the persecution is being increased by death.

We, representing as we do the great majority of the people of Australia, desire to express our concern at the urgent necessity of consulting with the British Government with the intention of finding some place of refuge for the Jews as soon as such an asylum can be found. We understand that it would be desirable to find in Palestine an asylum for a large section of the persecuted, if the British Government consent to this action.

In view of the desirability of increasing the population of Australia we also urge a decision upon the Government in answer to the request that a conference be held in Australia as soon as circumstances permit for relief settlement.

The matter is brought before you in view of the recent request made by the Jewish Government.

Yours,

Very sincerely,

Yours,
D. Macaulay (M.L.A.)

Mr. Hon. John Curtin,
Prime Minister,
Canberra, N.S.W.

W. O. L. K.
(M.L.A.)

HENRY PERU

000504



MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

31st March, 1943.

Dear Mr. Levin,

This is the first time I have had the pleasure to address you since our very happy chats in our Party room at Canberra and Melbourne. Since then, as you know, we have taken over the Government of the Australian Commonwealth and like yourself, have done our best to put some real life into the deadly right against the forces of tyranny, and for the salvation of real democracy which you and I love so much.

I am writing this note to you, and I am sure you will not mind, to introduce to you Mr. H. Steinberg who has been with us in Australia during the war period and is now a very highly respected citizen of our country. Mr. Steinberg's mission to Australia as the Secretary of the Free Jewish League for Jewish Territorial Colonization is to establish a Jewish settlement in the unoccupied north-west part of Australia, which for me is something of, the proposed settlement to be in the lines of the splendid agricultural, horticultural and viticultural settlement in Palestine. The post-Australian Government has agreed, and the Federal Government were giving favourable consideration to the project when the war put all projects, other than war, on a standstill. The doctor, whose family is in London, naturally wanted to visit home after so long an absence, but we hope to see him again and sometime in good time in Australia later on. If you could help him with your advice, if necessary, Mr. Levin I shall be grateful.

With best wishes for good health so that you may continue the splendid work you are doing,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. H. S. Levin, M.P.,
Minister for Labour,
House of Commons,
LONDON.

Minister for Social Services,
Canberra, A.C.T.

000505

A. E. MONK
President



C. A. CROFTS
Secretary

Australasian Council of Trade Unions

AEM:MK.

HEAD OFFICE

TRADES HALL.

MELBOURNE. 6th. April, 19 43.

W. Green, Esq.,
President,
American Federation of Labor,
WASHINGTON. D.C.

Vice-Presidents:

R. A. KING, M.L.C., N.S.W.
F. WALSH, S.A.

Executive Members:

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R. THING, N.S.W.
J. V. STOUT, Vic.
P. J. CLAREY, M.L.C., Vic.
T. NICHOLLS, S.A.
K. E. BARDOLPH, M.L.C., S.A.
H. J. HARVEY, Q'land
R. LEGGAT, Q'land
C. CULLEY, M.H.A., Tas.
J. O'NEILL, Tas.

Dear Comrade Greene,

This will introduce to you, Dr. I. M. Steinberg, who has been in Australia for the past three years, acting on behalf of the Jewish Fraternity of England and other countries, in an effort to prevail upon our Australian Governmental Authorities to permit of the establishment of a Jewish Settlement Colony in the North West of Australia - known as "The Kimberleys".

The Australasian Council of Trade Unions has had many conferences with Dr. Steinberg, and has supported his project for the transference of refugee European Jews to this settlement.

I might point out that the Kimberleys are situated approximately 2,000 miles from Perth in Western Australia, and lie in the temperate zone which, it is felt would ensure success of the Colony.

Quite a number of people in Australia fear that the creation of such a Colony or settlement would mean that eventually the members of it would migrate to the Australian Capital Cities, causing unemployment. However, the A.C.T.U. has taken all these matters into consideration and decided to support the venture so ably promulgated by Dr. Steinberg.

He is visiting Canada, America and then England, and we wish him every success in his efforts to establish the Colony suggested by he and his Committee.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT.

000506

A. E. MONK
President



C. A. CROFTS
Secretary

Australasian Council of Trade Unions

HEAD OFFICE

TRADES HALL.

MELBOURNE. OCTOBER 24, 19 41.

PJC/NB.

COPY.

Vice-Presidents:

R. A. KING, M.L.C., N.S.W.
P. WALSH, S.A.

Executive Members:

J. S. GARDEN, N.S.W.
T. WRIGHT, N.S.W.
J. V. STOUT, Vic.
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K. E. BARDOLPH, M.L.C., S.A.
H. J. HARVEY, Q'land
R. LEGGAT, Q'land
C. CHILLEY, M.H.A., Tas.
J. O'NEILL, Tas.

Honorable John Curtin, M.H.R.,
Prime Minister of Australia,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Mr. Curtin,

JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN THE KIMBERLEYS.

The writer has been instructed by the Executive Committee of the A.C.T.U., to convey to you the A.C.T.U.'s approval of the proposed Jewish Settlement in the Kimberleys.

This matter has received the earliest consideration of the A.C.T.U., during the last two (2) years, and, approval and support of the A.C.T.U. to the proposed Settlement has previously been intimated to the Honorable R.G. Menzies, the Honorable A.M. Fadden, during their period as Prime Minister.

Yours fraternally,

(S.D). P.J. CLAREY.

ACTING SECRETARY.

3c

000507



R. A. King, Secretary.
K. D. Kelly, Assist. Secretary

Compensation Dept.:
T. W. Ritchie, Officer in Charge.

Industrial Arbitration Dept.:
O. Bryant, Officer in Charge.

2KY Radio Station:
R. A. King, Secretary.
H. E. Beaver, Studio Manager.

Unemployed and Relief Workers'
Department:
W. J. Geraghty, Secretary

Labor Research Bureau:
J. Lindsay,
Officer in Charge.

In reply please quote
Ref. No. ...BAK/GM....

TEL. M 4697
M 4698

10th November, 1941.

Dr. Steinberg,
Free Land League,
235 Old South Head Road,
BCNDI.

Dear Sir,

I desire to advise that the sympathy of the Labor Council of New South Wales with the practical scheme for the Jewish Settlement of refugees from Europe in the East Kimberley area, has in no way altered owing to the precarious position that Australia finds itself in through the war.

We again reaffirm the principle that the Council adopted in January, 1940. We wish you every success in your endeavours to establish a haven for the victims of Fascist ferocity that compelled them to leave their homeland.

Hoping to see the Settlement an established fact in the near future,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. A. King
SECRETARY.

000508



PRIME MINISTER,
CANBERRA.

Dear Mr. [Name],

I am pleased to hear that you have been able to establish a firm and lasting relationship with the Commonwealth of Australia, and I am sure that this will be a most profitable one for both of us.

The Commonwealth of Australia is a country of great resources and potential, and I am sure that your company will find many opportunities for growth and development here. I am sure that your company will find many opportunities for growth and development here.

Yours faithfully,

Yours faithfully,
[Name]
[Title]

000509

#1

INVESTIGATION IN EAST KIMBERLEY
REGION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND
IN NORTHERN TERRITORY IN RE-
SPECT TO POSSIBILITIES OF
CLOSE SETTLEMENT.

June, 1939

INTERIM REPORT

- A. INTRODUCTION
- (1) Areas covered.
 - (2) Methods of Investigation.
- B. CLIMATE:
- (1) Rainfall.
 - (2) Temperature.
 - (3) Health.
- C. NATURAL FEATURES:
- (1) Topography
 - (2) Soils and vegetation.
 - (3) Water supplies.
- D. PROSPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT:
- (1) Introduction.
 - (2) Pastoral Industry.
 - (3) Agriculture.
 - (4) Development Secondary Industry.
 - (5) Settlement Development. (Public Works)
 - (6) Scientific Research.
 - (7) Transport and Marketing.
 - (8) Organization.

000510

A. INTRODUCTION:

The following report concerns an area of Northern Australia, lying between the latitude of 15° and 17° south, and longitude 128° and 130° east, which has been considered as a possible location for the settlement of European Refugees.

It was the task of the preliminary investigation to obtain knowledge, and ascertain the future possibilities, of the area which up to the present has remained unknown except to a handful of scattered residents, and a few scientific investigators.

The report is submitted by G.F. Melville, M.Sc. (Agriculture) of the University of Western Australia and Dr. I. Steinberg (Secretary of the Freeland League for Jewish Territorial Colonisation), both of whom visited the area.

(1) Areas Covered:

The investigation covered the properties leased from the Crown by Connor, Doherty and Durack Ltd., consisting of an area of 10,800 square miles, and including the Cattle Stations known as Ivanhoe, Argyle, Newry, Auvergne, and Bullita. In addition the stations of Carlton and Rosewood were also visited. Ivanhoe and Argyle are situated on the Ord River in Western Australia, while the others lie between the West Australian border and the Victoria River in the Northern Territory. The Western Australian properties comprise about 1,700,000 acres, while those across the border cover some 5,260,000 acres.

The distance of 2,000 miles from Perth to Wyndham, the seaport of the district, situated at the head of the Cambridge Gulf, was travelled by aeroplane. Fourteen days were spent in the area, during which time 750 miles of country were traversed by motor car.

Sincere thanks are extended to Mr. M. P. Durack, and his son, Mr. K. M. Durack, for enabling the investigators to cover a considerable area in a limited time, and for providing generous hospitality.

(2) Methods of Investigation:

A first consideration of the mission was to obtain some information regarding the natural features of the country, including such essentials as climate, types of soil and vegetation, the approximate areas of the various soil types and their suitability for Agriculture, Water Supplies, and the general topography of the areas.

Secondly, the system of land utilization as it exists today and the possible future development of agricultural and pastoral activities were constantly before the minds of the investigators.

A broad ecological survey of the area was made, soil

vegetational and topographic features being marked on maps and charts, copies of which are enclosed with Report. Samples of the soil were collected for subsequent analysis, and photographs of the more important characteristics of the country were taken.

B. CLIMATE:

The climatic factor is of primary importance, when considering the establishment of a close settlement scheme; it is important not only from an agricultural viewpoint, but also, and more especially, from the aspect of the health and comfort of the settlers.

The East Kimberley lies on the north-west of the Australia land mass, between the latitude of 10 degrees to 20 degrees south of the Equator. The climate, as would be expected from the position, is tropical savanna, that is tropical with rainfall of definite seasonal incidence. There is a distinct wet and an equally dry season.

Similarly situated areas in other parts of the world are the Guiana Highlands in North and South America, the Campos of Brazil, the Sudan and Veldt of Northern and Southern Africa respectively, and the Llanos of the Orinoco Valley in Venezuela.

(1) Rainfall:

Monsoonal disturbances from the north-west bring rain during the summer months of November to March. During this period of 5 months, over 90% of the annual total of rain is received. It is unusual to receive appreciable falls of rain in other months of the year. The following table illustrates this point, giving the annual monthly recording over a period of years for Argyle and Wyndham.

No.

Yrs. Jan. Feb. Mch. Apr. May June July Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec. TOT.

Wynd.	51	743	599	466	85	22	7	15	4	8	46	188	422	2,605
Argy.	33	632	629	392	73	17	18	18	15	22	82	228	488	2,613

A most important factor regarding rainfall is its reliability. In many parts of Australia drought is a major problem, seriously limiting the scope for utilisation of the country. This is not the case in the East Kimberley region, where the "Variability Factor" of rainfall is 20. From the appended map, supplied by the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureau, it may be seen that the areas with a variability factor of 20 include some of the most reliable in the whole of Australia.

(2) Temperature:

The inhabitants recognise three temperature periods of the year. (a) the cooler, dry season during the months, April to September.

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3.

- (b) The hotter months preceding the rains (October and November) and
- (c) The hot, wet season, including the months of December to March.

During the cooler, dry season temperatures are similar to those experienced during a Mediterranean summer. Afternoon maximum temperatures range from 80 degrees to 90 degrees and occasionally higher, but humidity is low, so that the heat is not uncomfortable. The effect on comfort of such temperatures cannot be compared with similar readings in the more temperate regions. Temperatures of 80 and 90 degrees in the dry clear atmosphere of the tropics cause no discomfort to Europeans. Nights in this season are pleasantly cool, for the dry air and clear skies are conducive to rapid radiation from the earth.

During the hot, dry period beginning about September, October, the daily temperatures rise to above 90 degrees and often above 100 degrees, this is the most trying period of the year, with high temperatures coupled with periods of high humidity, heralding the approach of the rains.

With the beginning of the rains in November-December, relief is obtained, the atmosphere is cooler and the country generally is refreshed. The nights, too, are cooler.

Due to lack of meteorological data for the area concerned, it is possible only to give impressions, substantiated by few recorded figures. The importance of saturation deficit (evaporation in relation to rainfall) has not been overlooked. In a further report, fuller information regarding temperature, rainfall and evaporation would be given.

(3) Health:

The health of the inhabitants and the incidence of particular diseases was closely investigated, and it was found that despite the rather primitive methods of living, there were no serious indigenous diseases and that further the length of life was very satisfactory. Men of sixty and seventy years of age, who had spent the greater part of their lives in the country, were still enjoying good health, and were engaged in manual work. Women were found working and rearing children, and appeared healthy and happy in their environment.

With organised settlement, living conditions could be made more congenial than they are at present. The provision of houses especially designed for tropical climates, refrigerators for preserving food during the hot months, fresh vegetables and fruit, and the amenities of community life to the settlers would reduce to a minimum the existing disability of life in the areas today.

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It is felt by both the investigators, one a European on his first visit to Australia, the other a native of Western Australia, that given the amenities of life necessary in a tropical country, the settlers will live in good health and reasonable comfort.

As is the practice in other tropical areas, it is necessary that during the summer months, labouring work should be done during the cooler parts of the day. The practice generally is to work in the fields from 7 a.m. till 11 a.m., then from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. resting or reading during the intervening period.

It would not be difficult to construct a time table for the settlers, dividing their working hours into various spheres of activity, suited to the temperature conditions during the day.

C. NATURAL FEATURES:

The features of particular importance in such an investigational survey are those of soil, vegetation, climate and topography.

(1) Topography:

The first impression of the country is that of a perfect plateau of some 500 to 600 feet high, dissected and eroded by the numerous rivers and water channels to form a lower strata of open plains.

The larger of the rivers, such as the Ord and Victoria, together with their major tributaries, have cut wide valleys which appear now as vast open plains. From the plains, the residuals of the plateau stand out as characteristic flat-topped hills arising abruptly and forming almost vertical escarpments.

The topography is, however, particularly suited to the building of good roads, and no difficulties would be experienced in this respect.

The rivers in their lower reaches have reached a state of maturity, meandering across broad valleys, cutting here and there deep gorges or water gaps in the lines of residual hills. The utilisation of these gorges for water conservation for irrigation seems a distinct possibility. The rivers run only during the period of rain; at other times they consist of a series of pools, billabongs or "reaches" of water, many of which are permanent, and afford natural watering facilities for men and stock.

(2) Soils and Vegetation:

To understand the distribution of the soils, it is necessary to trace briefly the geological history of the area.

At a late stage in the dissection and erosion of the primary plateau when the river valleys had formed much as they are today, an extensive lava flow appears to have spread over the country, partially filling the broad valleys. The extensive areas of basaltic rocks present today bear witness to this upheaval. The decomposition of these basaltic flows has produced areas of dark chestnut soils, known locally as "black soil". In the areas unaffected by these flows, the sandstone comprising the old plateau have formed a typical sandy soil.

The Basalt Soils form a considerable proportion of the lower strata of country, and are particularly fertile, especially when associated with limestone sediments. In many cases, particularly on Argyle, the limestone occurs as horizontal layers at varying depths from the surface.

Alone, the basalt soils form a particularly heavy colloidal clay, which is difficult to cultivate, either dry or after rain, but associated with the limestone the combination produces a pliable crumbly soil of the highest fertility. Of all the soils encountered, the "black" are the most fertile, and would be ideally suited for the growth of agricultural crops. The soil is deep, in fact depth of 60-100 feet of soil have been noted in profiles exposed on river banks.

The natural vegetation of these soils consists almost entirely of grasses among which Mitchell (*Astrobla* spp) Flinders (*Isoloma* spp) and Couch grass (*Cynodesco*) are the most important. The tree and shrub growths are very sparse and except for isolated bushes of *Bankinia* spp, *Atalya* spp and *Gutta Porcha* in the depressions and on the fringe of the plains, are non-existent.

The general impression obtained is that of a huge wheat field, stretching as far as the eye can see, limited only by the abrupt intervention of a flat-topped hill.

The abundance of the native grasses demonstrates very forcibly the suitability of these areas for the growing of cereal and pasture crops.

The estimated area of these soils would be some one and three quarter million acres.

The red alluvial soils form a distinct type occurring as belts lining the banks of the rivers. They may be distinguished from the former soils by their bright red colour, and their more friable nature due to their sand fraction.

Due to their alluvial origin they are very fertile, are easily cultivated, and, considering the proximity of water in the river pools, which could be used to irrigate the banks, it is thought that this type of country could well be developed to produce intensive agricultural crops.

The vegetation on these red soils can best be described

as savanna woodland, with a greater development of trees than on the "black" soils.

The best of alluvial red soils along the Ord River averages about one mile in width, comprising in all 50,000 acres. Elsewhere some 200,000 acres of red soil exist.

Eucalypt species, known locally as Coolibah, Bloodwood, Ironwood, etc., are interspersed with a ground covering of grasses and form a parkland type of scenery.

Sandy Soils. In areas where the volcanic influence is non-existent, the soils have formed from the sandstones of the original plateau. These soils are sandy in character, bright red in colour and support an inferior type of vegetation. The ground covering consists of "Spinifex" (*Triodia* spp) with tall species of *Andropogon*, whilst a dense stand of trees and shrubs principally Eucalypts and Acacias have developed.

The vegetation, although abundant, forms poorer stock food and is generally regarded by stockmen as unsuitable for fattening stock.

Calcareous Soils. A soil of particular account is that occurring in the limestone areas. These soils are light red in colour, friable and produce short grasses which are relished by stock. The combination of the limestone and basalt produces the most fertile soil in the area. An abundance of this type of country was seen along the Behn River on Argyle Station, and on Rosewood.

The four soils described form the lower strata or plains.

On the Plateau or upper strata, the soil is shallow, consisting of sand and debris from the disintegrating sandstones. Nevertheless, the table tops of these hills and the surrounding "Broadaways" are covered with vegetation, including spinifex (*Triodia* spp) and stunted Eucalypt trees.

This poorer type of grazing would be especially suited to goats, mules and other hardy animals.

At the base of the escarpments, small areas of dense vegetation of *Pandanus* Eucalypts and Acacias cluster about permanent springs and pools. In such patches, a small development of a true black peaty soil has been formed. These areas appear as possible sites for agricultural plots, especially suited to the growing of tropical fruits.

(3) Water Supplies:

Due to the rainless period of 7-8 months of the year, the question of conservation of water is of prime importance.

The country is naturally well watered. The residual pools in the rivers and creeks afford water for stock, and in many cases the storage is of an amount sufficient for irrigation purposes. The Carlton reach on the Ord River, to take an instance, consists of a stretch of water 7 miles long, some 300 yards wide, of unknown depth permanently held by natural rock bar. It seems possible that this great volume of water could be utilized for the irrigation of the rich alluvial flats lining the banks. A system of windmills would provide an effective means of raising the water to the banks.

Few attempts have been made to obtain supplies of ground water, but where boring has been tried ample supplies of good water have been obtained at shallow depths. A list of the bores on the area is given, showing the depth to water, and the capacity per hour.

The building of earthen tanks for the storage of water for stock and small areas of irrigation, appears to be a development well worth consideration. The existent watering facilities consist of wells and bores or pools, equipped with a wind driven pumping plant, which delivers the water into an iron or earthen tank, and thence to a system of drinking troughs. Irrigation of gardens at the homesteads is by a reticulation scheme of pipes from the storage tank.

D. PROSPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT:

(1) Introduction:

Taking into consideration all the factors described above, we are of the opinion that there are distinct possibilities of development in the visited areas, of both primary and secondary industries. The initial development should be a gradual transition from the existing pastoral to a combination of pastoral and agricultural activities. Based upon the products of these combined industries, it would be possible to develop systematically a series of manufactured units in the sphere of secondary industry.

Of course, the object of the initial settlement would be, first of all, to secure the necessary means for self-support, which would involve especially the requirements of food, housing and public works. With the economic development of the settlement, and the creation of a surplus of products, problems of marketing and transport would be included in its economic policy.

While the economy of this country is at present based upon pastoral pursuits alone, it appears to us that the developmental policy of the settlement could be directed to a balanced combination of the pastoral, agricultural and secondary industries.

Due to the variation in the natural features of the

country, certain areas would be developed to intensive agriculture, while others, poorer in character, would be suitable only for extensive pastoral work. But it is necessary that the closest cooperation should exist from the beginning between the two spheres of activity for the maximum advantage to the economic development of both. Simultaneously, with the upbuilding of the primary industries, the foundations for some manufactures could be laid conforming with the growing economy.

(2) The Pastoral Industry.

The areas considered are, in their natural state, well suited by reason of the vegetation and water supplies to the grazing of such animals as cattle, sheep, horses, donkeys, mules, goats, etc.

It is natural, therefore, that in the pioneering stages of development, - and it might be stated here that the areas have not as yet evolved from that state - stock were grazed on open range of the most extensive type. In many cases, the stock still pasture on unfenced areas, relying on natural waters.

A first consideration of the settlement should be to continue development in this sphere of economic life. This could be accomplished by:

- (a) Defining the grazing areas of stock to units capable of rational management and systematic control by the settler group.
- (b) Establishment of paddocks to control the grazing of stock, and provision of necessary water facilities.
- (c) Expanding the existing possibilities by including other types of animals such as sheep, goats, mules, etc.
- (d) Introduction of better methods of animal husbandry, particularly in respect to improvement of the breeding stock.

The leading ideas of pastoral work should be co-operation with both the agricultural and secondary industries. The manufacturer could be supplied with raw materials, such as cattle hides, wool mohair, etc., and the agriculturalists with horses, mules, etc., for traction purposes, while in return agricultural land could be utilised for the fattening of stock, prior to their being slaughtered. Such a system of division of effort in the production of fat animals for meat purposes, wherein the pastoralist on his poorer country breeds the beast and the agriculturalist fattens, should prove most economical to both parties.

Having regard to the grazing capacity of the country concerned, it appears that the area managed by one family unit should include approximately 20,000 acres. On a conservative estimate this area of grazing would support 2,500 sheep or 400-500 head of cattle or horses. It is advisable that subdivision of the unit into four paddocks, each supplied with watering facilities, should be made.

(3) Agriculture:

As agriculture, except in isolated cases, has as yet not been practised in the Kimberleys, the establishment of a number of centres of agricultural activities would be necessary to determine the types of crops to be grown. Due to the seasonal character of the rainfall (November-March) two types of agriculture appear possible:

- (a) The growing of crops during the period of rain, to be sown in November and harvested in April and May.

- (1) Cereal crops, such as maize, rice, millets.
- (2) Crops, as peanuts, soya, jute, hemp, cotton, flax, and crops of medicinal value.
- (3) Hay crops, maize, millets, sorghums, Mitchell grass, field grass, beans.

- (b) Secondly the crops of perennial nature, and those which require to be grown during the dry season, from April to November. Both these groups would require irrigation during the dry period of the year.

- (1) Perennial Crops: o.g. tropical fruits (bananas, pineapple, paw-paw, mango, etc.) citrus fruits, sugar cane.
- (2) Perennial pastures: Lucerne grasses, (*Panicum spp.*), clovers.
- (3) Seasonal crops grown during cool, dry months: Vegetables (cabbage, cauliflower, beans, spinach, root vegetables, cucumbers, melon, tomatoes) Cotton, rice and other cereal crops and horticultural crops.

The development of the Dairying, Pig and Poultry raising industries within the agricultural sphere must of necessity be associated with the growing of cereal crops and perennial pastures under irrigation. Crops such as lucerne, clovers, grasses, etc., would be most suitable as forming the basis for the pastures. Cereal grains and offals unfit for human consumption would provide a supplement to the pastures.

The utilisation of the other crops will be considered later in dealing with the secondary industries and their raw products.

It is difficult during the first experimental period to estimate the area to be allotted to the family unit, but it seems possible that two acres of irrigable land under intensive cultivation (vegetable, fruits) or twenty acres of perennial pastures or grain could be managed by one family.

(4) Development of Secondary Industry:

In order to make economic use of all raw products of both primary industries and to provide employment to the settlers during periods of inactivity on the land, the establishment of secondary industries should be stimulated. The opinion is held that while markets for raw materials are limited, a greater demand exists for these products in their finished or manufactured state. The upbuilding of the various manufactures would proceed in close association with the growing of the raw materials.

The following list of works appear possible:

- (a) Tanning of hides for leather.
- (b) Manufacture of leather goods - boots, saddles, bags, etc.
- (c) Wool-scouring - involving the removal of natural grease and dirt. Wool grease for ointments, cosmetics, etc.
- (d) Manufacture of carpets, etc., from mohair (angora goats).
- (e) Dairy products - butter, cheese, dried milk.
- (f) Pig products - bacon curing, pig bristles and leather.
- (g) Production of jams, preserves, dried and canned fruits.
- (h) Dried and canned vegetables - vegetable extracts and pickles.
- (i) Flour manufacture from maize, and other cereals.
- (j) Oil extraction from soja beans, peanuts, linseed, castor oil, tung oil, etc.

11.

- (k) Manufacture of twine, ropes, mats, bags from hemp and jute fibres.
- (l) Sugar molasses, etc., from sugar cane.
- (m) Making of building materials, bricks, slates, limos, etc.

(5) Settlement Development:

It is understood that before the three spheres of economic activity as outlined previously could be fully developed, the pioneers would have to embark on a program of public works, devoted to the laying of the foundations of settlement.

The following are probably the objectives of the initial stage of development:

(a) Housing:

There are existent in the area natural resources suitable for building material. Deposits of limestone are common and could be utilized to make mortar, plaster, etc., while clay suitable for the manufacture of bricks is available. Quantities of stone, chiefly limestone, sandstone, jasper and basalt could be readily quarried and utilized for building purposes. Slates for roofing material occur in quantity.

Although the country is not heavily timbered, thickets of cypress pins, various eucalypt species and others exist, and could supply timber suitable for building.

(b) Roads:

The building of roads would not prove difficult, for several reasons: The topography of the country is open, with few hills to be passed; there is an abundance of road-material in the form of stone; and in certain areas especially on the sandy country, the soil itself forms good roads. The chief obstructions are rivers and creeks.

(c) Fencing:

The establishment of paddocks in the pastoral areas, and to a lesser extent in the agricultural areas, would require a system of fencing before stock be introduced.

Of the two existing types of fencing (using timber or metal posts) it would be more economical to use the metal post, as timber in these areas is subject to deterioration by termites.

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(d) Irrigation:

A complicated system of irrigation, involving the damming of rivers and establishment of reticulation channels is contemplated in the later stages of development but for the beginning it would be preferable to develop small schemes of pumping water by windmills, either from wells, bores, or river pools to storage tanks, and then reticulated by gravitation. About twelve windmills pumping units already exist on the areas concerned.

(e) Central Power:

The huge volume of water which flows annually down the rivers could be converted into electric power. From a central station electric power could be distributed for driving pumping units, refrigerators, light, etc.

(6) Scientific Research:

In the preceding paragraphs an analysis has been made of the industries, both primary and secondary, which appear as possibilities for development within the settlement. These recommendations must be confirmed by scientific research work.

In such a settlement plan, economic progress, without a scientific basis, would be impossible.

The establishment of centres of scientific inquiry associated with both primary and secondary industries should proceed concurrently with the other spheres of public work.

In the initial stages, soil, vegetational and topographical surveys would be of first importance, followed by the establishment of special experiment farms, where problems of crop and animal husbandry, plant diseases, insect pests, etc., would be investigated.

The experimental farm should form the nucleus of the village or collective unit of settlement, rendering services to the settlers in the form of advice on crops and stock problems, distributing pedigreed stock and plant seeds and giving general advice to farmers and pastoralists in regard to their problems.

In the industrial sphere, too, development will of necessity proceed by way of the channels defined by scientific work.

(7) Transport and Marketing:

At present, the transport facilities may be described as poor, in any case inadequate for a system of close settlement.

Wyndham, the port of the district, and only 50 miles

distant from Ivanhoe homestead, offers a good harbor and at present ships of 10,000 tons call into the town. The service is bi-weekly, but with further incentive, no doubt the service would be improved to cope with increased trade. Another outlet with distinct possibilities is the Victoria River, which is navigable by small boats 300-400 tons, as far as the Victoria River Depot.

No construction of roads has been done, except for the laying of stone crossings in some of the creeks and rivers. As mentioned previously, however, the building of good roads would not be difficult. Further, it is considered that the development of road transport would be more economical than contemplating a line of railways, which would present far more difficulties and involve far greater expenses.

The development of aerial transport in the form of the Flying Doctor scheme, and the Perth-Darwin, Daly Waters Service has done much to bring the area in closer touch with other parts of Australia and the other countries of the world. It is not too much to foresee the further development of rapid transport of light goods and passengers by aerial service.

With the creation of a surplus, above requirements of the settlement, of products both primary and manufactured, the problem of marketing is introduced.

Taking into account the extensive imports into Western Australia, there appear to be distinctive possibilities that potential markets, especially for manufactured goods, exist in the southern populated areas of the State, and that a profitable trade between the North and South could be developed to the benefit of both.

The proximity of densely populated countries to the north and the development of Darwin as an airport and defence station, both offer possible markets.

It is further felt that by improving the quality of the exports, particularly in regard to the beef industry, the area could participate favorably in the overseas markets.

(8) Organisation:

To accomplish the ideas suggested, it is necessary from the outset that organized administration in the form of a central body be established. The function of such a body would be:

- (1) To associate the various spheres of industry.
- (2) To control and direct the activities of the individual settlers.
- (3) To direct the economic policy generally of the settlement.

The success of the community will depend as much on the organising ability and foresight of this body as on the endeavours and good heart of the settlers.

FREELAND

TERRITORIALIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA FOR JEWISH COLONIZATION

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March 21 1944

Please reply to:
444 Central Park West
New York City, N. Y.

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jun.
Secretary of the Treasury,
Treasury Building,
Washington, D.C.

File
J. Steinberg

Dear Mr. Morgenthau,

It is my first pleasant duty on my return home to New York to express to you my sincere thanks for the sympathetic attention you have given to my cause during our conversation last Tuesday in Washington. It is most gratifying to know that this cause - of a Jewish planned colonization in the North-West of Australia - might some time become reality, in our time. I left your room with a feeling of encouragement and remembering particularly your father's historic achievement in connection with another great humanitarian project of migration and resettlement of hundreds of thousands of unhappy people.

As arranged, I am sending a memorandum on our scheme to the War Refugee Board at hand of Mr. J.W. Pehle, and I hope that you will see your way clear to meet Mr. John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia, and to mention to him our problem. The voice of the United States on the great sufferings of Jewry in Europe will, no doubt, be listened to by Australia.

Thanking you again,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J. Steinberg
Dr. I.N. Steinberg

INS/as

000524

March 7, 1944

Dear Dr. Steinberg:

This is to acknowledge receipt of
your letter of March 5, 1944.


If you will call my office upon
your arrival in Washington I shall be glad
to arrange an appointment for you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Dr. I. N. Steinberg,
444 Central Park West,
New York City, New York.

 JWP:mgt 3/7/44

000525

DR. I. N. STEINBERG

444 Central Park West
New York City, N.Y.
March 5 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle,

You will recall that on February 8 you wrote me about Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger's letter to the Secretary of the Treasury and your readiness to discuss with me the Kimberley scheme for a Jewish settlement in the North-West of Australia. I wrote you in reply that I would get in touch with you as soon as I knew when I could next come to Washington, as I too am most anxious to tell you of the plan.

I shall be in Washington during the days of March 13-15 and I would be grateful if you could let me know when during that week it would be convenient for you to see me.

Hoping to hear from you,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

I. Steinberg

INS/as

000526

Columbus 5-0963

FREELAND

TERRITORIALIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA FOR JEWISH COLONIZATION

1819 BROADWAY, Suite 701

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

233

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INITIAL *E. N. Steinberg*

DATE *3/17/44*

Please reply to:
444 Central Park West
New York City, N.Y.
February 12 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle,

I just received your letter of February 8 and I am very glad indeed that I shall have the opportunity to discuss with you the plans of the Freeland League. I feel happy that the President has created an agency where the vital problems of the dispossessed peoples of Europe can be frankly and effectively dealt with.

I shall try to get to Washington as soon as possible and I shall permit myself to inform you of the date in good time.

Sincerely yours,

I. N. Steinberg
Dr. I. N. Steinberg

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The New York Times
Times Square

ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER
PUBLISHER

1384
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February 11, 1944

Handwritten signature

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Thanks for your
letter of February 8th. I hope
you will be as well impressed by
Dr. Steinberg and his story as I
was.

Faithfully yours,

Arthur Hays Sulzberger

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Exec. Dir., War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C.

L

000528

February 8, 1944

My dear Mr. Sulzberger:

Your letter of February 2, 1944, addressed to Secretary Morgenthau, with regard to Dr. I. Steinberg has been referred to me.

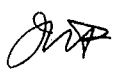
This is to advise you that I am writing this day to Dr. Steinberg asking him to confer with me the next time he is in Washington.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director.

Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger,
Publisher, The New York Times,
Times Square,
New York, New York.

 JWPehle:lh 2/8/44

000529

February 8, 1944.

Dear Dr. Steinberg:

Mr. Arthur Hays Sulzberger,
publisher of The New York Times, recently
wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury
concerning your work in connection with
the Free Land League.


The next time you are coming to
Washington I would like to discuss your work
with you. I suggest you call my office for
an appointment when you are planning to come.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director.

Dr. I. Steinberg,
444 Central Park West,
New York, New York.

 JWP:1hh 2/8/44

000530

The New York Times
Times Square

ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER
PUBLISHER

February 2, 1944

Dear Henry:

You will recall that you telephoned me the other day about the President's War Refugee Board and I think you will agree that we took care of the matter. Now I am coming back at you, saying the same thing to you as you said to me, namely, that I haven't bothered you on many occasions either. I have no hesitancy in doing this, however, because I speak for others than myself, and I know that was the way you felt when you called me.

Some months ago, Dr. I. Steinberg came to see me. He had just arrived from Australia to which country he had gone four years before under the auspices of the Free Land League, of London, of which Sir Robert Waley Cohen is Chairman. As I understand it, the Free Land League was organized for the purpose of trying to find places in the world to which refugees of Jewish faith could go in order to escape some of the difficulties of life in Central Europe. Dr. Steinberg, as I said, was in Australia for four years, and met with considerable success in his preliminary investigations - both scientific and political - which were all directed to the purpose of establishing a colony for Jews on non-political lines. The area selected and the details of how far his investigations have taken him I should like to leave for him to tell you himself.

I have had several conversations with Dr. Steinberg. I am impressed with his integrity and his outlook, and have no hesitancy in saying that even in your busy schedule a few minutes set aside for him would assist the general problem to which the President has now directed you.

Dr. Steinberg is anxious, also, to see Mr. Hull and, if possible, the President, and I wonder if, after you have talked with him and have found your reactions to that conversation as favorable as mine have been, you would facilitate such meetings. He has already met persons like Myron Taylor and Isaiah Bowman, and in case you want to check with them before making a definite appointment with Dr. Steinberg that is always possible. He is living at 444 Central Park West, New York, and my suggestion is that you communicate directly with him.

With all good wishes, I am,

Faithfully yours,



Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.
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