Cooperation with Other Governments: United Nations: Australia
CROSS REFERENCE ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS:
UNITED NATIONS (AUSTRALIA)

FOR:

Amendment to this License .................................. □
Extension of this License .................................. □
Renewal of this License .................................. □
Correspondence concerning this application ........... □
Other (Specify) .................................................. □

1. FOR MATERIAL RE CHILDREN FROM FRANCE TO SWITZERLAND, ON THE PROMISE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO GRANT THEM ENTRY WHEN TRANSPORTATION CAN BE FOUND.

2. For Material Concerning Proposed Colonization of Jews in Australia.

SEE: 1. PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF AND RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVACUATION TO SWITZERLAND (EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)

2. STEINBERG, I. (DR.)
Urge Haven
For Jews
In Australia

Sir Norman Angell, British public
lender and Nobel prize winner, will
address a meeting tonight at 100
E. 37th St. to further the cause
of a haven for Jews in Australia.
The Peaceful League, sponsor
of the meeting, said that many
eminent Australian labor leaders
and the Tasmanians and West
Australian governments were on
record in favor of establishing
such a haven.

Prof. Sidney Hook and Dr. T.E.
Primrose, general secretary of
the Peaceful League, will also
address the meeting which is to be
held in the auditorium of the
Hotel Lawrence.
AUSTRALIA PLANNING ADULT IMMIGRATION

By Winfield in The New York Times

CANBERRA, Australia, Dec. 13
Joseph J. Catterson, Minister for the Interior, commenting today on a statement by Stanley M. Bruton, High Commissioner in London, that Australia's proposal to bring 17,000 child migrants from overseas countries annually was part of a larger immigration program, said discussions were proceeding in London with representatives of Britain and other governments from whose countries Australia might obtain suitable adult immigrants.

The Government, he said, would attempt to bring acceptable people from all available sources after the war.

A proposal to establish a Jewish colony in the Kimberley Division of western Australia has been rejected, it is said, because the Opposition does not favor large groups of foreign nationals being established in any one area. The most important and most influential section of the

DEC 13 1944
JEWISH COLONY BANNED

London Told Australia Proposed Separate Settlements

By Michael T. T. in Washington D.C.

CAMBRIDGE, Australia, Nov. 17 - A committee of Commonwealth officials has advised the Australian government to refuse permission for the establishment of a Jewish settlement in the Kimberley division of northwestern Australia. It is known that Prime Minister John Curtin and other senior ministers disapprove of the establishment of large foreign communities anywhere in Australia, feeling that they would tend to create racial and foreign-speaking subsections.

There will be no discrimination against Jewish immigrants, but all immigrants will be settled under conditions encouraging them to merge with the native-born population.
Secretary of State,  
Washington.  

August 8, 4:10 p.m.

With reference to Department's circular telegram dated August 12, 1944, 8 p.m., concerning a haven for children from Hungary there is quoted below the text of a letter dated August 25, 1944, from Mr. W. D. Fosyth, officer in charge of refugee questions at the Department of External Affairs:

"With reference to your letter of 18th August concerning children from Hungary, the following is the position:

"There is no general undertaking by the Australian Government to provide asylum for refugee children. The Australian Government has so far approved the admission of 300 refugee children from France for whose welfare organisations in Australia have undertaken responsibility, but it has not been possible to obtain passage to Australia. The question of our agreeing to admit children from Hungary has been raised with us recently, but in view of the fact that it has not yet been possible to arrange transport for the children from France there is some doubt as to the utility of approving the admission of children from Hungary. We propose, however, to inquire in London whether approval would serve any useful purpose even if transport remains unobtainable."

JOHNSON
Excerpt from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Sunday, May 14, 1944

Australian Government Agrees to Admit Jewish Refugee Children

Canberra, Australia, May 12. (JTA) -- The Australian Government today advised the Welfare Guardian Society here that it will permit the entry of 100 Jewish refugee children. The young refugees will receive agricultural training under the supervision of the society. Twenty refugee boys were admitted some time ago, and their achievements convinced the government that it would be advisable to admit others.
April 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

J.W.P. and L.S.L. discussed the Australian colonization plan with Assistant Secretary of State Berle on April 22. A copy of Department's 40 to Canberra, April 12, was left with Mr. Berle who indicated his willingness to apprise Prime Minister Curtin of this Government's interest in the project.

co-Miss Laughlin
The Legation has sent a formal note to the minister for External Affairs stressing the urgency of the refugee question which has also been discussed formally with members of the Department of External Affairs (reference Department’s telegram No. 40 of April 14, 10 a.m. embodying a message from the War Refugee Board). A reply stating the position of the Australian Government is promised at as early a date as possible. I, however, anticipate considerable delay as questions raised involve basic governmental policy on migration. The duties of the Inter-Governmental Committee referred to in my airgram No. A-6 of February 17, 1 p.m. do not include war time relief problems. The immediate question must be referred to the Minister for the Interior who will probably wish to take it to cabinet. The Prime Minister’s absence will doubtless delay action, so I believe approach to him in Washington might be useful. For background
-2-, 3/46, April 21, 11 a.m. from Canberra.

I suggest my aircrew A-36 of December 3, 1943, 1 p.m. be made available to the War Refugee Board.

UNSIGNED.

EHB
REFERENCE

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

MINISTERS

CANBERRA

FOR THE MINISTER FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your airgram A-6 February 24, 1944.

The principal means of assisting in the rescue of victims of enemy oppression and persecution is to offer the neutral nations contiguous to enemy-controlled territory effective and concrete guarantees that such refugees will not in large numbers remain after the war. By this means such neutrals may be induced to receive at this crucial time increased numbers of refugees. Thus, the Governments of the United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Norway, Greece, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Netherlands and the French Committee have already agreed in principle that each of them will receive after the war its nationals who have fled to asylum in other countries and to assure such conditions in enemy countries as will permit the return thereto of all persons who have fled therefrom to refuge elsewhere. Obviously, however, it is probable that a number of refugees will not as a practical matter be able or willing for a variety of reasons to return to their former homes. Just how large this number will be is uncertain, but the neutral countries above referred to are aware of this probability and for this reason hesitate freely to admit refugees seeking asylum.

In
In an effort partially at least to solve this problem the Department has authorized American consular officers in Switzerland to issue up to 4,000 visas to refugee children of any nationality and regardless of stateless status arriving in Switzerland from France during the first six months of 1944. The Department has further stated its intention, within the limits of the quota law, to replace such visas as they expire until at least six months after the war. Similar provision is about to be made for the issuance of an additional 1,000 visas to refugee children escaping from France to Spain.

You are requested to advise appropriate officials of the Australian government of the foregoing and to inquire whether the Australian government will take action parallel to our own. In this connection, you may wish to advise such officials that the War Refugee Board is gratified by the recent increase to an aggregate of 300, the number of refugee children that it has been announced Australia will receive.

In this connection, however, it is of interest that it was authoritatively reported here in December 1938 that the Australian government announced that it would receive 15,000 European refugees over a three year period. It is our understanding that approximately only 6500 refugees were received pursuant to that program. Accordingly,
Accordingly, you are requested to inquire as to the present status of such program, and if the same is still operative, to approach appropriate officials of the Australian government with the suggestion that that fact be made known to Switzerland, Spain and Turkey as an inducement to them to receive additional refugees. If you are informed that the program is no longer in operation, please approach appropriate officials of the Australian government in an effort to secure its revival.

The War Refugee Board has been approached in connection with a project to colonize European Jews in Northwestern Australia known as the Kimberley Project. We are advised that on March 31, 1943, J. J. Holloway, Australian Minister for Social Services and Health wrote with respect to this project: "The West Australian government had agreed and the Federal Government were giving favorable consideration to the project when the war put all projects, other than war, on one side. The project appears also, from letters made available to the War Refugee Board, to have had the support as recently as a year ago of the Anglican Archbishop of Perth, the Presbyterian Moderator General, the Methodist President General, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Please make appropriate inquiries to determine whether anything is being done at the present time to further or to ascertain the feasibility of this project."
On October 28, 1943, the War Refugee Board is informed, Prime Minister Curtin wrote concerning it: "NOTE The whole question of immigration into Australia, particularly having regard to the conditions that will exist at the conclusion of hostilities is one that requires to be fully explored from all aspects. Plans are at present in progress to set up a Committee to study the various phases of the general problem and, until recommendations are made by that body, the Government is not in a position to formulate a definite policy. UNQUOTE. Please ascertain and advise the Department whether such a Committee has been constituted and, if so, whether it has made any study of the Kimberley project and its practicability.

The War Refugee Board is of the view that the mere knowledge that a concrete proposal such as the Kimberley project is receiving serious study by an Australian governmental committee on immigration matters might be some aid in further opening neutral borders to refugees from enemy-controlled territories and thus in saving the lives of many. It is with this thought in mind therefore that we suggest you make the inquiry above indicated. You may make this view of the War Refugee Board known in appropriate quarters if the occasion should arise and you deem it advisable to do so. Consideration is being given to the advisability of discussing the Kimberley project and other refugee problems with Prime Minister Curtin."

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April 12, 4 p.m., to Canberra.

Curtin during his forthcoming visit to the United States. Please keep the Department advised.

You have requested clarification of work contemplated by the War Refugee Board and clarification of its connection with IGC and UNRRA.

UNRRA and IGC are both international in character, while the War Refugee Board is an organization of the United States set up to carry out the policies of the United States Government. The War Refugee Board has been created for speedy action and is dedicated to measures to secure withdrawal of victims of oppression from enemy or enemy-occupied territory and where that is not possible, to measures to alleviate their condition. The War Refugee Board is prepared to render every assistance to both UNRRA and IGC in any projects they have undertaken or will undertake with the view to bring about the speedy rescue of victims of enemy oppression.

At the moment Sir Herbert Emmerson and Patrick M. Malin are in the United States to discuss relationships.
Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser,
Assistant Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lesser,

I have just received here a press clipping from Australia, from the Melbourne "Jewish News", which contains some information regarding the Australian promise in 1938 to admit 15,000 refugees. Here is a copy of it, as I think it can be useful to you as a follow-up on the other material I sent you.

With kind regards,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. I.N. Steinberg

INS/as
Immediate Admission of 9,000 Jewish Refugees to Australia Sought

Jessie Street's Recommendations.

Those who attended the first public meeting of the Australian Palestine Committee in Sydney will remember that Jessie Street, President of the United Associateds of Women, telling the assembly that she is arranging a deputation to the Prime Minister which would submit to him her four resolutions, endorsed by the organisations represented in the separation.

In the meantime the following bodies have associated themselves with the United Associations of Women in endorsing the recommendations: The British Empire Union, the Christian Social Order Movement, the Australian United Nations Assembly, the World Jewish Congress, the New Education Fellowship, the State Labour Party and Communist Party of Australia, the Fellowship of Australian Writers and the Council for Women in War Work.

By courtesy of Mrs. Jessie Street we are in the position to publish here the wording of the recommendations.

1. In view of the process of extermination of the Jewish population of Europe, which is being carried out systematically by the Nazis, we urge the Commonwealth Government without further delay to resume the implementation of their undertaking made at the Evian Conference in 1938 to give asylum to 15,000 Jewish refugees, the implementation of which was interrupted by the outbreak of war and whereas 7,000 of this quota has already been admitted to Australia, we ask that immediate arrangements should be made for the admission of the balance of 8,000 Jewish refugees so that they may escape slaughter.

2. In view of the great volume of transport which is now available, we urge the Commonwealth Government to make representations to the British and United States Governments to make available the maximum shipping space possible for the evacuation of European Jews to those countries prepared to give them asylum.

3. In view of the proximity and accessibility of Palestine to Europe, we request the Commonwealth Government to make urgent representations to the British Government to open immediately the doors of Palestine to as many European Jewish refugees as are able to escape to that country.

4. We urge upon the Commonwealth Government the necessity for an immediate and scientific study of (a) the problem of immigration into Australia, with the purpose of introducing a far-sighted and virile immigration policy; (b) educating Australian public opinion about the enforced removal and persecution of whole populations in other parts of the world, so that Australia may not fail in her duties and obligations in a most important part of post-war reconstruction.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 1944

To: Mr. Pehle

From: Mr. Mann

Mr. Stewart of the Australian Section in the State Department was unable to say just when Prime Minister Curtin would arrive in Washington. He thought, however, that it would be between April 24th and 28th since Curtin had to be in London by May 1st to attend a meeting. It is planned that Curtin will pass through Washington on his way back to Australia. Such return should be before the end of May and it is contemplated that he will spend more time than on his journey through to London. Stewart stated that he might be here two or three weeks. I gather that there are still many uncertainties concerning Curtin's travel arrangements, means of getting to London, etc., which, if he were required to resort to boat travel would probably move up his first appearance in Washington by several days.

Mannisd

300733
March 22, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Lesser:

According to your request I am enclosing a photostat from the New York Times of Dec. 2, 1938. It concerns the announcement by the Australian Government on the admission of 15,000 Jewish Refugees. I am glad I was able to be helpful to you in this case.

I am taking the opportunity to thank you for all the sympathy and understanding you have shown during our conversations. The Memorandum on the Kimberley scheme is in preparation and will be sent to the War Refugee Board within the next few days.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Dr. Steinberg

444 Central Park W
New York City

Please reply to:
Dr. Steinberg
444 Central Park W
New York City
Dr. I. N. Steinberg
444 Central Park West
New York 25, N. Y.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.
AUSTRALIA TO TAKE 15,000 REFUGEES

An initial, 3-Year Period in Careful Selection, Minister Tells House

ENGLAND CHILDREN'S GOAL

British Jews' Committee Now in Reich Plans to Remove 5,000 Under 17—300 Leave

REPUBLICAN NEW YORK TIMES CALLED ON TO HELP CATHOLIC

Largest of the Inter-urban New York Traction Lines, the Republican was called on to help Catholics under the "Naz-Aryan" law. The law was designed to prevent the employment of non-Catholics.

OPPRESSION SCARED

By British Faiths

Lenders of Principal Ones and Three Parties Denounce Persecution at Rally

ALLIES' POLICY IS BLAMED

Cardinal Verdier and French Protestant Council Also Issue Strong Protests

Clearance!
Men's Clothing greatly reduced

The extended season is responsible for this amazing opportunity to save money on Fine Suits and Overcoats. Numerous stocks of Quality Garments await your choosing—the handloomed woolens, the cashmere styling, the finest tailoring—atraditional price reductions which deserve your immediate attention.
CLEARANCE!

Men's Clothing

greatly reduced

The retarded season is responsible for this amazing opportunity to save money on Fine Suits and Overcoats. Enormous stocks of Quality Garments await your choosing—the handsomest models, the newest styling, the latest fabrics—all reduced prices, and the most immediate attention.

**OVERCOATS**

27.75
Reg to $40

33.75
Reg to $55

39.75
Reg to $65

54.50
Reg to $100

**DOMESTIC FABRICS**

**MEN'S SUITS**

22.75
Reg to $25

27.75
Reg to $35
AUSTRALIAN SEES COUNTRY AS WAR REFUGEE HAVEN

A considerable expansion of Australian industry and commerce after the war was predicted last night by Arthur O'Connor of the Australian War Supplies Mission in an address before the Glover Park Citizen's Association.

Pointing out that Australia's land area is equal to that of the United States, Mr. O'Connor, a former Australian newspaperman, said considerable numbers of refugees could be settled there after the war. Following his talk Mr. O'Connor showed several films depicting Australia's part in the war.

Jesse L. Coen, acting president of the association, announced that a membership drive would be launched in the area. The meeting was held at the Stoddart School.
Secretary of State,
Washington.

Reference Department's circular airgram of
January 26, 1944, 7 p.m., relating to establishment
of War Refugee Board.

A preliminary survey of the situation as it
exists today with regard to the points raised on
page 2 of the Department's airgram shows the follow-
ing:

(1) The Australian Government is not interested
in taking any initiative looking toward ad-
mittance of refugees, or in receiving or
assisting them. The Government's Inter-
departmental Committee on Migration is con-
cerned primarily with post-war migration
problems (see my airgram A-38 of December 6,
1943, 1 p.m.), and it has not as yet reached
a stage where it is even nearly ready to
present its recommendations to Cabinet.

(2) The Australian Government belongs to the
Intergovernmental Committee set up as a
result of the Evian Conference of 1938,
and has indicated to its representatives
overseas that it wishes to have membership
on the UNRRA Pacific Regional Sub-committee
on displaced persons.

(3) The Australian Government has approved in
principle of payment of its share of ex-
penes for the Intergovernmental Committee
established as a result of the Evian Con-
ference, but is unwilling to commit itself
to payment of a share of expenses for the
relief and maintenance of refugees until it
has some idea of what is involved.

(4)
(4) (a) The Australian Government has just announced that it will admit 150 Jewish children from Switzerland. This 150 is in addition to a similar number for whom permission was granted over a year ago but who have not been able to get to Australia. These children are to be the full responsibility of the Australian Jewish Welfare Association which, with its allied associates in Great Britain, has made the arrangements. The children have been or are to be admitted to Switzerland from France, on the undertaking of the Australian Government to grant them entry when transportation can be found.

(b) Over a year ago the Commonwealth Government agreed to admit a small group of Poles from Russia on the understanding, apparently unwritten, that Poland would repatriate these persons after the war, paying all expenses. The arrangement for these persons is said to have been made by the Polish Consul General in Sydney. The Poles are supposed to have reached Iran, but nothing further is known of the matter.

(5) The Department of Post-War Reconstruction is perturbed by the attitude of the Interior Department towards admission of refugees and assistance to refugees during the war. Post-War Reconstruction fears that lack of an active interest in this question, combined with a feeling, as expressed in letters from refugees now resident in Australia, that they wish to leave Australia as soon as they can after the war (a feeling apparently reflected in censorship excerpts), will discourage the desired movement of migrants to Australia after the war.

(6) With regard to the lettered questions on page 2 of the Department's airframe, I have concluded
concluded that, except as indicated in (5) above, Australia's interest in the relief of refugees is limited to potential immigrants for the post-war period (if these immigrants prove to be of the type desired by the Government) and that, while not deliberately turning back refugees at the border, the Government does not encourage them. Small groups will be admitted only if some non-Australian Government agency will accept full responsibility for them.

Shortage of transportation is advanced, with some justification, as a reason for regarding admission of more than an occasional individual refugee into Australia during the war as a purely theoretical question.

(7) Australia's interest in wishing to be on various international committees dealing with refugee problems is partly a matter of prestige and partly a fear of appearing to be disinterested in the humanitarian side of the question.

The member of my staff who discussed the above matters with the representatives on the Australian Interdepartmental Committee on Migration of the Departments of External Affairs, the Interior, the Treasury and Post-War Reconstruction found everywhere a tendency to pass the buck. There is apparently no directing body. Representation abroad is in the hands of External Affairs, admission to Australia in the hands of the Interior, and financial commitments in the hands of the Treasury, which evinces its usual desire to keep its hand on all sides of the problem.

Discussion with the Australian Government Departments would be facilitated if the Legation could be given more detailed information with regard to:

(1)
A-6 Canberra

(1) the connection between the Evian Committee and the regional sub-committees on displaced persons of the UNRRA, and the War Refugee Board; and

(2) the actual type of work which it is contemplated will be undertaken by the War Refugee Board.

Further information on the subject matter of this airgram will be submitted shortly when more extensive inquiries have been completed.

JOHNSON