Cooperation with Other Governments: United Nations: Australia

## CROSS REFERENCE ON CQOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS: UNITED NATIONS (AUSTRALIA)

- 1. FOR MATERIAL RE CHILDREN FROM FRANCE TO SWITZERLAND, ON THE PROMISE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO GRANT THEM ENTRY WHEN TRANSPORTAT 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 SWITZE LAND (EVACUATION OF ABANDONED CHILDREN FROM FRANCE)
  - 2. STEINBERG, I. (DR.)

New York Post JAN 1 7 1945

JAN 1 7 1945

Linge Haven
For Jews
In Australia
Sir Norman Angell, British publicist and Nobel prize winner, will address a meeting tonlight at 100 E. 17th St. to further, the cause of a haven for Jews in Australia. The Freeland League, sponsor of the meeting, sald that many eminent Australians, labor leaders and the Tasmanlan, and West Australian governments were on record in favor of establishing such a haven.
Prof. Sidney Hook and Dr. 1 N. Steinberg, general secretary of the Freeland League, will also iddress the meeting which is to be led in the auditorium of Local St. H.GWU.

## The New York Times. DEC 1 3 1944

AUSTRALIA PLANNING
ADULT IMMIGRATION

By Weless to Yan New Yoar Pass.
CANDEBRA. Australla, Dec. 12
Joseph S. Collings, Minister of the Interior, commenting today on a statement by Stanley M. Bruce, High Commissioner in London, that Australia's proposal to bring 17,000 child migrants from overseas countries annually was part of a large immigration project, said discussions were proceeding in London, with representatives of Britain and other Governments from whose countries Australia and other Governments from whose countries Australia for the first of the sugar growing community.

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

A proposal to establish a Jeyrish colony in the Kimberly division of western Australia has been rejected because the Government does not favor large groups of foreign nationals being established in any one place. The most important and most influential section of the

## Che New Hork Times. NOV 1 8 1944

## JEWISH COLONY BANNED

JEWISH COLONY BANNED

London Told Austalia Opposes
Separate Settlements

Rywireles to The New York Thet.

CANDERRA, Australia, Nov. 17

A committee of Commonwealth officials has advised the Australian Government to refuse permission for the establishment of a Jawish settlement in the Kimberley division of northwestern Australia. It is known that Frime Minister John Curtin and other senior Ministers disapprove of the establishment of large foyeign communities anywhere in Australia, feeling that they would be not discrimination and triegra-speaking minorities.

There will be no discrimination againt Jewish immigrants, but all immigrants will be settled underconditions encouraging them, to merge with the native-born population.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1944 SEP 13 AM IO 00

AI RGRAN

From

OGBARDIBUATIONS AND RECORDS (LIAISON)

Canberra

Date Santember 4, 1944

Recd Se Marsher 12, 6p.m.

Secretary of State, Washington

A-34 September 4, 4.10 p.m.

With reference to Department's circular telegram dated August 12, 19/4, 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. Forsyth, 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 "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 whom welfare organisations in Australia have undertaken responsibility, but it has not been possible to obtain passages 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 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.

JOHNS ON

JM./vr

australia

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

## Australian Government Agrees to Admit Jewish Refugee Children

Camberra, 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.

or-Miss Laughlin

## CONTROL COPY

GAIY-846
This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency. (BR)

5. Wan Refuger Bd (priple)

Dated April 21, 1944
Rec'd 10:25 a.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

DIVISION OF AIR 22 194;

48, April 21, 11 atm. My RicoGrag

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).  $\Lambda$  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

"In.

-2-, #48, April 21, 11 a.m. from Canberra.

I suggest my airgram A-36 of December 6, 1943,

1 p.m. be made available to the War Refugee Board.

UNSIGNED.

El:IB

This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to enyene other than a Covernment Ageneyo (1211)

4 pomo

AMLEGATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF 

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

CANDERRA.

FOR THE MINISTER FROM THE WAR REFUGEE BUARD.

Reference your airgram A-6 February 24, 1944.

2 s principal means of assisting in the rescus of victims of enedy oppression and persecution is to offer the neutral nations configuous to enemy-controlled territory effective and concrete Bo 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 in principle agreed that each of them will receive after the war its nationals who have fled to asylums 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 cooking asylum.

In

-2-#40, April 12, 4 p.m., to Camberra.

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,

-3-#40, april 12, 4 p.m., to Canberra.

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 is an inducement to them to receive additional refugees. If you is informed that the program is no longer in operation, please appropriate officials of the Australian government in an offort to secure its revival.

The War Refugee Board has been approached in connection with a proget s to colonize European Jews in Northwestern Australia known: the Kimberley Project. We are advised that on March 31, 1943, 1. J. Holloway, Australian Himister for Social Services and Health 1960 with respect to this project: QUOTE The West Australian government had agreed and the Federal Government were giving Avorable consideration to the project when the war put all projects, other than war, on one side. UNQUOTE The project appears also, Thom letters made available to the War Refugee Board, to have had the support as recently as a year ago of the Anglican Archbishop of Peris, the Presbyterian Moderator General, the Methodist President General, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Australianian 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.

40, April 12, 4 p.m., to Camberra.

On October 28, 1943, the Mar Refugee Board is informed, Prime Minister Curtin wrote concerning it: 200TE 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

-5-#40, 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 Refuges 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.

BC

(GIM)

MRB:GLM:KG 4/8/44

SICR

COlumbus 5-0963

## "Camp

## TERRITORIALIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA FOR JEWISH COLONIZATION

1819 BROADWAY, Suite 701 NEW YORK, N. Y.

> Please reply to: 444 Central Park West New York City, N.Y. March 31 1944.

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser, Assistant Executive Director, War Refugee Baord, 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

11 11 7 7

australia

CUPY

Meloourne "JEWISH NEWS"

February 11. 1944

Immediate Admission of 9,000 Jewish Refugees

to Australia Southt

Jessie Street's decommendations.

Those who attended the First Public Meeting of the Australian Palestine Committee in Sydney will remember Prs. Jessie Street, President of the United Associations of Women, telling the assembly that she is arranging a deputation to the Prime Minister which would submit to him four resolutions, endersed by the organizations represented in the deputation.

In the meantime the following bodies have associated themselves with the United Associations of Women in endorsing the recommendations: The Fritish empire Union, the Christian Social Order Lovement, the Australian United Hations Assembly, the World Jewish Congress, the New Education Dellowship, 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 rosume 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 adultten 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.  $I_{\rm h}$  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 ungent representations to the British Government to open immediately the doors of Palestine to as many European Jewish refugees as are able to ascape to that country.
- 4. We urge upon the Commwealth 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 movements and persecution of whole populations in other parts of the world, so that Australia may not fail in her dutyles and obligations in a most important part of past-war reconstruction.

All the Landon Committee of the States of th

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.

Jam.

Mann: db

100033

COlumbus 5-0963

## FREELAND

## TERRITORIALIST LEAGUE OF AMERICA FOR JEWISH COLONIZATION

1819 BROADWAY, Suite 701 NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

> Please reply to: Dr. Steinberg 444 Central Park W New York Gity

March 22, 1944

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser, Aisstant 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 Kimberly scheme is in preparation and will be sent to the War Refugee Board within the next few days.

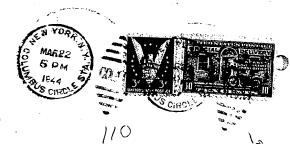
Sincerely yours

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pijd

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.

### ENGLAND CHILDREN'S GOAL

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

#### REFUGL AID PLEDGED BY CLOTHING INDUSTRY BY BRITISH FAITHS Manufecturers, Wholesalers and

Employes to Give \$620,000 Leaders of Principal Ones and Manufaturers and wholesalets of the cont and soft industry, representing an estimated 95 per cent of the country's total output, voted yesterday to assess themselves \$270,000 for nonsecturism aid of political refuges in Europe, Employes a the industry, it was reported at the meeting where the assessment was voted, plan to entrinder a days pay, or \$250,000, to the industry't refugee fund and 'white collar' workers are period to add 100,000 none, brins; ing the total to nearly \$825,000 from The assessment will range based \$125 to \$8,500 a from, the say based \$125 to \$8,500 a from, the say based Three Parties Denounce Persecution at Rally

ALLIES' POLICY IS BLAMED

Cardinal Verdier and French Protestant Council Also Issue Strong Protests

FIFTH.

### ARNOLD CONSTABLE

FIFTH AVEIUE AT 40TH

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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 woolens, the smartest styling, the finest tailoring!—at radical price reductions which deserve your immediate attention.

Fine In

dustries whose products minand a market inside de Australia. V quota would slightly internate at which permits its sud to refugees during half-year. The refugees distributed as widely as o facilitate their assimila-

leader of the Opposition.
Curtin, said that Australians
Lunhesitatingly accept the
tions under which refugees
admitted.

#### Children Going to England

ery board represented the confidence of the Charl Raibh. Or Joseph may be found the interest in the confidence of the assessment.

I down Frunkes, a New York coat as the leader of the Laberal party, part every form of action imanufacturer, is author of the pian.

#### CONSTABLE ARNOLD

NORTH AVE., NEW ROCHELLE

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OVERCOATS which feature single and couple by sylvaning Common 5 is common

Reg to 855 OVERCOATS of Imported and Domestic Woolers of outstanding quality.

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and Box Coats in the latest plain shades

and a notable selection of new patterns.

OVERCOATS of exquisite imported Workers from the British looms that sure where Note Frost custom tailors. And the Chestala and single or la epicastea Listes and Ragians.

EIETH Fine Im

> DOMESTIC FABRICS

Carps - australia

Clipping from the EVENING STAR, Washington, D. C. Saturday March 18, 1944.

## 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 Stoddert School.

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ia.

Canberra Date Recd

Secretary of State, Washington.

A-6

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 following:

- (1) The Australian Government is not interested in taking any initiative looking toward admittance of refugees, or in rescuing or assisting them. The Government's Interdepartmental Committee on Ligration is concerned numerically with post-ver migration 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 expenses for the Intergovernmental Committee established as a result of the Evian Conference, 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. 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 there entry when transportation can be found.
  - (b) Ever a year ago the Commonwealth Covernment agreed to admit a small group of Poles from Russia on the understanding, apparently unwritten, that Poland would repatriate those 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 lran, 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 now, 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 airgram, 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, admittance 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:

A-6 Camberra

- (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

RAK/vr