

Cooperation with Other Governments: United Nations: New Zealand

THE EVENING STAR, Washington, D.C.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1944

700 Homeless Children Reach New Zealand

By the Associated Press
WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Nov. 11.—More than 700 homeless children war refugees from Poland arrived in New Zealand yesterday as guests for the duration of the war.

Ranging in age from 8 years to the late teens, they had to see their homes at the outbreak of war and finally reached faraway Iran. At Teheran New Zealanders became interested in the children and invited

WAR REFUGEE BOARD RECORDS

No. 162. Voluntary Report.

American Legation,
Wellington, New Zealand.
June 20, 1944.

AIRMAIL

~~RESTRICTED AS MARKED~~

CONTROL COPY

POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION - NEW ZEALAND

Prepared by J. Jefferson Jones, III.

(Reference Legation's airmail despatch No. 251 dated April 5, 1944, on subject of POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION.)

ADMISSION OF POLISH REFUGEES: As the Department was informed in the Legation's despatch No. 251 of April 5, 1944, the New Zealand Government has determined to admit approximately 700 Polish refugees to New Zealand. An announcement was made to this effect to the press on June 2, 1944. The Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Sullivan) in making the announcement stated that the offer of the New Zealand Government had been gratefully accepted by the Polish Government and that arrangements were being made for a party of children accompanied by the necessary staff to proceed to New Zealand from Iran as soon as transportation could be obtained. Mr. Sullivan stated that the large majority of the party would be children and the remainder would consist of doctors, nurses, teachers, cooks and camp maintenance staff. A few of the children might be accompanied by their mothers. He said that the refugees would be placed in a camp in the Pahiatua area, in the southern central part of the North Island. There was no indication in the Acting Prime Minister's statement whether the Polish children were expected to remain in New Zealand permanently.

ACTIVITIES OF DOMINION SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION: The Dominion Settlement Association has continued to urge the adoption by the New Zealand Government of a planned immigration policy. While applauding the Government's decision to bring the 700 Polish refugees to the country, it has indicated that this action is merely a

first

first step in solving the New Zealand population problem by bringing into the country immigrants from the United Kingdom and certain other European nations. The Association sent a cable to the Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser) while he was in London to attend the Conference of Empire Prime Ministers, urging him to lay the foundation of a post-war plan to obtain a substantial number of United Kingdom and European war orphans since British adult immigrants were apparently not available.

STATEMENTS OF NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT POLICY: In a statement which appeared in the press on April 15, 1944, the Prime Minister said in reply to a letter addressed to him by the Dominion Settlement Association that during his visit to the United Kingdom the question of immigration from that country to New Zealand would be discussed and that his attitude on behalf of the Government would be that, following the settlement of New Zealand servicemen and women, a generous invitation would be extended to those of the Mother Country who desire to come to New Zealand. In reply to the telegram of the Dominion Settlement Association requesting that he take action to arrange for European orphans to come to New Zealand, it was reported in the daily newspapers that Mr. Fraser stated that inquiries were being made about the possibility of action being taken along the line suggested.

A summary of the New Zealand Prime Minister's statements in reference to immigration while in the United Kingdom, as reported in the press, is as follows:

New Zealand recognizes the importance of having a larger population not only for the development of the natural resources of the Dominion, upon which its high standard of living depends, but also for security reasons. However, until the immediate post-war economic situation is clarified, specially in regard to the extreme shortage of housing, it is not in a position to formulate plans for immigration to cover the period of demobilization and readjustment of industry following the cessation of hostilities. The New Zealand Government is emphatic that its first duty is housing and the rehabilitation of tens of thousands of New Zealand servicemen, and, until this duty is fulfilled, it could not encourage the belief that the country would be in a position immediately after the war to absorb large numbers of immigrants. If it may be possible under some planned system to bring to New Zealand quantities of machinery for various industrial enterprises then it would certainly be feasible and desirable to bring operatives with machines and assure them of good living prospects. The main difficulty of such a scheme is that the United Kingdom will be anxious to keep for its own immense task of reconstruction the very type of migrant who would be most useful in New Zealand.

EDITORIAL

RESTRICTED

EDITORIAL COMMENT: With the exception of the ultra-conservative newspaper, the DOMINION (Wellington), the daily newspapers in the Dominion generally have contrasted the vagueness of the immigration policy of New Zealand with the vigorous policy of Australia, and have expressed the opinion that the Government should immediately take steps to develop a carefully planned policy of encouraging immigration from selected countries. Several papers have pointed out that New Zealand would lose the opportunity of obtaining suitable immigrants from the United Kingdom because of its delay in establishing a policy, in contrast to the well-developed plans of the other Dominions. Several editorials express gratification at the recently announced plan of the Government to bring Polish refugee children to the Dominion and have approved the suggestion of the Prime Minister of facilitating the entry into New Zealand of British servicemen of the Royal Armoured Corps and 51st Highland Division who served alongside the New Zealand Division in Italy.

1/ It is rather surprising to find the DOMINION, which is perhaps the most consistently anti-Government of all the daily newspapers in the larger cities, belittling the possibilities of obtaining large numbers of immigrants. An editorial appearing in that paper on May 12, 1944 repeats the idea that the finest prospect for the sound development of New Zealand's population is the advancement of the birth rate. Perhaps the explanation for its stand is due to its opinion as indicated in the enclosed editorial that the chances of the migration of substantial numbers of British people to the Dominion are rather small. It is evidently not too enthusiastic over the immigration in large numbers of persons other than of British stock.

2/ One highly questionable viewpoint was expressed in the OBSERVER, a weekly review published in Auckland. The opinion was set forth in one of its recent issues that large numbers of American soldiers who had been stationed in New Zealand and who had come from agricultural districts in the United States would have noticed that the New Zealand farm worker receives almost four times as much as the farm owner receives in the United States. The article indicated that this fact was going to result sooner or later in pressure on the New Zealand Government by the United States for a liberal immigration policy of permitting North American agriculturists to enter New Zealand.

3-7/ As of interest to the Department there are enclosed several of the most acute editorials which have appeared in recent months.

EVALUATION: While admitting the desirability of a larger population in the Dominion, the Prime Minister in his public statements has always indicated that the rehabilitation of New Zealand servicemen was of primary importance. Another factor to be taken into

consideration

consideration is the growing concern in New Zealand¹ caused by the number of aliens, a great many of them refugees, who are engaged in business. As an evidence of this tendency, the press reported on May 27, 1944 that the New Zealand Manufacturers' Federation, at its quarterly conference in Christchurch, decided to request the Government to implement restrictive measures on the business activities of certain aliens in order to protect the interests of New Zealand servicemen both during the War and in the transitional period following its conclusion. In view of the preceding considerations, it is still doubtful that substantial numbers of immigrants will be brought into the Dominion, despite the efforts of the Dominion Settlement Association and other organizations to influence public opinion towards the realization of the necessity for a planned immigration policy by the New Zealand Government.

Approved:

Basil D. Dahl
Commercial Attache.

J. Jefferson Jones, III,
Third Secretary of Legation.

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JJJ/alj

LIST OF ENCLOSURES:

1. Editorial from THE DOMINION (Wellington) dated May 12, 1944.
2. Article from THE NEW ZEALAND OBSERVER (Auckland) dated February 16, 1944.
3. Editorial from THE AUCKLAND STAR (Auckland) dated May 9, 1944.
4. Editorial from THE PRESS (Christchurch) dated May 10, 1944.
5. Editorial from THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD (Auckland) dated May 12, 1944.
6. Editorial from THE OTAGO DAILY TIMES (Dunedin) dated May 13, 1944.
7. Editorial from THE PRESS (Christchurch) dated May 30, 1944.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

The Press.
The Dominion Settlement Association.

Hectograph to the Department.

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1. Legation's despatch No. 339 dated May 10, 1944, entitled TRANSMISSION OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS ON IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS.

Enclosure No. 1 to Voluntary Report No. 162 dated June 20, 1944, from the American Legation, Wellington, New Zealand, entitled POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION - NEW ZEALAND.

Source: THE DOMINION (Wellington) dated May 12, 1944.

IMMIGRATION AND WASTAGE

While it may be true that the subject of British post-war emigration to the Dominions has been placed high on the agenda of the Imperial Conference, the inference drawn from this by the London correspondent of the New York HERALD TRIBUNE (whose cabled comments were published last week) is extravagant. There are no reliable indications that "the post-war years will probably see the greatest emigration of young Britons to the Dominions since Queen Victoria's expansion programme." On the contrary it seems likely that Britain will approach the question of assisted emigration with the greatest caution, having regard to her own post-war need of a virile industrial population.

The realistic view of the problem is that put forward by the London DAILY MAIL in the statement that "migration must be planned and regulated, hateful though the idea may be." A surge of population from the Homeland to the Dominions, actuated by impulse and lacking any sound basis of economic adjustment, might be disastrous. Equally dangerous would be the adoption by the Dominions of an open-door policy as a means of relieving the overcrowding of European countries generally. New Zealand has had in recent years some considerable experience of alien immigration, and on the whole this has been far from encouraging, even at a time when the abilities possessed by such people can be employed to an abnormally wide extent. The post-war outlook for the city-dwelling alien who is a trader rather than a producer, and whose communal instincts are apt to run counter to those of people of British stock, is obscure.

It may well be the case that the type of British immigrants sought by this Dominion, as well as by others, will be rare -- especially so if the re-establishment of British manufacturing industries goes hand in hand with the present regeneration of British agriculture. Moreover, it is to be recognized that if British youth is seeking to break from Home traditions and find freedom of individual opportunity in Empire lands, this Dominion, with its political trend toward regimentation and State socialism, may have less to offer than most. The post-war expansion of our population, if it is to proceed with economic safety, will require to be gradual

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by comparison with the dreams conjured up in some quarters, both here and abroad.

Beyond any doubt, the finest prospect for the sound development of this Dominion's population is to be seen in the encouragement of natural immigration -- the advancement of the birth-rate. The fact that this is a long-term method especially commends it in view of the probable unsettlement of the immediate post-war era. It is a tragic anomaly that a country of small population, in which some suitable formula of immigration is being anxiously sought, should be vitally handicapped by the evil of abortion, practised -- in spite of such vigilance as the law is able to employ -- on a national scale. From time to time criminal abortion has been reported upon, but steps have yet to be taken to bring home to the public the true implications of that evidence. It is not generally recognized, for example, that the most recent disclosure of the number of cases of sepsis, arising from induced abortion, treated weekly in one of our public hospitals, provided an indication that abortion destroys, on a most conservative estimate, from 15,000 to 20,000 lives annually. In the light of such appalling national wastage, talk of planned immigration as a means of building up our population appears simply as a device of indolence. We must go deeper into the national conscience and spirit to find the soundest means of meeting our future needs as a young nation in a progressive new world.

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Enclosure No. 2 to Voluntary Report No. 162 dated June 20, 1944, from the American Legation, Wellington, New Zealand, entitled POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION - NEW ZEALAND.

Source: THE NEW ZEALAND OBSERVER (Auckland),
issue of February 16, 1944.

A POST-WAR POSSIBILITY

Here, I may draw the attention of interested parties to a repercussion (at some future moment) of the facts demonstrated by Mr. Clark's figures. Many thousands of American soldiers have seen New Zealand, and large numbers of them have come from agricultural districts in their own country. They will have noted that the New Zealand farm gives the worker on it about four times as much as the U.S.A. Farm does for its own occupant. This fact is going to give rise, sooner or later, to U.S.A. pressure for a liberal immigration policy of North American agriculturists into New Zealand.

It is also obvious that the U.S.A. is going to be in a specially favourable post-war position to bring pressure for the adoption of such a policy. I am not expressing (at the moment) any opinion as to the attitude New Zealand should take up in this matter. But the public should recognise that the issue indicated is going to be one of extreme importance in the post-war Pacific alignment of population.

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Enclosure No. 3 to Voluntary Report No. 162 dated June 20, 1944, from the American Legation, Wellington, New Zealand, entitled POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION - NEW ZEALAND.

Source: THE AUCKLAND STAR (Auckland), dated May 9, 1944.

PUTTING IT OFF

The reply given by the Prime Minister to questions asked him in London concerning New Zealand's immigration policy was the only kind of reply that he could have given honestly, but it will give no comfort to those who see in the Dominion's scanty population a question mark affecting her whole future. It is true, as Mr. Fraser said, that the Dominion's first obligation is to her own servicemen, and that they should be provided for first. Although nobody disputes the justice of this priority, it is right that it should be emphasised whenever immigration is discussed. Unfortunately, it seems that the existence of this prior obligation is being used as a reason for relegating immigration plans, and even the need to formulate anything that would deserve the description of an immigration policy, into the background. There is merit in Mr. Fraser's suggestion that men who have fought in British military formations alongside the New Zealand Division might be the first to be encouraged to come to the Dominion to live. This suggestion might be extended to include airmen and sailors as well. But it is, after all, no more than a suggestion, and, in the light of Mr. Fraser's qualifications, an empty one. We can imagine it being explained to a member of the 51st Highland Division that New Zealand would like to have him as a citizen but it would not be ready to receive him until all New Zealanders had jobs and homes. The Scot would be likely to ask what he would be expected to do while he was waiting. More likely, if he had made up his mind to emigrate after the war, he would conclude that there was no prospect at all in this Dominion, and he would turn his attention to prospects elsewhere. In this connection, it should be realised that, in the United Kingdom, Canada is not only the nearest Dominion, but the only one, so far, which has given practical expression to a desire to encourage immigration, and as soon as possible.

There are two prerequisites to any fruitful consideration of an immigration policy. The first is a realisation that in prospective conditions New Zealand would not be conferring a favour on anyone but herself by deciding to encourage immigrants. It is more likely that she would have to compete for the kinds of immigrants she

wanted

wanted, even if the United Kingdom Government were willing to co-operate in a policy that might deprive her of some of her most vigorous and useful citizens. The second is a realisation that under a well-conceived immigration policy the newcomers would not deprive others of employment; they would make more employment. The notion that our economy is a static one, with only enough jobs to go round, is defeatist and stultifying. If it had been prevalent in the pioneering days this country would never have been developed as it has been, nor could it have risen from the status of a small and inferior colony. If such a notion is allowed to dominate public thinking, and public policy, then the Dominion has no future except a declining one. The kind of thinking which is needed concerning the Dominion's future is that which will start from the conviction that the country needs a greater population, needs it desperately, and that it is not impossible, if political considerations can be subordinated, to combine the rehabilitation of our servicemen with the resumption of immigration. If all thought of the second is left until the completion of the first, then the thinking will be done much too late.

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Enclosure No. 4 to Voluntary Report No. 162 dated June 20, 1944, from the American Legation, Wellington, New Zealand, entitled POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION - NEW ZEALAND.

Source: THE PRESS (Christchurch) dated May 10, 1944.

IMMIGRATION: WHY, WHEN, AND HOW

In his London statement on immigration, reported yesterday, the Prime Minister said heavily that sound planning was the essence of any future immigration scheme. Future scheme, or future immigration? He left little doubt about it. New Zealand has "first to provide for its own men in the forces. After that there must be a proper scheme of immigration, considered in the light of the entire world economic position and consultation and arrangement between the United Kingdom and the Dominions." This may be new in London; it is old in New Zealand, old, blind, deaf, dull, helpless, hopeless. It has not yet entered the Prime Minister's mind that the process of "providing for" New Zealand's own service men and women may be aided, not retarded, by selective immigration begun at the earliest possible stage; that inquiry into this possibility ought to be forwarded now; that, if the possibility is favourably tested, preparations should be forwarded now; and that, if the Government really wants immigrants, it ought to be ready to use early opportunities. They may rapidly diminish as the process of reconstruction in Europe goes on. That is to lay all the emphasis on opportunity and none at all on duty. Yet no statesman professing humanitarian ideals can look at the present situation of Europe and its early post-war prospects, with 30,000,000 refugees to be restored to homes and livelihoods, without feeling that every country, rich and intact, has the duty of studying how far it can help -- and how soon. But Mr. Fraser's dreary doctrine of rehabilitation first and immigration -- or rather, "a proper scheme of immigration" still to be worked out -- "after that" was not his only contribution to unconstructive thought. Since there is, he said, "a limit to agricultural development," it would be "necessary to look to other industries to absorb immigrants." What limit was Mr. Fraser thinking of? The limit of the between-wars world of economic nationalism, trade restrictions, import quotas, and supposed surpluses of production? It may be supposed that he was. It cannot be supposed that he had in his mind any limit which a starving world will impose for some years to come. It cannot be supposed that he remembered the expanding demand of the new order of freer trade to which he has pledged himself and pledged this

country

country. It must be supposed that he had entirely forgotten the reasoned programme of increased food production and consumption accepted by the United Nations Food Conference at Hot Springs, and by the New Zealand Government's delegation in particular. Mr. Fraser spoke of immigration, and appeared to think of immigration, as a cynical defeatist might. If he is not, he will have to think and speak and act to a very different effect.

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Enclosure No. 5 to Voluntary Report No. 162 dated June 20, 1944, from the American Legation, Wellington, New Zealand, entitled POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION - NEW ZEALAND.

Source: THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD (Auckland)
dated May 12, 1944.

WIDER OPEN DOORS

By contrast with New Zealand's vagueness on the subject of post-war immigration, the Australian Government has drawn firm lines of policy. With the stern lesson of 1942 fresh in mind, it sees in immigration an essential contribution toward the defence of its long coastline and a guarantee of increased security. Priorities named in the adopted policy are unexceptionable and call for no comment. It is what is then accepted that provokes thought. "Because the Federal Government realises there will not be enough British migrants to people Australia adequately," says the Cabinet's official statement, "it will be prepared to accept suitable types from other than British stock after the war." Certainly this looks like business. The frank admission that the response from Britain may not suffice suggests that the Government has no half measures in mind and that, failing British immigrants, it is prepared to accept alternatives. The "White Australia" policy will probably be found to be safeguarded by the phrase "suitable types". At present over 99 per cent of the population is of European stock, those of British extraction predominating. But Australia has drawn on many other European races, and its population includes Danes, Dutch, Estonians, Finns, French, Germans, Greeks, Italians, Norwegians, Poles, Russians, Spaniards, Swedes and Yugoslavs. Usually they have made their place and proved good citizens. That experience may have encouraged Australia to adopt a policy of opening her doors wider. She may also hope to attract American servicemen who have seen and liked Australia. New Zealand will be interested in the outcome, and must commend the initiative shown by the Commonwealth in a field in which the Dominion has yet to find its bearings.

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Enclosure No. 6 to Voluntary Report No. 162 dated June 20, 1944, from the American Legation, Wellington, New Zealand, entitled POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION - NEW ZEALAND.

Source: THE OTAGO DAILY TIMES (Dunedin) dated May 13, 1944.

MIGRATION

It should not cause any surprise to learn that such hopes as may have been entertained that New Zealand might after the war benefit by an influx of population from the United Kingdom will not be realised. We have ourselves on more than one occasion expressed the view that Great Britain would not be in a position to spare the loss of her manhood and womanhood that would be involved in any scheme of organized emigration. This view is now completely confirmed by the cabled statement that the British Government will not encourage any large scale departure of young people to other parts of the Empire. Great Britain is, in fact, confronted with a problem in population not dissimilar from that which the dominions have to face. In these circumstances the Government is, we are told, planning for a policy of full employment after the war that will enable her to regain or retain her position as one of the leading industrial and commercial countries in the world. This is not merely an intelligible policy. It is the only policy open to a Government that is prepared to apply the principle enunciated by Mr. Churchill that "the destiny of our country, which after all has rendered notable service to mankind in peace and latterly in war, depends upon an ever-flowing fountain of healthy children, born into what we trust will be a broader society and a less distracted world." The fountain of which Mr. Churchill spoke has been flowing less freely than is required in the interests of the welfare and security of the United Kingdom. The existing population of Great Britain is about 46,000,000. It has been calculated that unless the national birthrate can be raised by some 25 per cent. in the course of the next thirty years, and unless it can be kept at that level, the population of the country a century hence will have dropped to 30,000,000 and will be still falling. Great Britain simply cannot afford to weaken herself by organising the emigration of the most virile members of her population. Military victory over the Axis Powers will serve her little and serve the next generation not at all unless it is accompanied by adequate guarantees for the future of the nation and for the preservation of its ideals. There is, therefore, every reason why, as is now stated, she proposes to provide conditions of work so attractive as will

keep

keep her young people at home. If this end is accomplished, New Zealand must look elsewhere than to Great Britain for the additional population of which she is in distinct need. The Prime Minister hardly seems to have appreciated the fact that the population problem is of a grave nature in this Dominion. He is particularly concerned at the present time with the prosecution of a sound scheme of repatriation of the men and women of our armed forces. Everyone will agree with him that that is a wise and proper attitude for him to adopt. But it would be idle to ignore the fact that there is a not distant prospect of an actual decline in the population of the country. And that means that our future security is definitely threatened.

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Enclosure No. 7 to Voluntary Report No. 162 dated June 20, 1944, from the American Legation, Wellington, New Zealand, entitled POPULATION AND IMMIGRATION - NEW ZEALAND.

Source: THE PRESS (Christchurch) dated May 30, 1944.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. K. B. Cumberland's recent address to the Christchurch branch of the New Zealand Society of Accountants, reported yesterday, has its connexion with the report, a few days earlier, of Lord Cranborne's statement on the British Government's plans for Empire migration. Adding some significant details to previous reports of the Prime Ministers' conclusions on this subject at the recent conference, Lord Cranborne said it had been "definitely agreed" that the Dominion governments would consider it "directly after the return of their Prime Ministers" and would then communicate with the British Government upon "further steps to be taken." There is, here, evidence of greater urgency than had appeared in earlier reports. More than that, Lord Cranborne said that his Government had made it "abundantly clear" that, Britain's need for population notwithstanding, it felt on "broad Imperial lines" bound to encourage and assist inter-Imperial migration, if the Dominions wanted it and if they were prepared to "make their own contribution." It is perhaps a little hasty to infer that the urgency was the British Government's. If it was, it was generously and wisely introduced. But what is beyond guesswork is the fact that the British Government has rejected an excuse it might have pleaded against furthering immigration -- an excuse which Mr. Fraser, for example, offered it.

One difficulty we face (Mr. Fraser said, as reported on May 9) is that the kind of men we may need most urgently are the kind you in Britain may be most reluctant to lose. You have tremendous rebuilding to do in this country. You will need all your building trade employees and tens of thousands of other skilled men. As far as other types of workers are concerned, there is a limit to agricultural development

But the excuse rejected by the British Government is at the same time withdrawn from Mr. Fraser and his colleagues. They cannot say, "It's useless to set our house in order and issue invitations. Nobody we want will be allowed and helped to come." They have been told that permission and help will be given, as they are needed and earned. According to Lord Cranborne, the New Zealand

Government

Government will begin to work on the problem as soon as Mr. Fraser returns. This is so much better than Mr. Fraser's "after that". But it is still necessary to say that the problem must be attacked as it deserves -- with the right weapons, determinedly, and without hampering preconceptions. It is necessary to say this for three clear reasons. First, when the Acting-Prime Minister, early this month, announced and explained the Organisation for National Development, he showed that one of its committees, under the chairmanship of the Hon. P.C. Webb, will deal with Labour and Immigration. It seems dangerously improbable that a committee doubly charged as this one is, and following the procedure outlined by Mr. Sullivan, will be able to cope with the problem and produce a policy. When the Cabinet comes to consider the matter, it should be able to shape a better instrument for the purpose. Second, Cabinet will not usefully consider the matter and no instrument will usefully work upon it, unless the preconception is first abandoned, that a "proper scheme" of immigration will have to wait until the Dominion's housing needs are satisfied and until the last tasks of "rehabilitation" are done. It is essential that investigation should extend to the chances of planning reconstruction and immigration in useful inter-relation. Third, the Cabinet will make a false start if it accepts the Prime Minister's view that New Zealand has scope for migrants only or mainly in the field of manufacturing industry. This view is not merely incomplete; it is reactionary; it disregards those new and wide prospects for New Zealand agriculture -- and at the same time for processing industries allied with it -- to which Mr. Cumberland has drawn attention. No investigation can be anything but self-stultifying if it precludes them. Though it is not strictly relevant to Lord Cranborne's statement, it is to be added that investigation should also include the possibilities of selective immigration from non-European sources. New Zealand needs a constructive immigration policy. It cannot be improvised. But the search for it will fail if it is not competently directed, comprehensive, unprejudiced, and early.

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June 19, 1944

TO: Mr. Lesser
FROM: Myles Standish

The newspaper comment contained in the enclosures to attached despatch from the Legation at Wellington, New Zealand is along the same line as that transmitted in the letter sent to Mr. Pehle by Mr. Teagle, the Head of the FEA Mission to New Zealand.

In the light of the "closed door" policy of that country, I still feel that the effort used in an attempt to get the New Zealand Government to accept refugees could best be spent on more favorable countries.

MStandish:lem 6-19-44

JUN 19 1944

Dear Mr. Teagle:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letters of May 9 which we deeply appreciate. We are certain that you will continue your interest in the problem and will forward to us such further pertinent information as you may gather.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Walter C. Teagle, Jr.,
Acting Head of Mission,
Foreign Economic Administration,
P. O. Box 1104,
Wellington, New Zealand.

L. S. L.
LSLesser:als 6/17/44

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

W

DATE

June 10, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM L. S. Lesser

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We have received two letters, both dated May 9, from Walter C. Teagle, Jr., Acting Head of FEA Mission to New Zealand, one of which encloses an editorial from the DOMINION. The editorial points out that economic development of New Zealand requires immigration, particularly of skilled labor. It berates political leaders for side-stepping and fence-straddling the issue. The editorial is "pro-immigration."

Mr. Teagle recommends that Walter Nash, New Zealand Minister here in Washington, be approached to arouse his interest "as he is admittedly the strongest and perhaps the ablest man in the present New Zealand Government."

The second letter from Mr. Teagle observes that present commercial and employment practices of Jewish refugees in New Zealand have "created an unfavorable attitude on the part of New Zealand towards the admission of more refugees." Mr. Teagle further states that New Zealand has "great potentialities for absorbing war refugees, but unless their actions are controlled... New Zealand may soon refuse entry to any more and may even attempt to rid itself of those within its boundaries."

Teagle

In my opinion, New Zealand offers very little, if anything, as a practical immediate haven, and I believe that too much of a "selling job" would be required for the negligible results that might possibly be gained. On the other hand, in the interest of future immigration into New Zealand, the substance of Mr. Teagle's letters might be passed on to interested groups such as the American Jewish Committee, the JDC, WJC, etc. Mr. Teagle's letters are attached.

Attachments 2.

Confidentiality

LS

Also prepare report to people JTR

Subsequent Lesser file

Mr. Pehle

June 10, 1944

L. S. Lesser

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Attachments 2

MS:LSL:als 6/10/44

June 9, 1944

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FROM: L. S. Lesser

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Teagle recommends that Walter Nash, New Zealand Minister here in Washington, be approached to arouse his interest "as he is admittedly the strongest and perhaps the ablest man in the present New Zealand Government."

The second letter from Mr. Teagle observes that present commercial and employment practices of Jewish refugees in New Zealand have "created an unfavorable attitude on the part of New Zealand towards the admission of more refugees." Teagle further states that New Zealand has "great potentialities for absorbing war refugees, but unless their actions are controlled... New Zealand may soon refuse entry to any more and may even attempt to rid itself of those within its boundaries."

In my opinion, New Zealand offers very little as a practical immediate haven, and I believe that too much of a "selling job" would be required for the negligible results that might possibly be gained. On the other hand, in the interest of future immigration into New Zealand, appropriate excerpts from Teagle's second letter might be passed on to such interested men as Waldman and Landau of the American Jewish Committee and Leavitt of the JDC for such action as they may wish to take toward overcoming the alleged unfavorable attitude of the New Zealanders toward Jewish refugees.

has zeal

MS:amishlon 6-9-44

FO IG ECONOMIC ADMINISTR/ OF

P.O. BOX 1104
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

May 9, 1944.

The War Refugee Board,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sirs:

The enclosed editorial taken from the May 3, 1944 issue of the New Zealand "DOMINION", may be of interest to you.

The thinking public and the press realise the need for immigration, if New Zealand is to fully develop her potentialities, but the Government and the weight of public opinion seems to us to be against immigration - even from English-speaking countries.

Much could be done to overcome this obstacle to immigration in general, and immigration of war refugees in particular, if Mr. Walter Nash, New Zealand Minister to Washington, were favorably disposed, and if the New Zealand Government would undertake an educational propaganda campaign on the subject, while at the same time establishing controls over the activities of refugees, particularly Jews, who have already come in, and are hindering rather than helping New Zealand's war effort, and are becoming increasingly unpopular.

We suggest your approach to Mr. Nash as he is admittedly the strongest and perhaps the ablest man in the present New Zealand Government. With his support, much could be done to further your aims.

Very truly yours,

Walter C. Teagle, Jr.
WALTER C. TEAGLE, JR.
Acting-Head of Mission.

Encl. (1)

*Taken from Bureau
file*

CO. OF ARTICLE TAKEN FROM "THE OZON",
MAY 3, 1944.

In speaking in London on New Zealand's immigration policy the Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser) said that after this country had discharged her first responsibility - that of rehabilitating her own servicemen - it was "hoped to be able to make provision for people, especially demobilized members of the British fighting forces, who wanted to come to New Zealand." He added, however, that one difficulty was that the type of worker who would be needed in this Dominion was a type that would be needed for the rebuilding of Britain. Doubtless Mr. Fraser did not intend this to be regarded as anything more than a passing comment on the subject but it is likely to be taken in Britain on its face value, and so cause much disappointment.

There is a growing feeling in Britain and among the United Nations that post-war adjustment, to be successful in laying the foundations for an enduring peace, will require a new and broad approach to the problems of international relations and the distribution of populations. By common consent, isolation and so-called "insulation" have become a dead letter. The world is seeking better formulae than those pre-war failures. Yet in Mr. Fraser's cautious remarks there is no sign of recognition that a new approach is required, or that he recognizes that New Zealand has - or will have - any responsibility in matters affecting immigration other than to her own domestic needs as conceived by the present Government. The absence of anything more than a pious expression of hope that some provision can be made for the settlement of selected people after domestic rehabilitation has been completed will, indeed, be likely to puzzle Homeland people, most of whom are unable to measure the political implications of the remarks, but will regard them as representing the agreed viewpoint in this sparsely-populated Dominion. They will be largely unaware of the sectional opposition to immigration, which, because it is being permitted to weigh so heavily with the present Government of this country, is causing the approach made to the question by all Government spokesmen to be timorous and equivocal. People in Britain, therefore, may detect in Mr. Fraser's comments merely an absence of vision and a lack of the essential understanding that the United Nations, in the eyes of their peoples, have pledged themselves to a co-operative effort by way of mutual assistance, not solely for the purposes of the war but also for the needs of peace.

In touching on the factor of trade as affecting immigration Mr. Fraser again spoke not as a national leader but as a party politician. New Zealand, he said, could absorb a large number of immigrants only if her secondary industries were developed. "Therefore in many cases it might mean a transfer from one country to the other not only of men but also of machines." These statements are likely to create a wrong impression. It is no-doubt true that the wide expansion of secondary industries in this or any other country would create correspondingly wide opportunities for immigration, for the reason that such industries have the largest and most rapid capacity for the absorption of labour. But any suggestion that future immigration to New Zealand will be governed entirely by secondary industrial development is, of course, open to challenge.

The problem of immigration is part of the larger post-war problem of creating a national industrial balance, which will enable the abnormal trade restrictions applied in recent years - particularly those which have interfered with the export trade of Britain, our principal customer - to be dispensed with. Because we sell the bulk of our produce to Britain, our prosperity as a seller depends upon hers as a buyer; and it is therefore clearly in the interests of this country to assist as far as possible in the rehabilitation of Britain's export trade. Thus the task as between the Mother Country and this Dominion will be one of careful all-round adjustment, and the problem may be further complicated by wider obligations undertaken in the spirit of the Atlantic Charter.

Unfortunately, in his public comments, as reported, Mr. Fraser has not recognized that such a problem exists - let alone that it may have vital bearing on New Zealand's future in relation to industry and immigration. Instead, he appears to be attempting to translate party political conceptions in terms of Empire and international relations - a hopeless endeavour in view of the insular and markedly sectional considerations that so strongly influence the Government of which he is the spokesman and head.

REGION ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION

P.O. BOX 1104
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

May 9, 1944.

*Copy to
sent to
general files*

The War Refugee Board,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sirs:

In reply to a letter from Mr. Crowley, requesting our assistance in furthering the President's policy towards the resettlement and rehabilitation of War Refugees, particularly Jews, we advised him that we would do everything in our power to be of help. We accordingly consulted the U.S. Legation here, who advised that they had already reported to the State Department in Washington on the subject.

Since our letter advising Mr. Crowley to this effect, we have observed several things which will, no doubt, be of interest to you. In the first place, Jewish refugees have come to New Zealand and, although there has been a manifest shortage of manpower on farms and in essential war industries, they have, for the most part, engaged in non-essential, secondary industries. By manufacturing lines which were not subject to Government price and wage controls, such as ladies' gloves, handbags and similar objects, they have been able to charge high prices, which were acceptable to the New Zealand public chiefly because of the scarcity of consumer goods. These high prices have made it possible for the refugees to pay double and sometimes triple the wages offered by essential war industries, whose prices and wages are subject to Government control. As a result, skilled labor, which is badly needed in the freezing works, canning and dehydration plants, garment industry, and on the farms, are now engaged at high wages in non-essential occupations operated and run by Jewish war refugees. This has created an unfavorable attitude on the part of New Zealand towards the admission of more refugees. Nor will the problem be made any easier when returned servicemen attempt to resume business in New Zealand.

New Zealand has great potentialities for absorbing war refugees, but unless their actions are controlled, and in the public interest, New Zealand may soon refuse entry to any more, and may even attempt to rid itself of those within its boundaries.

Very truly yours,

Walter C. Tragle, Jr.

WALTER C. TRAGLE, JR.
Acting Head of Mission.

File
CONTROL COPY

Wellington, New Zealand, May 10, 1944.

MEMOSubject: Transmission of Newspaper Clippings on
Immigration Problems.

The Charge d'Affaires, a.i., has the honor to refer to the Legation's airmails A-30 dated March 9, 1944 at 9 a.m. and A-41 dated March 29, 1944 at 10 a.m. with reference to the policy of the New Zealand Government in connection with the rescue and relief of victims of enemy persecution, and to correspondence between the I.R.A. representative in New Zealand and the War Refugee Board, and to enclose an editorial entitled "A Problem Which Should Be Faced" which appeared in THE DOMINION (Wellington) on March 21, 1944.

THE DOMINION editorial stated that the concern expressed by the Auckland Returned Services Association (the New Zealand equivalent to the American Legion and Veteran of Foreign Wars in the United States) over the acquisition of professional, business and industrial undertakings by alien residents of New Zealand is widely shared. Making reference to the Alien's Land Purchase Regulations issued in March 1942 which provide that no person may sell, lease or give land to an alien, the writer of the editorial advocates an investigation on a national scale of the extent and effect of alien infiltration.

There is also enclosed a copy of an article appearing in THE EVENING POST (Wellington) on May 9, 1944, reporting the statements of the New Zealand Prime Minister on the governmental policy towards post-war immigration. Mr. Fraser reiterates his stand that the rehabilitation of New Zealand fighting men must be the first consideration of the Government. He adds that afterwards there must be a proper and well-planned scheme of immigration, stating that New Zealand would first welcome its kinsfolk from Great Britain and then perhaps people of other allied nations.

List of enclosures:

- No.1. Editorial from THE DOMINION (Wellington) entitled "A Problem Which Should Be Faced".
- No.2. Article from THE EVENING POST (Wellington) entitled "Immigration Plans".

File No. 548.
JJJ/alj

Original and hectograph to Department.

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 358, dated May 10, 1944, entitled, TRANSITION OF NEW ZEALAND CLIPPINGS ON IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS.

SOURCE: THE DOMINION, Wellington, New Zealand, March 21, 1944.

A PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE FACED

The concern expressed by the Auckland Returned Services Association over the acquisition of businesses by alien residents of this country is being very widely shared. From time to time R.S.A. district executive bodies have drawn public attention to the problem, and have appealed for some regulating action to be taken, which will ensure that people who have been given sanctuary in New Zealand and who are being shielded by New Zealanders will not benefit unfairly at the expense of their protectors. But up to the present nothing adequate appears to have been done. The matter apparently is being allowed to drift along, regardless, seemingly, of the strong likelihood that an uncontrolled infiltration of European aliens into the limited fields of business and professional opportunity in this Dominion will create serious difficulties, and cause deep resentments, after the war.

Just exactly two years ago the Government brought into force the Aliens Land Purchase Regulations, which provide that no person may sell, lease or give land to an alien - or to a company in which a third or more of the shares are held by or on behalf of aliens - unless the consent of the Minister of Justice has been obtained. To what extent these Regulations have acted as a check upon the alien acquisition of property, at a time when so many New Zealanders, serving in the armed forces, have no opportunity to establish a stake in their own country, has yet to be clearly disclosed. Nor has it been explained why an administration, which (after some considerable delay) agreed in March 1942 upon the necessity for a check upon land purchase, did not also deem it wise to extend the principle to professional, business and industrial undertakings. Of these different classes of investment it is probable that that of land acquisition constitutes the simpler post-war problem, for the State has ample power to acquire property for ex-servicemen and to thwart the speculator.

In professional, business and industrial investment, the position is much less determinate. Only by its licensing system does the State hold control over alien, or any other, enterprise of this kind. And inasmuch as aliens appear to have had little difficulty in obtaining licences for various classes of enterprise - by no means all of which can be classed as essential among wartime activities - a substantial number of them are already ensconced as potential competitors of our own men when they return to business life. So far as the public has been made aware, no special provision has been made to prevent such competition becoming a grave handicap to men, many of whom abandoned professional connexions, or disposed of businesses, in order to fulfil their service obligations, and have now been out of touch

with

with the affairs of their civilian life for more than three years. The proposal from Auckland that the extent and effect of alien infiltration into business should be investigated on a national scale, as a prelude to the wider examination of the problem, is a reasonable one. The suggestion that a Royal Commission be set up to deal with it is by no means extravagant.

Enclosure No. 2 to Despatch No. 339 from the American Legation,
Wellington, New Zealand, dated May 10, 1944, entitled TRANSMISSION
OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS ON IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS.

Source: THE EVENING POST dated May 9, 1944.

IMMIGRATION PLANS

DOMINION'S FIRST DUTY.

(Official News Service)

LONDON, May 7.

Sound planning as the essence of any future immigration scheme was stressed by the New Zealand Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser) in a statement in reply to questions whether New Zealand will need immigrants after the war. Mr. Fraser agreed that the need would exist. New Zealand would welcome people coming, but it must first provide for its own men in the forces. "We have had tens of thousands of our men fighting all over the world, and they have placed us under the same obligation in which the men of the United Kingdom have placed this country and the Americans have placed the United States. It is only right that they should be provided for first in the matters of employment and housing. Some of them have been away for 4½ years and their wives and sweethearts are awaiting their return. They will want to set up homes, and we want to give them the first chance of getting houses. It would be wrong on our part to encourage other people to come out immediately until we have housed our own men and resettled them in their jobs. After that there must be a proper scheme of immigration, with consideration in the light of the entire world economic position and consultation and arrangement between the United Kingdom and the Dominions."

Speaking of the kind of men who might first be encouraged to settle in New Zealand, Mr. Fraser suggested the men who had fought in Britain formations like the Royal Armoured Corps and the Fifty-first Highland Division alongside New Zealand's fighting troops, men who mingled well and easily with our own, and in whom this comradeship in arms has bred a desire to go to the Dominion after the war. "Some of them want to come, and we want to have them, but in good conditions of housing and employment. With proper planning we could throw open our doors, firstly to our kith and kin of these British Isles, and then perhaps to people of other nations who have stood by us. One difficulty we face is that the kind of men we may need most urgently are the kind you in Britain may be most reluctant to lose. You have a tremendous rebuilding to do in this country. You will need all your building trade employees and tens of thousands of other skilled men for your own job of building up your nation again. We need building operatives very badly too, and they are one of the classes of people we would most welcome." Regarding other types of workers, Mr. Fraser said there was a limit to New Zealand's agricultural development and it would be necessary to look to other industries to absorb immigrants. It might be desirable for industrial firms to establish themselves in New Zealand, thus bringing the machines as well as the men. But he reiterated that carefully planned rather than haphazard immigration was essential.

Copy made from original

April 28, 1944

† Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
: R. L. Smith
Re : New Zealand's wire of March 29.

On January 25, the Board sent a wire to the principle countries in Europe concerning the formation of the War Refugee Board and the President's declaration of policy. This message was repeated to the lesser countries including New Zealand under the date of January 26. Our Airgram of February 29 refers to the previous wire of January 25, whereas in dealing with New Zealand the 26th should have been specified. There is no difference in text in the two messages involved.

Our Airgram of February 29 adds to the original message a request for a public statement of policy corresponding to the President's declaration addressed to the various foreign powers. I enclose a proposed wire to New Zealand correcting this error.

enclosure.

RLSmith:dh 4/28/44

Handwritten note:
This Francis gives
Indicated copy not
received

1020

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PROPOSED CABLE TO NEW ZEALAND

This is WRB Cable to New Zealand No. _____.
Reference is made to your A-41 of March 29.
The Board's wire of January 25 was erroneously
referred to in our later wire of February 29; refer-
ence should have been to identical circular airgram
issued under date of January 26, which you received.
Have you raised the matter of a public declara-
tion by New Zealand as per our wire of February 29?

RLSmith:dh 4/26/44

1020

copy in file
New Zealand

DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
O.W.I.
Tempo V Bldg.

PH. _____

SY. *VM*

Times (ID)
New York, N. Y.
100

APR 13 1945

POLISH CHILDREN REACH ANTIPODES

771 Are Welcomed to New
Zealand After Journey
of 25,000 Miles

Special Correspondence THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WELLINGTON, N. Z.—A world's
record trek from Hitlerite terror
ended in the New Zealand country-
side for 771 Polish children who
left their homes five years ago and
have just arrived here by way of
Russia and Iran.

The children ended a 25,000-mile
journey on a United States freight-
er which also brought back from
the Middle East New Zealand vet-
erans of the African war visiting
their home land on furlough after
years of service. They were hailed
by two special trains to the hospi-
tality camp in the Pahiatua region,
which will be their home until the
war ends. In the same region
United States marines were en-
camped during the Battle of
Guadalcanal.

Guests of the Government

The children came to New Zea-
land as guests of the Government
and the decision to invite them was
announced by Prime Minister Fra-
ser last June. Most of them are
orphans or lost their parents years
ago and may never locate them.
With the children came 112 adult
Poles, mothers of the little ones or
staff of the camp.

This Polish community, created
in the midst of an Anglo-Saxon
land which has not known anything
like it for generations, came into
being after the New Zealand Gov-
ernment learned that other parties
of Poles had gone to South Amer-
ica and arranged to make a con-

APR 13 1945

771 POLISH CHILDREN REACH ANTIPODES

771 Are Welcomed to New Zealand After Journey of 25,000 Miles

Special Correspondence The New York Times.
WELLINGTON, N. Z.—A world's record trek from Hitlerite territory ended in the New Zealand countryside for 771 Polish children who left their homes five years ago and have just arrived here by way of Russia and Iran.

The children ended a 25,000-mile journey on a United States freighter which also brought back from the Middle East New Zealand veterans of the African war visiting their home land on furlough after years of service. They were hailed by two special trains to the hospital camp in the Pahiatua region, which will be their home until the war ends. In the same region United States marines were encamped during the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Guests of the Government

The children came to New Zealand as guests of the Government, and the decision to invite them was announced by Prime Minister Fraser last June. Most of them are orphans or lost their parents years ago and may never locate them. With the children came 112 adult Poles, mothers of the little ones or staff of the camp.

This Polish community, created in the midst of an Anglo-Saxon land which has not known anything like it for generations, came into being after the New Zealand Government learned that other parties of Poles had gone to South America, and determined to make a gesture of friendship and humanity toward conquered Poland. Arrangements were made through the Polish Ministry of Social Welfare in London for the shipment of the children here.

The camp in the Pahiatua region will be a virtual all-Polish community. It includes physicians, teachers and a chaplain to keep the children in touch with national life. Polish cooks will prepare their national dishes. New Zealand nurses have been aiding with the nursing of the hospital, but most of the maintenance work is being performed by Poles.

To house the new community the Government made over a camp originally constructed to hold interned Germans and Italians. To kitchens and storerooms were being added big dormitories with furnishings first used by New Zealand and United States fighting men training in this country. Bathrooms were reconstructed to give more privacy than a British soldier is allowed to enjoy. Army stores provided bed linen.

Church Among Additions

Among the additions made for the Poles was a church, as well as a schoolhouse built to a prefabricated design prepared by the Education Department. All the capital cost and all the provision of equipment was undertaken by New Zealanders.

The children had some hundreds of benefactors before they even set foot on New Zealand. The returning Antipodean veterans taught them English in the New Zealand version, coached them in games and petted them. On the way to their camp in the railroad coaches ice cream was served to the little ones. Numbers of them did not know what it was and demurred about eating it.

New Zealand citizens banded to furnish clothing for the children, to brighten their new homes with flowers before they arrived there and to provide comforts not included in the official budget. The effort will be to send the youngsters back to their homeland, when they go, with happy memories of the sanctuary at the Antipodes.

~~ATB~~
CONTROL COPY

*War Refugee
Filed*
AIRGRAM

FROM American Legation,

Wellington, New Zealand.

Date: March 29, 1944.

Date mailed: March 30, 1944

Rec'd. *Apr 20 8c*

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-41, March 29, 10 a.m.
X

~~ATB~~
This Legation has not received the Department's telegram of January 25 mentioned at the end of the Department's airgram dated February 29, 1944, 7:30 p.m., concerning action and policy of the President's War Refugee Board, but only a circular airgram on this subject dated January 26, 1944, 7 p.m., which was answered by this Legation's airgram A-20, March 9, 9 a.m.

The New Zealand Government's policy was stated in that reply, so it is thought that no additional action should now be taken by this Legation so far as this small isolated Dominion is concerned.

If the Department's telegram of January 25 contains additional information of importance, I should be glad to receive it.

The Prime Minister and the Secretary of External Affairs will be in the United States during the latter part of April en route London and again later on, on their return trip to New Zealand.

CHILDS

PC/drm.

CONTROL COPY

3 War Refugee Bd
(possible)

CM

AIRGRAM

Wellington, New Zealand.

Dated March 9, 1944

Rec'd 3 p.m., 24th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-30, March 9, 9 a.m.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ FOR DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAR 25 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Reference is made to the Department's regular airgram of January 26, 1944 at 7:00 p.m. setting forth the policy of the Government of the United States in connection with the rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution.

In accordance with the instruction of the Department, I approached the New Zealand Government in order to explain the policy outlined in the Department's airgram and to ascertain the degree to which it was prepared to cooperate in obtaining the objectives of the President's Executive Order.

In this connection the following note has been received from the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Mr. Fraser):

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2nd March, 1944.

"My dear Mr. Charge d'Affaires,

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th February in which you inform me of the policy of the Government of the United States of America in connection with the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy persecution,

"It is noted that the President has by executive order constituted a War Refugee Board in the

United
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

-2- #A-30, March 9, 9 a.m., from Wellington

United States whose function it is to ensure that the policy of the Government respecting war refugees is carried out.

"The New Zealand Government have always viewed with the greatest sympathy the plight of the many thousands of people who are suffering persecution and hardship at the hands of the enemy. The policy of the Government has been and continues to be one of affording to these people the maximum possible assistance consistent with the resources and the security of the Dominion.

"In furtherance of that policy the Government have associated themselves from the outset with the activities of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees, which was initiated by the Conference held at Evian in 1938 on the suggestion of the President of the United States. More recently, the Government have expressed their intention to continue their association with the Committee on the basis proposed by the Bermuda Conference.

"With regard to the specific enquiries made in the final paragraph of your letter, I have to inform you that the admission to New Zealand of refugee aliens, as of all other aliens, is governed by the provisions of the Immigration Restriction Acts which require that any person of other than British birth and parentage wishing to enter the Dominion must first obtain an Entry Permit from the Customs Department. In the granting of such permits during recent years it has been the practice to look sympathetically on applications from persons suffering persecution or displaced from their country or residence, and in fact, considerable numbers of permits have been granted to refugees including Jewish and other political refugees from Europe, Chinese women and children and persons of various nationalities (including natives of Pacific Islands) displaced from their homes or threatened by Japanese aggression in the Pacific.

"As the refugees status of an applicant is not necessarily apparent from his application papers, it is not possible to state accurately the number

of refugees

-3- #A-30, March 9, 9 a.m., from Wellington.

of refugees admitted to New Zealand. It is estimated, however, that during the years 1933 to 1941 inclusive, the total number of permits issued was in excess of 3,700 (including 492 Chinese refugee women and children). This total does not include evacuees from Pacific territories afforded hospitality in New Zealand who are estimated to number between 500 and 600; nor does it include some 65 Poles from Japan to whom the Government agreed to give temporary refuge.

"The granting of permits after 1941 has of course been affected by the spread of the war to the Pacific, but I may say that within recent months the Government have agreed to receive and provide accommodation for up to 700 Polish refugee children from the Middle East.

"Yours faithfully,

(Signed) P. FRASER,
Minister of External Affairs."

It was requested in the instruction under reference that the Legation submit a report concerning the existing situation in New Zealand. Insofar as the Legation has been able to discover, the policy of the New Zealand Government is, as the Minister of External Affairs points out in his note of March 2, one of "affording the victims of enemy persecution the maximum possible assistance consistent with the resources and security of the Dominion".

It is of course evident that the ability of New Zealand to receive refugees is greatly restricted by the size of the country (103,416 square miles with a population of 1,714,799 according to the New Zealand Official Yearbook).

Another factor to be taken into consideration in connection with the settlement of refugees in the Dominion is its isolation and distance from Europe.

It is the understanding of the Legation that there have been no cases of refugees being turned back at New Zealand ports of entry. If there are incidents of this nature in the future, the Department will be promptly informed.

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JJJ/drm

CHILDS