

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

SUBJECT.
NETHERLANDS EVACUEES FROM N.E.I. ADMISSION AND ACCOMMODATION

PREVIOUS FILE :	
NEXT FILE :	

RELATED PAPERS.	
FILE NO.	SUBJECT.

Passances from N.E.I.

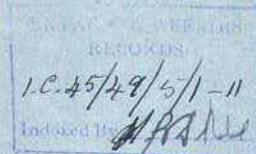
Colonel Gamble rang to advise that
Dutch Army prisoners had been ~~at~~ informed by
van Hook that SEAC would not allow the
shipping of Dutch prisoners direct to Australia
because the Army Govt had ordered that they
should proceed via Singapore.

SEAC must be confusing with arrangements
made at our Camp's inception that prisoners
and prisoners should be concentrated at 2
Army Reception Camp. There the Dutch have
their own shipping Dept of Immigration and
Imm Affairs have no objection to whatever
route is taken. If any order ^{was} given by
Army Govt, it would have passed through
Lieut Harding Assistant Secretary at Banarshi.

Colonel Gamble informed to this effect.

23 Oct 45

RNH.

I.C.45/49/5/1.

Acting MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
CANBERRA.

11th September, 1945.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your Note of August 27th concerning the admission to Australia of Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies evacuees from liberated territories, and now desire to inform you that the Commonwealth Government agrees in principle to the admission into Australia from the Netherlands East Indies of Netherlands subjects, including Indonesians, for recuperative purposes for any period up to six months, provided that you are able to make satisfactory arrangements for their accommodation with the existing facilities available and subject to the understanding -

- (1) that the Netherlands East Indies Government will be responsible for their maintenance in Australia and for their ultimate return to the Netherlands East Indies, and will supply personnel for looking after them where such care is necessary; and
- (2) that no persons suffering from dangerous or communicable diseases will be sent to Australia unless prior authority is obtained from the Minister of Immigration after consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health.

2. I should add that this general approval is subject to further agreement as to the numbers to be sent here, and subject to the understanding that all such evacuees will register under the National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations, immediately on their arrival here.

3. It is understood that the question of accommodation has been discussed by your representative with the Department of Social Services and Army and that agreement has been reached to make available the camp areas mentioned in your letter.

I have the honour to be,
 With the highest consideration,
 Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(For the Acting Minister of State).

W. E. Dunk

His Excellency
 Baron P.C. van Aerssen Beyeren van Voashol, M.W.O.,
 Her Netherlands Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary
 and Minister Plenipotentiary,
 Royal Netherlands Legation,
CANBERRA.

C
O
P
Y

J 11/2245

EXTRADITION AFFAIRS
RECORDS
I.C. 45/49/5/1-10
Indexed By *old. PA*

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION.

Melbourne 27th August 1945.

My dear Dr. Evatt,

The Netherlands Indies Government request me to approach the Australian authorities with regard to the temporary retention of the camps, which are in use at present for the accommodation of our personnel. They are: Camp Columbia, Brisbane, Queensland; Camp Casino, New South Wales; and Darley Camp, Victoria. The camps were put at the disposal of the Netherlands Indies Government by the Australian army and were fitted out by Netherlands Indies authorities and are in good working order. They can house anywhere between 2500 and 3000 people.

I have some time ago (my letters of 1st March 1945, no. J 11/532 and 28th June 1945, no. J 11/1696) put in a request for the possible accommodation in this country for a number of ex prisoners of war or internees from the Indies, who might be in special need of a speedy transfer to a non-tropical climate, but so far I have received no definite answer yet. The case has now become urgent by the surrender of Japan and the liberation of a considerable number of POW's from the Northern areas. Apart from the offer of the New Zealand Government to receive 500 evacuees monthly we have, as yet, no accommodation available and the transport situation, combined with the still precarious food and housing conditions in the Netherlands preclude repatriation to that country for the present. We need more space very badly until such time when we can provide for these people in the Indies themselves, which will take at least another three months; after that there will probably remain a limited number of cases, which definitely need transfer to a non-tropical climate.

The matter might be solved, at least partially, if we could use the above mentioned camps for another six months after the present population will have left for the Indies. This

*Copy to Mr. J. S. ...
28/8*

59/1

would, however, necessitate the cooperation of the Commonwealth Government.

In the first place we would need the Commonwealth Government's consent to retain the use of the camps for that period. I trust this will meet with no particular difficulties.

In the second place we would have to be granted admission for the evacuees, which would imply the provision of food and, possibly, some clothing. We will try to take care of the last-mentioned item as much as possible out of the stocks for relief and rehabilitation acquired for the Indies in general, but it might be helpful if some additional clothing could be bought in this country. As the period under discussion would co-incide with spring and summer this should not cause much trouble.

In the third place, however, our present man-power situation makes it absolutely essential that we should get assistance in the servicing of the camps. Our present personnel is urgently needed in the Indies, or consists of Indonesians who - very understandably - are pressing for repatriation after three and a half years of exile, and who could not be left here when the others leave. I understand it would take not more than 500 Australian personnel to take care of this problem; they might either be army service personnel or be engaged on a civilian contract. Moreover it is possible that, after some time, we would be able to provide at least part of the staff out of the evacuees themselves. We would in any case provide a nucleus for the organization and the command of the camps.

I would highly appreciate it if a rapid decision could be obtained, and would thank you for an early reply.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) VAN AERSEEN BEYREN.

The Right Honourable Dr. H.V. Evatt, LL.D., K.C.,
Minister for External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Department of Immigration,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RECORDS

I.C. 45/49/5/1-9
Indexed By *[Signature]*

20th August, 1945.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

20 AUG 1945

11983

MEMORANDUM TO:

The Acting Secretary,
Department of External Affairs.

ADMISSION OF N.E.I. AND INDONESIAN EVACUEES.

With reference to your memorandum of 20th July, No. 45/49/5/1, and previous correspondence, I am directed to inform you that the Netherlands Minister may be informed that approval has been given for Netherlands subjects, including Indonesians, to be sent to Australia from the Netherlands East Indies for recuperative purposes for any period up to six months, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made for their accommodation with the existing facilities available and subject to the understanding -

- (i) that the Netherlands Indies Government will be responsible for their maintenance whilst in Australia and for their ultimate return to the Netherlands Indies, and will supply personnel for looking after them where such care is necessary;
- (ii) that no persons suffering from dangerous or communicable diseases will be sent here unless prior authority is obtained from the Minister after consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health.

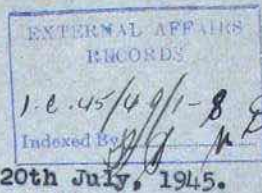
[Signature]
(A.R. Peters)
Acting Secretary.

P.S. The Minister also desires that it be pointed out that this general approval is subject to further agreement as to the numbers to be sent here. (This could be further considered when information is available as to the extent to which suitable accommodation could be provided.)

[Signature]

1-C

JCB.DA



MEMORANDUM TO:

The Secretary,
Department of Interior,
CANBERRA.

ADMISSION OF N.E.I. AND INDONESIAN EVACUEES

I should be greatly obliged by an early
reply to my minute of 3rd July forwarding a note
dated 28th June, 1945, from the Netherlands Minister,
and to previous correspondence in this matter.

YH
Acting Secretary.
MS

MS
3 Aug

APR:JP

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RECORDS
10.45/49/51-7
Autosed by [Signature]

Copy of J 11/1696 from NETHERLANDS LEGATION of
28/6/45 sent to INTERIOR fvr. urgent advice c/w
minute of 15th March and memos of 20 April and
12 June.

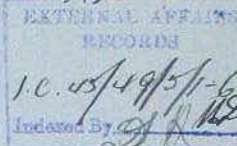
3/7/45.

A. P. R.

20
7/45

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION

Melbourne 28th June 1945.



Sir,

I wish to refer to my letter of the 1st of March 1945 (J 11/532), by which I had the honour to make an appeal to the Australian Government for their cooperation in the matter of the accommodation and maintenance of Netherlands and Netherlands Indies evacuees from the Netherlands Indies after the liberation of parts of this country.

Meanwhile a certain number of Netherlands subjects have already been evacuated from the Philippines and have found a very warm welcome in this country. In this connection, I wish to express the gratitude of the Netherlands and Netherlands Indies Governments for the generous hospitality which the Australian authorities have again displayed on this occasion.

Referring more especially to the fourth paragraph of my abovementioned letter and considering the steady progress which is being made with the reoccupation of important parts of the Netherlands East Indies, in which the gallant Australian Forces play such an important part, I would very much appreciate it if you could confirm to me that also these greater numbers of Netherlands subjects and Indonesians could be temporarily accommodated in Australia for their reconvalescence. A formal agreement in principle by the Australian Government, pending detailed arrangements through the appropriate channels, would be a matter of great satisfaction and gratitude to all circles concerned.

Secretary,
DEPT. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. - Referred.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
With the highest consideration,
Your most obedient servant,

Randolfus Pring

The Honourable
N.J.O. Makin.
Acting Minister for External Affairs.
Canberra. A.C.T.

1-C



APR:BB

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RECORDS
10/45/49/5/12-5
Indexed By *DR*

(IC.45/49/5/1)

12th June, 1945.

MEMORANDUM to:

The Secretary,
Department of the Interior,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

I refer to my minute of 15th March on a copy of a letter from the Royal Netherlands Legation regarding the accommodation of Netherlands evacuees from liberated territories, and to my memorandum of 20th April on the same subject.

An early reply would be appreciated.

Acting Secretary.

A.P.R.

12
700

APR:BB



(IC.45/49/5/1)

20th April, 1945.

MEMORANDUM to:

The Secretary,
Department of the Interior,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

I refer to copy of a letter of 1st March, 1945, from the Royal Netherlands Legation to Dr. Evatt, minuted to you on 15th March, relative to accommodation in Australia of an estimated two to three thousand Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies evacuees from liberated territories. I would appreciate a reply at your earliest convenience.

Acting Secretary.

A.P.R.

10/6

APR

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

POSTAL ADDRESS:
Box 46, G.P.O., CANBERRA, A.C.T.
TELEPHONE: 1888.
CANBERRA 229; 820; 8814.
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"COMPOSITELY,"
CANBERRA, A.C.T.
Ref. No. 10935/89

SECURITY SERVICE.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RECORDS
1 C. 45/49/5/1-3
Indexed By: [Signature]
19 45.

Canberra, A.C.T., 17th April,

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
19 APR 1945
No. 5875

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

I refer to the memorandum from His Excellency, Baron F.C. van Aerssen Beyeren van Voshol, M.W.O., to the Right Hon. H.V. Evatt, LL.D., K.C., dated 1st March, 1945, relative to accommodation in Australia of an estimated two to three thousand Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies evacuees from liberated territories.

If the Commonwealth Government agrees in principle to accommodate the evacuees and there is set up a working committee consisting of Australian and Netherlands or Netherlands East Indies officials to handle the problem, I should like representation.

It appears to me necessary from the security angle that, irrespective of the procedure which may be adopted to handle the problem, this Service should be supplied with the known particulars of all evacuees admitted to the Commonwealth.

[Signature]
(W. B. SIMPSON.)
Director General of Security.

1.C. 45/49/5/1-1
Brydges Simpson advised that in view of present circumstances, if they register under the Nat. Sec. (Aliens Control) Regs. on arrival, that is all Security Service now require.
1-C / P to [unclear]
24 Aug
[Signature]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RECORDS
J. C. 45/495/1-2
Indexed by *g/h*

COPIES OF LETTER OF 1ST MARCH, 1945, FROM ROYAL
NETHERLANDS LEGATION TO DR. EVATT SENT TO SECURITY SERVICE
AND INTERIOR FOR FAVOUR OF ADVICE.

15/3/45.

A. I. R.

new file
Netherlands

Evacuees from N. E. I.

admission & accommodation

15
4
A. I. R.

J 11/532

ROYAL NETHERLANDS LEGATION



Melbourne 1st March 1945.



143
Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that a number of Netherlands subjects who were interned in the Philippines have been liberated by the victorious armies under command of General MacArthur.

It is likely that part or all of these evacuees, numbering about 55, will be directed to Australia and will arrive in Brisbane, where arrangements for their reception have been discussed by the Netherlands Indies authorities with Australian and USA Army authorities.

The N.E.I. authorities have also approached Dr. Newman Morris, Chairman of the Australian Red Cross, with the problem of accommodation for these people. Dr. Newman Morris intimated that it would probably be possible for the Australian Red Cross to arrange for temporary accommodation for these Manila evacuees in or around Sydney (possibly in Australian Red Cross Convalescent Homes in Leura, Blue Mountains).

When the liberation of the Netherlands East Indies will make further progress, it is expected that a total number roughly estimated at between 2 and 3 thousand Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies evacuees from liberated territories will have to be accommodated.

In their case, as in the case of the Philippine evacuees, it would be a matter of great relief and satisfaction to us if accommodation could be provided for in Australia. This country has already extended a hearty welcome to a great many of our evacuees, making them feel perfectly at home here, and you will understand that we are again looking upon your country as a possible place for convalescence for our countrymen.

The Right Honourable
Dr. H. V. Evatt LL.D., K.C.
Minister for External Affairs.
CANBERRA.

H.C. [Signature]
P. [Signature]

It is with these thoughts in mind that I venture to approach you with a view of soliciting the cooperation of the Australian Government in this matter.

If the Commonwealth Government agrees in principle to accommodate our evacuees, it might be advisable to set up a working committee consisting of Australian and Netherlands or Netherlands East Indies officials to handle the problem.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest consideration,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Paul H. H. H. H. H.