

Ministry of Home Affairs,  
 Stormont, Belfast.

Reference: P.47

**HIA 354**

A.S.G.

Please see the attached letter from Tyrone County Welfare Committee asking if the Ministry would approve arrangements for the emigration of this boy who is an orphan aged 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years. Sections 94 and 111(5) of the Children and Young Persons Act refer.

The scheme under which the proposed emigration would take place is administered by the Presbyterian Church in Australia. The boy's prospects would probably be brighter if he were allowed to emigrate under this scheme than if he were to remain at home.

The proviso to Section 111(5) of the Act, however, debar the Minister from authorising the emigration of a child unless he is satisfied that the child consents, or, being too young to form or express an opinion on the matter, is to emigrate in company with a parent, guardian or relative or is to emigrate for the purpose of joining a parent, guardian, relative or friend.

A child of eight years of age is obviously too young to form or express a proper opinion on the advantages or disadvantages of emigration. In the circumstances the Section would appear to debar any prospect of emigration in this case for the present.

A representative of the Dhurringile Training Farm has recently approached the Welfare Authorities in Northern Ireland (having previously ascertained that no objection to this course would be raised by the Ministry) to inform them of the facilities for emigration which they could offer in the case of suitable boys. It is possible that other requests for information may be received from Welfare Authorities.

particular  
 Whilst it is difficult to say at what age any child may reach the stage of mental development at which he is capable of forming a proper judgment on such a question, it is unlikely that such a stage would be reached before the age of twelve years at the earliest. I think, therefore, that unless the conditions laid down in paragraph 111(5) are satisfied we should not agree to the emigration of any child under that age.

*J. Starks*

9th August, 1960.

Note:

A.S.G. spoke to the Minister about this yesterday afternoon. The Minister agrees generally. As it would probably be in the interests of the child, if he could emigrate under a scheme sponsored by a responsible body such as the Presbyterian Church he would be prepared to approve if a responsible officer or agent of the managing body of the Farm could take over the responsibility of the child on other reasonable arrangements for travel and subsequent care.

*S. Dalton has been and upon this*

*Plan for 1300*

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE.

SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - CHILD EMIGRATION.

General Position regarding Child Migration. The position in Scotland and Northern Ireland with regard to the emigration of children to Australia, must be viewed at this time with dissatisfaction. Although in 1947 well over one hundred children were sent out to Australian Homes and Convents, the numbers since then have gradually dropped, and the last group sent out consisted of less than half a dozen children. There are, so far as can be ascertained, many reasons for this fall in numbers, the main ones being as follows:-

1 Attitude of the Homes and Convents in this country.

Of all the Homes from which it might be expected to obtain children for emigration, only one or two have so far been 100% co-operative. It would appear that a long term policy with regard to the children's future is not being taken, and that several factors contribute towards this viewpoint, the main ones being:-

- (a) Personal attachment to the children.
- (b) General dislike to letting the children leave the country.
- (c) Unwillingness to have the numbers in the Homes depleted.

Other factors having relation to the lack of response from the Convents are mentioned in Paragraph 4.

2 Attitude of Public authorities towards Child emigration.

Scotland. All children placed in Homes and chargeable to the Local authority are wards of the Home Department, i.e. the Secretary of State for Scotland, and the Secretary's permission must be obtained before the Local authority can consider allowing such children to emigrate. Under Section 17 of the Children (Scotland) Act of 1948, it is stated, "A local authority may, with the consent of the Secretary of State, procure or assist in procuring the emigration of any child in their care. The Secretary of State shall not give his consent under this section unless he is satisfied that emigration would benefit the child and that suitable arrangements have been or will be made for the child's reception and welfare in the country to which he is going, and that the parents or guardians of the child have been consulted or that it is not practicable to consult them, and that the child consents: provided that where a child is too young to form or express a proper opinion on the matter, the Secretary of State may consent to his emigration notwithstanding that the child is unable to consent thereto in any case where the child is to emigrate in company with a parent, guardian or relative of his, or is to emigrate for the purpose of joining a parent, guardian, relative or friend."/Unquote.

The Home Department in practice, is exceedingly co-operative insofar as the children for whom permission has already been sought are concerned, and they have, after the necessary investigation in no case refused permission. The local authorities vary with regard to helpfulness, but on the whole no serious objections have ever been raised to prevent a child leaving the country.

Northern Ireland. Up to the present time, no application has been made to Irish local authorities, as the necessity has not yet arisen.

3 Attitude of the Scottish and Irish Hierarchies towards Child Migration.

Scotland. The Scottish Hierarchy have, since the inception of the Catholic Scheme of Emigration to Australia, always shown great interest, and every encouragement has been given. A Report of the progress of the Scheme is presented to the Bishops' Meeting each quarter.

COPY

459  
T-298

D/P.C.

When I visited Nazareth Lodge on 11th November, Reverend Mother mentioned several points of interest:-

Mr. McRendall has now completed his report on Fox Lodge and it is to the effect that the premises are not worth repairing ] A

The Orphan Society, having heard that they cannot get grant from us, consider that they probably won't be able to afford to maintain more than 80 children in St. Joseph's Babies' Home instead of 120.

Reverend Mother now wonders if perhaps they may yet manage to place the Fox Lodge 2-5 year-olds in a wing of the Babies' Home, as I suggested long ago. However, there are obvious difficulties of dividing the cost. I don't quite see how the subject can be tackled, except by Reverend Mother herself in the first instance. ] B

Estimated for action on T. 164 1/2 She also tells me she is sending 23 boys to their Homes in Australia soon and may send another 20 later. Rubane can't absorb all their output and this is how they are to be disposed of. This is being arranged by a priest from Australia now collecting children here. She wondered if Mr. P. Murphy, their After-Care Officer, could cope with the negotiations and formalities for her. I said I didn't see why he shouldn't do so.

(Datld.) K.B.F.

21.11.55

No action is necessary regarding "A" pending receipt from Mr. Macdonald of the proposals and plans. E which reference is made in Dr. Killigan's minute of 6.10.55 8/24/55

Dr. Killigan,

For any observations, please, regarding "B" above. The fifth paragraph of your minute dated 6.10.55 refers. 8/24/55