

GENERAL LINES TO TAKE**ANNEX A****Government Policy**

1 As the present Minister on Children's policy, I cannot comment on the policy considerations of previous Governments, but my officials who have seen some of the old relevant files, will be in a position to provide information about the availability of information which may help the Committee with their enquiries. No doubt the Committee Members will wish to consider appropriate contemporary records. The schemes were sanctioned by laws passed in Parliament, and the Government did not deal directly with individual cases.

2 The Government's view is that the schemes were considered and approved by Parliament in the belief that the migrants were being offered the prospect of a better life than would have been available to them in the UK. There are many success stories.

3 It is important to resist the temptation to apply modern standards and values when considering a policy that dates back more than a century. The government does not, therefore, consider itself in any way responsible for the proportionately small number of cases in which the Scheme failed to live up to its objective.

4 Child migration as a policy was, in a social climate very different from that of today, a well-intended response to the needs of deprived children. At the time this was seen to be in the best interests of the children concerned, providing them with a fresh start in countries which potentially offered them greater opportunities.