

HOME OFFICE.

HORSEFERRY HOUSE.

THORNEY STREET.

LONDON, S.W.1

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OMH 360/2/11

22nd June, 1956.

Dear Shannon,

(7)

You and Costley-White discussed with me on Wednesday my letter of 18th June to Costley-White about the action to be taken on the report of the Fact-finding Mission on Child Migration, and you asked for the views of the Home Office on a proposal that you might follow the "middle course" discussed in paragraphs 3(c), 4 and 5 of that letter.

2. You propose, as I understand it, to draw up a "black list" of institutions condemned by the Fact-finding Mission in the secret addenda to their report. Organisations on the list would be told that their establishments had been criticised by the Mission, would be shown the reports or parts of them or given the gist of the criticism, and would be asked to put matters right before you approved any more children being sent to those establishments. That would diminish the objections we see to the middle course though there remain to be considered the difficult questions how the offending organisations are to be guided into the right path and who is to decide when they have progressed far enough along it. As I said on the telephone yesterday, we would not wish to press our objections to the middle course if you

(a) were reconciled to the criticisms' becoming public property in both this country and Australia (for we feel sure they could not be kept secret once it was known that they existed), and

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(b) would seek the views of the Chairman of the Fact-finding Mission, who is now in London,

/to

G.E.B. Shannon, Esq., C.M.G.