

COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR CHILD EMIGRATION

Delegation to Home Office, 11th July, 1951.

The following members of the Council saw Mr. Prestige of the Home Office on Wednesday, the 11th July, 1951. (Mr. Savage of Home Office also in attendance):

Father Nicol	Mr. Vaughan
Mr. Tucker	Major Bavin
Miss Jones	Miss Hall

(Owing to Commissioner Lamb's death, Commissioner Culshaw - who was due to conduct the funeral service - was unable to attend. Mr. Cameron was in the North of Scotland and Miss Cumming was on leave, so neither (from Church of Scotland Committee of Social Service) was able to come to London to attend the meeting).

Mr. Vaughan, in introducing the members to Mr. Prestige and Mr. Savage, said that the Council welcomed this opportunity of sending a delegation to the Home Office.

As it was felt it would be more helpful to have the meeting on an informal basis, no detailed notes were taken, but the following is a summary of the discussion.

Mr. Prestige said that he felt the Council of Voluntary Organisations would give useful service as it would be most convenient for the Home Office to consult one body on matters concerning child emigration although he appreciated the fact - later emphasised by Mr. Tucker - that each Organisation was an independent one and all might not have the same problems. It was explained to Mr. Prestige that this was especially seen in the question of pre-emigration training since children sent by Dr. Barnardo's Homes, for instance, were drawn from their own Homes. Major Bavin referred to the fact that the children sent by the New Zealand Government went from private homes here to private homes in New Zealand and in these cases it was not felt that a need existed for the children to be collected at a centre before emigration. Mr. Prestige expressed the view that some anxiety was felt lest a child should be disappointed on arrival and for that reason it was considered advisable to give the child some idea of the conditions and life overseas. Miss Jones pointed out that a great financial difficulty would confront Organisations such as the one she represented if it were decided that all emigrant children should have pre-emigration training.

Father Nicol spoke of the large institutions in Australia which cared for Roman Catholic children and of the difficulties which would confront his Committee if a regulation were imposed insisting that children be housed in smaller groups. Such a regulation would alter their whole organisation as the staff in charge of the children were mostly serving in a voluntary capacity, feeling that such employment was the vocation to which they had been called.