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War Cabinet Agendum - No 130/1941 - Admission of Polish refugees from Japan

MR SINCLAIR

14/303

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

WAR CABINET  
AGENDUM

NO 130/1941

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE CO-ORDINATION.

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Subject ADMISSION OF POLISH REFUGEES

FROM JAPAN.

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22 APR P.M.  
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14/303/24.  
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Shallers  
14/4/41.

TELEPHONES :  
MXY 440.  
CENTRAL 7185.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

No. *Sm. 4446*

22 APR 1941

MEMORANDUM for:-

CONFIDENTIAL

The Secretary,  
Department of Defence Co-ordination  
MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

ADMISSION OF POLISH REFUGEES FROM JAPAN

With reference to your memorandum of 12th April, 1941, ~~regarding~~ forwarding Copy No. 20 of War Cabinet Agendum No. 130/1941 it is desired to advise you that this aspect of Security is now the responsibility of the new Security Service, Canberra. Your memorandum will therefore be forwarded immediately to Security Service, together with any relevant files which may be held by this Department.

It would be appreciated if any subsequent communications on this subject could be addressed direct to the Director, Security Service.

The form of address in the case of correspondence intended for the new organization is -

Director,  
Security Service.

The outer envelope enclosing any such correspondence should be addressed -

Lieut.-Colonel E. Longfield Lloyd,  
Box 46, G.P.O.,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

It is desired that reference to Security Service in this communication should be treated as confidential.

*Channing*  
(J. T. FITZGERALD)  
Secretary.

*See:-*  
*JTF*  
using Secretary.  
14/41.

*Mr. Shallers*  $\frac{22}{4/41}$

*Noted and 23/4/41.*

SB

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81,092.

Shalles  
14/4/41

16th April, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ✓

The Secretary,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. ✓  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY. ✓

-----  
ADMISSION OF POLISH REFUGEES FROM JAPAN  
-----

I am attaching hereto for your information, copy  
of Minute No. (943) recording the decision of the War Cabinet  
on the abovementioned subject.

*[Signature]*  
Acting Secretary.

Treasurer and Ministers. ✓  
Liaison Officers INT. L.O. ✓ TRES. L.O. ✓ ARMY L.O. ✓  
Assistant Secretary (Finance) ✓

SECRETARY ✓  
MR. PORT ✓  
S.D.C. ✓

-----  
*Mr. Shalles*  
17/4/41

SECRET

WAR CABINET MINUTE

SYDNEY - 9th APRIL, 1941

(943) AGENDUM NO. 130/1941 - ADMISSION OF POLISH REFUGEES FROM JAPAN:

After consideration of the proposals contained in the Agendum from the Australian Minister at Tokyo for the admission of 66 Polish refugees from Japan, approval to their admission was agreed to by majority decision subject to the following conditions :-

- (a) That they be admitted for the duration of the war;
- (b) That each person admitted is of good character and personality and is in sound health;
- (c) That preference be given to those who can speak English and to those who have relatives or friends in Australia; and
- (d) That each is possessed of or will be supplied with adequate means.

It was directed that the Australian Minister at Tokyo should be informed that, while the Government is agreeable to the admission of these refugees as a gesture to Poland, we are not desirous of giving effect to the decision if it can be avoided.

*W. L. Murray*

Certified True Copy  
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JR

DEFENCE CO-ORDINATION SECRET		
14	303	24

88,064

XXXXXXXXXXXX SYDNEY, NSW.

10th April, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary, Department of -----	(the Treasury	12 ✓
	(the Interior	17 ✓
	(External Affairs	19 ✓
	(the Army	20 ✓

ADMISSION OF POLISH REFUGEES FROM JAPAN.

Herewith is forwarded for your information Copy No. 6 of Agendum No. 130/1941, in relation to the above-mentioned subject, which has been submitted for consideration by the War Cabinet.

Acting Secretary.

COPIES TO:	Treasury Liaison Officer.	Copy No. 13 ✓
	Asst. Sec. (Finance)	14 ✓
	Mr. Port	16 ✓
	Interior Liaison Officer	18 ✓
	Army Liaison Officer.	21 ✓

Mr. Shalless  
14/4/41

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

FOR CABINET:

Agenda No. 130/1944  
Copy No. 11

ADMISSION OF POLISH REFUGEES FROM JAPAN.

The Australian Minister at Tokyo states that the Polish Ambassador in Japan has made strong representations to him in regard to the Commonwealth agreeing to allow a certain number of Polish refugees, at present in Japan, to enter Australia.

2. The matter was discussed at meetings attended by the Polish Ambassador, the British Ambassador, the Canadian Charge d'Affaires, and the Australian Minister.

3. It appears that there are about 468 souls to be provided for, of whom it was proposed that 66 should be sent to Australia. The Ambassador explained that -

- (a) probably 90% would be Jews;
- (b) about 50% would have ample means and that the remainder would be provided with means;
- (c) no fit men of military age would be included;
- (d) Poland would undertake to receive everyone back on the conclusion of peace;
- (e) the Ambassador would guarantee the integrity, from a political point of view, of everyone.

4. The Australian Minister, in a despatch, suggested that favourable consideration might, upon grounds of general policy and as a practical demonstration of both appreciation and sympathy, be given to the admission of a limited number of Polish citizens.

5. In a subsequent cablegram the Australian Minister stated that the Polish Ambassador had informed him of discussions in London with the Prime Minister and he expressed the hope that a favourable decision would be conveyed to the Prime Minister before he left England. The Ambassador stated that he is arranging for "Goint", New York, a wealthy and responsible organization, to give a guarantee of maintenance of the Jews during their stay in Australia.

6. The Australian Minister adds that the safeguards appear to him to be such that the granting of power to authorise visas to about 60 Polish Jews in Japan would be safe and only a reasonable gesture to unfortunate Poland. He also said that the matter was very urgent.

7. If it be decided to comply with Sir John Latham's recommendation, it is suggested that Australia agree to receive up to 66 of the Polish refugees in Japan subject to the following conditions -

- (a) that they be admitted for the duration of the war;

- (b) that each person admitted is of good character and personality and is in sound health;
- (c) that preference be given to those who can speak English and to those who have relatives or friends in Australia; and
- (d) that each is possessed of or will be supplied with adequate means.

H. S. FOLL.

Minister for the Interior.  
8/ 4/41.



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