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D. H. trips 1956 February

Some notes on New Zealand

6 January 1956

SOME NOTES ON NEW ZEALAND

GENERAL INFORMATION

New Zealand, a Dominion of the British Commonwealth lying in the South Pacific Ocean approximately 1200 miles to the eastward of Australia, has an aggregate area of 103,935 square miles. The Dominion consists mainly of the North Island and the South Island, which are separated by Cook Strait. Numerous islands, some adjacent, some more distant, also form part of the Dominion; the most important are the Cook Islands, Kermadec Islands and Niue Island.

The Government of New Zealand administers Western Samoa with an area of 1,133 square miles. It is held under a Trusteeship Agreement signed on 13 December 1946.

The population of New Zealand, exclusive of the island territories and dependencies, as of 1 April 1954, was 2,087,740. It consisted of approximately 1,947,000 persons of European stock, 126,000 Maoris and 15,000 inhabitants of other racial composition. An estimated 98 per cent. of the people, excluding Maoris, are of British origin. Two-thirds of the total population and about 97 per cent. of the Maoris live on North Island.

Organized colonization dates from 1840, when by the Treaty of Waitangi, the Maori chiefs acknowledged the sovereignty of the British Crown and New Zealand became a British colony. There followed a period of intermittent Maori wars which ended around 1870. Since then, the Maoris have been integrated and assimilated in the political and social life of the country, a remarkable achievement of which New Zealand rightly is proud. Though Maoris vote in four special electoral districts, (which gives them over-representation), the Maori members do not sit in Parliament as a minority or a third party, but affiliate with one or the other of the two major parties. Most Maoris are occupied in agriculture,

but others have become doctors, lawyers and cabinet ministers. There is also a fair amount of inter-marriage, a bi-product of this policy which has not always been appreciated by those Maoris who are intent on keeping their culture intact.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

In 1852, New Zealand was given the conventional political structure of a British colony, consisting of a Governor, a nominated Legislative Council and a House of Representatives.

In 1907 New Zealand received Dominion status, which was further defined in the Imperial Statute of Westminster of November 1931.

The Governor General is the Queen's personal representative in New Zealand (not an official of the British Government), appointed by the Queen for five years after consultation with the New Zealand government. Lately New Zealand nationals have been appointed to this office.

There is a unicameral legislature which consists of eighty members elected by universal suffrage for three years. Women's suffrage dates from 1893; women became eligible as members of the House of Representatives in 1919.

The present Governor General is Lieutenant General Sir Willoughby Norrie. He presides over the Executive Council which includes all the members of the cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Sidney G. Holland. Other principal cabinet officers are: Mr. K. J. Holyoake, Deputy Prime Minister, ~~Minister~~, Minister of Agriculture; Mr. T. L. MacDonald, Minister of Defence, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Island Territories; and Mr. J. T. Watts, Minister of Finance.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND PROBLEMS

The two main political parties are the National Party and the Labour Party. The National Party took over the Government at the general elections held in November 1949, and won again in September 1951 and in November 1954. The Labour

Party was in power continuously from 1935 until defeated in 1949.

Today there is little doctrinal difference between the parties. The achievements of the Labour Party are recognized as an elaboration of the social services which in the past all parties had helped to build, and although the National Party advocates fewer controls and wider scope for private enterprise, it does not challenge the fundamental structure of the welfare state.

The National Party believes in the maintenance of the traditional ties with the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, and with other countries especially through the United Nations, and by means of the Anzus Agreement, the Colombo Plan and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. The leaders of the Party are: Sidney G. Holland (Prime Minister), Alexander McKenzie (President of the Party), T. G. Wilkes (Secretary) and members of the National Cabinet.

At the 1954 election the Labour Party advocated, with regard to external affairs, the prohibition by international agreement of the hydrogen bomb, support for a mutual aid programme of world economic development, full support of the United Nations and close co-operation with the Commonwealth nations. It also supports the recognition of the People's Republic of China. The leaders of the party are: Walter Nash (former Finance Minister), A. H. Nordmeyer (President of the Party), A. J. MacDonald (National Secretary).

A third party, the Social Credit Party, has been in existence for many years, but only in 1954 did it take part in an election. Eighty seats were contested but none gained. Its platform was purely financial. The party leader is Wilfrid B. Owen.

The composition of Parliament since the elections of 13 November 1954 is as follows: National Party - 45 seats; Labour Party - 35 seats.

There are eleven daily newspapers published in New Zealand, of which nine are politically sympathetic towards the National Party. Of the two weekly newspapers, one, The Standard, adheres to the Labour Party's point of view, while the other,

The Freedom, is of National sympathies. The following four newspapers have the largest circulation and favour the National Party: Auckland: New Zealand Herald (morning); Auckland Star (evening); Wellington: Dominion (morning); Evening Post (evening).

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

New Zealand's foreign policy is determined by two main factors: (a) its traditional ties with the United Kingdom, which have been conditioned by the origins of its people, by the smallness of its population, by its geographical isolation, by the nature of its economy and by its history; (b) as a nation in the South Pacific with a small population, a general interest in the stability of the Pacific area and a willingness to make its contribution to this objective.

New Zealand's economy is dependent on the export of a narrow range of primary products (dairy produce, wool and meat), and, consequently, it is very susceptible to changes in world conditions. The United Kingdom has been New Zealand's most important customer and supplier for some years. Since one of the two life lines in the flow of New Zealand's primary products overseas lies through the Suez Canal, it has, in the past, been vitally interested in any political unrest that occurred in the countries near the Canal. On 24 March 1955, however, following the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference in London, Mr. Holland announced that New Zealand had cancelled its strategic commitments in the Middle East which would be replaced by similar obligations in Southeast Asia, involving principally the despatch of forces to Malaya.

New Zealand's foreign policy objectives are now being pursued through its membership in the ANZUS Treaty (September 1951) and in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (September 1954). New Zealand was also one of the original signatories of the Colombo Plan for economic co-operation in Southeast Asia.

With regard to New Zealand's relations with the major Powers in the Pacific area, the following may be mentioned. With Australia there is a close and warm cooperation in many fields, yet, though often bracketed with this sister dominion, New Zealand differs from it in many respects, following from the circumstance that its mode of life is much more British than that of Australia. With Japan peace was concluded in San Francisco in 1951; New Zealand has not recognized the People's Republic of China, but continues to maintain diplomatic relations with the National Government on Formosa.

NEW ZEALAND OFFICERS
SERVING WITH
THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION
IN PALESTINE

Name	Serial No.	Date of Entry on Duty
Major J. G. Austin	202591	29 July 1954
Major A. M. Smith	200182	29 July 1954

*New Zealand also has agreed to provide
2 additional observers to this mission
in March 1956.*

31 December 1955

NEW ZEALAND OFFICERS
SERVING WITH
THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP
IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Name	Serial No.	Date of Entry on Duty
Lieutenant Colonel W. M. Brown	30556	11 January 1952
Major R. E. Rawle	Nil	13 November 1954
Captain J. B. Will	202917	27 August 1954

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31 December 1955

N E W Z E A L A N D

TAB Resident Representative

Mr. John Minter
Stanton House
133 Pitt Street
Sydney, NSW, Australia

Cable address: TECABOARD
 SYDNEY (AUSTRALIA)

Telephone: BW 6954, 6956

Mr. Minter serves also as representative for UNICEF.
His office and that of the Office of the Department of
Public Information are together.

New Zealand's 1956 Contribution to the Expanded Programme

1956 pledge has not yet been announced. 1955 pledge
was \$168,000.

U N I C E F

NEW ZEALAND

Field Representative: Mr. John R. Minter
UNICEF Representative, Southwest
Pacific Office
Stanton House
133 Pitt Street
Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

Cable address: UNICEF
SYDNEY

Telephone: BW 6954 and BW 6956

Allocations: -

Projects Assisted: -

Government Contributions: \$2,473,000

New Zealand occupies first place in a list of 1955 contributions on a per capita basis.

Bureau of Social Affairs

NEW ZEALAND

The national correspondent in the field of social defence is:
Mr. S.T. Barnett, Secretary of Justice, New Zealand Department of
Justice, Wellington.

As in the case of Australia, New Zealand has not yet indicated
to which regional consultative group it wishes to belong; similarly
it would be best identified with the European group.

NEW ZEALAND

~~P-2~~ ^{U.S.} Turner, Bruce Controller
P-5 Miller, R.T. (TRI)
P-4 Berendsen, I. (TRI)
P-4 Male, John G. (ESA)
P-4 Braithwaite, S. (ESA)
P-4 Williams, A.H.W. (DPI)
P-3 Jeffreys, Mary E. (ESA)
P-2 Exley, David (DPI)
P-1 Chapman, I. (ECE)