

C.S.

SECRET

WAR/W2H/1#9

1939.

No.

S/20/39.

Secretary of State.

SUBJECT.

19 39.

15th June.

Previous Paper.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONTROL OF PASSENGER
TRAFFIC IN TIME OF WAR.

MINUTES.

(1-2) S. of S. Secret despatch of 15/6/39.

M. Submitted. It is doubtful
having regard to the very
limited passenger traffic
to and from this colony
whether control is required.
The passenger traffic does
not consist of strangers
and other nationals but is
made up chiefly of residents
visiting the M. and returning.

IncH.
ed.

Subsequent Paper.

11. 5. 39.
I agree to reply that it is not
desired that any ~~arrangement~~ ^{system}
of control should be taken
Next mail will do. with 4/8

Secret despatch to S. F. S. of 10/8/39.

(3)

H. Despatch Submitted.

WCH

CS

16. 8. 39.

~~ttttt~~ 16/8

CIRCULAR.

SECRET.

5/20/39

2

DOWNING STREET,
15th June, 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you, for your consideration, a copy of a memorandum relating to the arrangements for the control of passenger traffic in time of war which are contemplated in the United Kingdom.

2. You will observe that, in paragraph 6 of the memorandum, it is proposed that British subjects ordinarily resident in Colonial Dependencies should be allowed to leave the United Kingdom freely although they would be required to obtain a permit. I should be obliged if you would consider the desirability of imposing some system of control of the movements of British subjects ordinarily resident in the territory or territories under your administration, and also whether, either in connection with the imposition of such control or for any other reason, you would desire some control to be imposed upon the movement from the United Kingdom (whether to other parts of His Majesty's dominions or to any protectorate, protected State or mandated territory, or to foreign countries) of British subjects ordinarily resident in the territories under your administration. I should be glad to be informed at your early convenience whether it is desired that any action should be taken in this respect.

3. In paragraph 5(a) of the memorandum it is contemplated that persons in the service of the Crown should be exempted from the requirement to obtain a permit to embark. Arrangements are being made to ensure that this exemption will be extended to all officers of Colonial Governments (but not to their wives or to their children over the age of 16); but for this purpose it will be necessary for such officers to be in possession of some form of documentary evidence that they are officers of Colonial Governments in order that, on their departure from the United Kingdom, they may satisfy the Immigration Officer that they are members of a class exempted from the permit requirement. It would seem that the simplest method of achieving this end would be to arrange for the Crown Agents for the Colonies to issue to the officers concerned such an indication of identity at the same time as they complete arrangements for their passages to the Colony. The Crown Agents are being consulted on this point.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

MALCOLM MACDONALD.

The Officer Administering
the Government of

MEMORANDUM

CONTROL OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN TIME OF WAR

(Secret.)

It is proposed that, in time of war, embarkation in respect of all overseas destinations, including Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, should be controlled by a Permit Office. The reasons for this decision are not only considerations of security and man-power but the necessity in time of war for restricting all unnecessary movement as far as possible and, from the Naval point of view, for reducing the number of convoys for comparatively unimportant traffic.

2. It is contemplated that, in the precautionary stage, aliens should be allowed to depart freely in the absence of special reasons to the contrary in individual cases, and it appears that British subjects holding valid passports could not be prevented from leaving before the passing of the Defence Regulations. The issue, extension and endorsement of British passports would be suspended by administrative action in all cases in which a permit to embark would be refused after the outbreak of war. This will, of course, allow of control of departures to foreign countries only and not to places such as Ireland for which passports are not necessary in peace-time.

3. In time of war aliens would normally be allowed to leave the country freely. It is intended that in the first few days of an emergency the requirement of a permit to embark should not be enforced, and it is assumed that after this period has expired "no return" permits would be freely granted. It is realized that these proposals would involve an imposition on British subjects of restrictions which were not being applied to aliens. It is considered that this is fully justified, since:—

- (a) it has been decided that aliens should be encouraged to go in order to avoid problems of feeding, internment, etc.;
- (b) that, in any event, non-enemy-aliens could hardly be prevented from returning to their own countries; and
- (c) that it is the duty of British subjects to remain here in time of national emergency.

4. Broadly speaking, foreign travel by British subjects would be restricted to cases where the necessity of the journey is clearly established. Further, in view of the importance of man-power, departures would be restricted, as far as possible, to the "useless mouths." Whilst no exact decision has been reached as to definite categories and age groups of special importance, exceptions to the rule proposed above are likely to be confined to the elderly and the physically infirm.

5. It is suggested that the following classes of persons should be exempted from the requirement to obtain a permit to embark and that Immigration Officers should be instructed accordingly:—

- (a) persons in the service of the Crown (including persons in the service of a Dominion Government);
- (b) duly accredited representatives of foreign Diplomatic Missions and members of their official or domestic staff (if not British subjects);
- (c) foreign Consuls de Carrière appointed to the United Kingdom;
- (d) duly accredited officials of Allied Governments;
- (e) Police Officers on duty;
- (f) children under 16;
- (g) aliens holding transit visas (*see* paragraph 7).

6. It is proposed that British subjects ordinarily resident in any part of His Majesty's dominions outside the United Kingdom, or in any protectorate, protected state or mandated territory, should be allowed to leave freely. They would, however, be required to obtain a permit in order to absolve the Immigration Officer from the difficult task of deciding whether they were entitled to exemption.

7. It is contemplated that all applications by aliens for visas to pass through the United Kingdom in transit to another country would be referred for decision by the Passport Control Officers and that visas would only be granted after investigation and for a strictly limited period. Aliens holding a transit visa would not be required to obtain a permit in order to leave the United Kingdom. (*See* paragraph 5.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

15th August, 1939.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

S E C R E T.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Secret Circular despatch of the 15th of June, 1939, transmitting for my consideration a copy of a Memorandum relating to the arrangements for the control of passenger traffic in time of war which are contemplated in the United Kingdom.

2. It is not desired that any system of control should be imposed on the movements of British subjects ordinarily resident in this Colony or that control should be imposed upon the movement from the United Kingdom of such persons.

3. The very limited passenger traffic to and from this Colony is made up chiefly of residents visiting the United Kingdom and returning to the Colony.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

(Sgt.) H. HENNIKER-HEATON

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
MALCOLM MACDONALD, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.