

MEMORANDUM TO TOWN CLERK

WLH/KH

re: Indian Penetration.

Attached is a first draft of a memorandum to the members of the deputation which the Council has appointed to interview the Administrator and the Minister on this subject.

The memorandum is fairly detailed and comprehensive upon what seems to me to be all of the main aspects of the problem of Indian Penetration, except one. That one is the question of the greater provision by the Council of housing and land for housing for Indians. I have felt obliged to "skip lightly" over this question, and I have endeavoured (perhaps rather plausibly) to show that it is not an important question in relation to the general problem. This course has been rather forced upon me by the attitude which the Council has so far taken up towards this question.

I have no doubt in my own mind, however, that that question will loom largely before the deputation in its meeting with the Minister, and, perhaps also in its meeting with the Administrator. It is now indisputable that the lack of sufficient housing and land for housing is one of the causes of Indian Penetration. That is the judgment of the Broome Commission. And it is a cause which the Council can remove.

To that extent the Council's deputation will not appear before the Minister with clean hands: and I anticipate that it will be on that point that it will experience its greatest difficulty.

I would not be surprised if this difficulty arises also before the Administrator. The members of the Executive Committee know the constant contention of the Indians in this connection: and (from what I heard from them last year) I know that they are very impatient with the absence of a long term town planning scheme in Durban, wherein provision for a de facto segregation of Europeans and Asiatics is made.

All this is a very large and thorny question, and I cannot say anything upon the merits of it which would be of much value: but, having given so much thought over the last few days to all the various aspects of the deputation's task, I felt that it would not be fair if I did not say what I have set down in this memorandum.

9th November, 1942.


LEGAL ASSISTANT

(P.S. I hope I will not be thought presumptuous if I say that a policy of leaving this question to be dealt with after the war has its dangers. Everything points to the development of Durban after the war being greater and faster than it was before. I hope that this will not overtake us before we are ready for it, for that would increase and complicate our difficulties very greatly).