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DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Subject: Endeavour Training Farm, Riverview

RECORD NUMBER

VMC.

MINUTE

Colonel Peterson, Territorial Social Service Secretary, Salvation Army, and Lieutenant-Colonel Barrett, State Social Secretary, called this morning, as suggested in my letter of 3rd December, 1973, to discuss the report prepared by Mr. D. Smith, Senior Child Care Officer.

It was quite clear that not only had Colonel Peterson carefully studied the report but also the Commissioner and Chief Secretary. All were strong in their criticism of its "academic basis" having no regard to the problems of the Salvation Army nor its procedures and practices. This was notable from the comments of financial resources as in the case of Riverview they had been in requirements totally sought by Major Bennett.

They felt also that the report lacked an understanding of the motivation of persons working in the Salvation Army particularly in regard to salary rates. Colonel Peterson pointed out that when lay people are employed they are paid a reasonable remuneration in accordance with relevant awards which is in excess of what Salvation Army Officers are paid.

The result of the report, of course, has been the transfer of Major Bennett and the appointment of Captain Ray Wilson. Colonel Peterson could not see any advantage in having an understudy to Major Bennett because he felt there was a need for a fresh approach to the Administration. Additional staff has also been appointed to Riverview. The Salvation Army is of the opinion that it will be difficult to achieve their

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	objectives in a training programme for the boys whilst the Home is at Riverview.	
	Colonel Peterson considered the comments on Mulgowie as academic and lacking understanding of the financial involvement. He pointed out that the planning for Mulgowie had been done in collaboration with this Department and it was quit evident, in his view, that Mr. Smith was not aware in detail of all the plans. The present arrangements of cottage parents, with an assistant, was an interim arrangement, later developing into the concept of cottage parents for each ten boys. Building and economy generally were involved and could not be ignored. There must be compromises. Whilst Mr. Smith's report sets out ideals, resources dictated the need. If the Department required these standards immediately, then the Salvation Army must withdraw and the Department provide its own services.	
	I assured Colonel Peterson that this would not be the case with the Minister and the Government who still required the Denominational bodies to participate actively with the Department in its child welfare policies and practices.	
	Colonel Peterson will be communicating with the Department as a result of the report and the conversation I had today and, in his letter, the Salvation Army will seek, in writing, a statement of the Government's policies with regard to the participation of Denominational bodies in child welfare. I said that I would have the position clearly and simply defined for the Salvation Army	

