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NOTE:

On Wednesday, 7th November, 1956, in company with Mr. Casey of the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Mr. Alexander of the State Department and Lands and Immigration, and Father McKeon, I visited Bindoon for the purpose of inspecting the dormitory and bathroom accommodation referred to in correspondence from Mr. Wheeler hereunder:-

1. Bro. Quilligan received us hospitably but during the course of the inspection expressed quite emphatically his dis-pleasure at the thought that such an inspection was deemed necessary. He insisted that he had always carried out the suggestions and requirements of the Government authorities and felt that he should have been trusted to do so on this occasion. He referred, in bitter terms, to the visit earlier in the year of the British "Fact Finding" Commission and especially its leader, Mr. Ross.

2. The dormitories were all inspected and were found to be clean, neat, the bedding in good condition and each bed provided with a bed-side mat, approximately 18" x 30" and a carpet runner between rows of beds.

3. In the bathroom a set of timber duck boards made in sections approximately 4' x 3' has been provided between the showers. In the dressing room duck boards to accommodate two boys have been placed on the stone seats and on the floor in front of the seats. Hooks for towels have been provided in the bathroom and hooks for clothes in the dressing room. Bro. Quilligan described the procedure as follows:-

Boys undress in the dressing room, wash their feet in the foot bath, have their showers in the shower room, stand on the duck boards to dry themselves, return to the dressing room to dress themselves.

This seems a satisfactory arrangement, but does not comply exactly with Mr. Wheeler's instructions which have been departed from, allegedly on the advice of a consultative committee of five medical practitioners.

4. Enquiry was made about the drying of towels. Bro. Quilligan replied that these are taken by the boys to the laundry each day and dried in the hydro-dryer. The towels were not seen.

5. It was agreed between Mr. Casey, Mr. Alexander and myself that Mr. Casey will frame a submission for Canberra and will consult the Child Welfare and Lands Departments before despatching it.

J. St. John

DIRECTOR.

JM:DS
9/11/56.

Jo PP
22-11-56
AK

8/6 see page 31. File No 46/56.
for further reference.