

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL

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THE PROBLEM OF STATELESSNESS

Information transmitted by States in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 352 (XII) relating to the problem of statelessness

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate the following communication dated 13 July 1951 which he has received from the Minister of External Affairs of New Zealand:

"The Minister of External Affairs presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in response to the Secretary-General's Note SOA 325/04 dated 5 April 1951, has the honour to refer to the reply sent on 23 November 1950 to the Secretary-General's Note SOA 325/5/02 of 27 September 1950 relating to the naturalization of Stateless persons in New Zealand.

"Further consideration has been given to the questions connected with the problem of statelessness which were dealt with in the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council of 11 August 1950 and 13 March 1951.

"Although it is unlikely that New Zealand will be involved in any changes of territorial sovereignty, the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council with regard to the avoidance of statelessness has been noted.

"Under the British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act, 1948, the New Zealand legislation relating to nationality and citizenship, all persons born in New Zealand, with unimportant exceptions, automatically become New Zealand citizens. It follows that statelessness does not arise in the case of persons born in New Zealand; nor, in view of the provisions in the New Zealand legislation relating to the acquisition of New Zealand citizenship by descent, is statelessness likely to arise in respect of legitimate children born outside New Zealand of a father who is a New Zealand citizen.

"Under the New Zealand legislation statelessness cannot arise as a result of marriage or the dissolution thereof, or even through voluntary renunciation of citizenship.

"Under certain provisions of the British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act, 1948, a New Zealand citizen may be deprived of his citizenship, but such a person would become stateless only if he did not possess a second nationality or failed to revert to his former or original nationality. The number of cases of deprivation of New Zealand citizenship is small, and the most common ground is continued residence of a naturalized New Zealand citizen in his country of origin."
