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MANIFESTATIONS OF RACIAL PREJUDICE AND NATIONAL AND
RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE*

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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* Item 59 of the provisional agenda.

NEW ZEALAND

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A note of 30 July 1963,^{1/} replying to an earlier inquiry, gave examples of legal distinctions specially formulated in the interests of the Maori people. These are being removed as they achieve their purpose; and it is indicative of this trend that prominent New Zealanders, both Maori and European, have recently questioned the need to retain separate representation in Parliament for Maori electors. It is generally agreed that there will be no change in this provision until and unless the Maori people express a wish for it.

Although the Government approaches very cautiously any proposal which would reduce the measures of special protection still accorded to the Maori people, it is alive to the need to combat any other kind of discrimination. Occasionally, it is possible to devise worth-while legislative safeguards to meet or forestall a discriminatory practice. One recent example is the Property Law Amendment Act 1965 which nullifies any attempt to restrict the resale of land - including house properties - to persons of a particular colour or race.

More often, the best method of combating discrimination and intolerance is through education. In New Zealand, it is one of the aims of the education system to foster a spirit of understanding, friendship and mutual respect among all people. All children in New Zealand are obliged to attend school until they reach the age of fifteen. They are urged and encouraged to continue this education to higher levels in technical or professional fields.

Particular attention is being paid to the need to encourage and assist Maori families to take full advantage of the equal opportunity which is open to their children in the field of education. There is no doubt that they now appreciate more fully the benefits to be gained from higher and technical education. This is shown by the increasing numbers of Maoris who are continuing to higher education and who are attending technical institutions.

Government policies have the full backing of public opinion, because there is a strong sense of unity among the whole population of New Zealand. There is, and

^{1/} See A/5473.

has for many years been, a high rate of inter-marriage between Maori and European. All sections of the community are vigilant towards any incidents of personal prejudice or intolerance and towards any checking of the movement towards a multi-racial society characterized by complete equality, harmony and tolerance.
