



Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee

ERD Min (15) 5/2

Copy No: 33

Minute of Decision

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Reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota Places for 2015/16

Portfolios: Foreign Affairs / Immigration

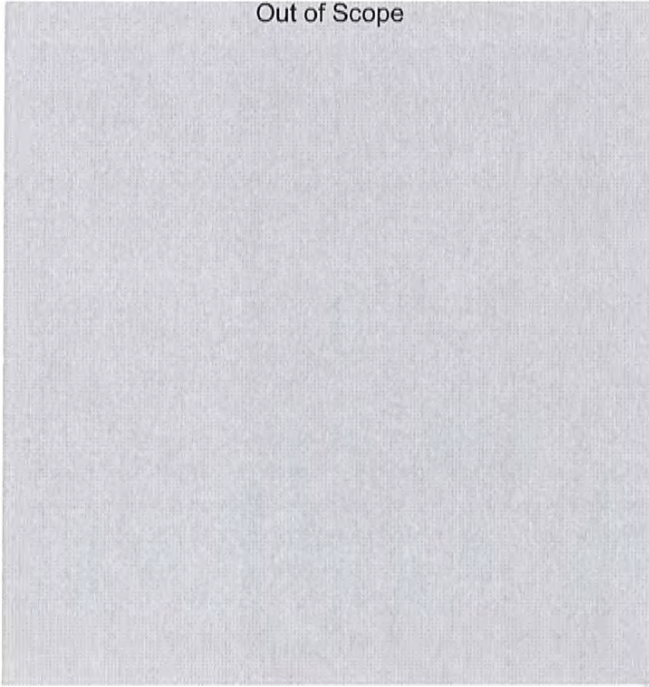
On 23 June 2015, the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee (ERD):

- 1 **noted** that in June 2013, Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 transferee places were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, subject to Cabinet's consideration of regional allocations [CAB Min (13) 20/15];
- 2 **noted** the contents of the submission under ERD (15) 13, including that two reallocation options were considered;
- 3 **invited** the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Immigration to report to ERD in July 2015 with a new paper seeking agreement to the reallocation of the 150 transferee places which includes details on the operational implications of the second option.

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Immigration
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee

REALLOCATION OF 150 REFUGEE QUOTA PLACES FOR 2015/16

Purpose

1. This paper seeks Cabinet's agreement to the reallocation of up to 150 places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota, s6(b)(i) to refugees from the Asia-Pacific region referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Cabinet decision on reallocation required

2. In June 2013, Cabinet agreed that up to 150 places would be allocated annually from within the Refugee Quota to resettle refugees who have been subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation (transferees). Should Australia decide not to take up the 150 places then, subject to Cabinet's consideration of the regional allocation, they would be reallocated to refugees referred by the UNHCR [CAB Min (13) 20/13].

s 6(b)(i)

3. [Redacted]

s 6(b)(i)

Two reallocation options have been considered

4. The reallocation options considered were:
 - Option One: reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region, or
 - Option Two: reallocate 100 places to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis and reallocate the remaining 50 places to the Asia-Pacific region.
5. Option One would result in around two thirds of the 2015/16 Refugee Quota being allocated to refugees from the Asia-Pacific region. Option One would be consistent with Cabinet's reallocation decision for 2014/15. Enhanced resettlement from the Asia-Pacific region would demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to sharing regional responsibility in line with our efforts to counter people-smuggling through regional initiatives such as the Bali process.
6. Option Two would demonstrate New Zealand's humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis and respond to the United Nation's call on Member States for increased resettlement efforts. It would mean the Refugee Quota would be more evenly balanced between the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world.

In Confidence

Option One (Asia-Pacific) is proposed

7. Option One: *reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region* is proposed because it demonstrates New Zealand's continued strong commitment to the Asia-Pacific region.
8. We (the Ministers of Immigration and Foreign Affairs) will decide the composition of the 150 places once Cabinet has made its regional reallocation decision. However, in the Asia-Pacific region, the refugee protection cases for resettlement mainly fall into three groups:
 - Afghans (both in Pakistan and Indonesia)
 - Bhutanese in Nepal, and
 - Burmese in Thailand and Malaysia (which are expected to include Kachin, Chin, Burmese, Karen, Rohingya and other ethnic groups).

Stringent security checks are undertaken for all cases submitted for resettlement

9. In addition to UNHCR's pre-selection security screening, all refugee cases submitted by the UNHCR for consideration for resettlement in New Zealand undergo the following assessments as part of Immigration New Zealand's decision-making process and are declined if they do not pass all the assessments:
 - on and off-shore screening and assessment (which may include interviews) that focuses on credibility, risk and settlement to ensure that the person is not a security risk or character of concern to New Zealand and that settlement in New Zealand is the right option for them;
 - security checks by the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service;
 - Five Country Conference biometric checks; and
 - an Immigration New Zealand health assessment.

Consultation

10. The Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Social Development, the Office of Ethnic Affairs and the Treasury have been consulted in the development of this paper. The Department of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet has been informed.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications requiring adjustments to Crown baselines as the 150 places are within the current Refugee Quota.

Human Rights Implications

12. The proposals are consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Legislative and Regulatory Implications

13. There are no legislative implications arising from this proposal. A regulatory impact statement is not required.

Publicity

14. No publicity is planned. The UNHCR will be advised of Cabinet's decision.

In Confidence

Recommendations

15. The Minister of Immigration and the Minister of Foreign Affairs recommend that the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee:
1. note that Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 transferee places were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), subject to Cabinet consideration of regional allocations [CAB Min (13) 20/13];
 2. s 6(b)(i)
 3. agree to allocate the 150 transferee places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota to UNHCR-referred refugees resettled from the Asia-Pacific region.



Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

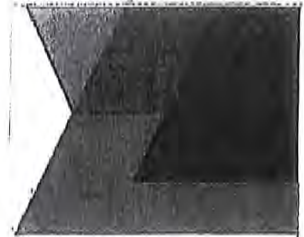
17, 6, 15.



Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs

19, 6, 2015

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AIDE MEMOIRE

**External Relations and Defence Committee consideration of
Cabinet paper: *Reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota places for
2015/16***

Date:	22 June 2015	Priority:	High
Security Classification:	In Confidence	Tracker number:	3310 14-15

Hon Michael Woodhouse Minister of Immigration	Note contents	9am 23 June 2015
Hon Craig Foss Associate Minister of Immigration	N/A	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Christine Hyndman	Manager, Immigration Policy	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Floss Caughey	Senior Advisor, Immigration Policy		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			N/A		

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments:



AIDE MEMOIRE

External Relations and Defence Committee consideration of Cabinet paper: *Reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota places for 2015/16*

Date:	22 June 2015	Priority:	High
Security Classification:	In Confidence	Tracker number:	3310 14-15

Purpose

1. To provide information on points that may arise during the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee (ERD) consideration of the paper *Reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota Places for 2015/16* at 9am, Tuesday 23 June 2015.

Reallocation of 150 places to Asia-Pacific region in 2015/16

2. In June 2013, Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 places from the Refugee Quota were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), subject to Cabinet consideration of regional allocations. s 6(b)(i)
 3. At your meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs on 29 April 2015, the option of reallocating the 150 places to the resettlement of refugees from the Asia-Pacific region was supported and that has been recommended to Cabinet. Reallocation of the 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region will result in around two thirds of the 2015/16 Refugee Quota being allocated to refugees from that region. It demonstrates New Zealand's continued strong commitment to the Asia-Pacific region.
 4. In the Asia-Pacific region, the refugee protection cases for resettlement mainly fall into three groups:
 - Afghans in Pakistan and Indonesia
 - Bhutanese in Nepal, and
 - Burmese in Thailand and Malaysia.
 5. The Burmese caseload is expected to include a range of ethnic groups including Rohingya. There has been recent media attention on the plight of Rohingya from Myanmar who have been turned back to sea from their attempts to reach Thailand or Malaysia. s6(b)(ii)
s6(b)(ii)
- s6(b)(ii) Many of them have left Myanmar as a result of fears of ethnic and religious violence. It will take some time for the recently arrived boatloads of Rohingya to be assessed as refugees requiring resettlement.

Resettling refugees from the Syrian crisis

6. s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED] You may be asked about resettlement of Syrian refugees in New Zealand.
7. In 2013, Cabinet agreed that up to 50 places annually within the Refugee Quota be used to resettle refugees from large-scale refugee crisis situations. In 2014, it was agreed that 100 places over two years be used to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis. So far, 83 Syrian refugees have been resettled in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota in 2014/15. The remaining 17 Syrian refugees out of the 100 will be resettled in 2015/16 Refugee Quota.
8. There are 50 places currently unallocated within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota.

Stringent security checks undertaken

9. All refugees submitted by the UNHCR for consideration for resettlement in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota Programme have to meet stringent security checks. As well, an assessment is undertaken as to whether resettlement in New Zealand is the right option for them and may include whether appropriate housing is available for the size and composition of the refugee family; whether the refugee has family resettled in other countries; is the refugee open to being resettled in New Zealand.

The size of the Refugee Quota Programme

10. A number of organisations have advocated for an increase to the size of the Refugee Quota Programme which has remained at 750, plus or minus 10 percent, per year for many years. You and the Minister of Foreign Affairs are due to put proposals to Cabinet on the next three year Refugee Quota Programme (2016/17 – 2018/19) in the first half of 2016. As well as advice on the size of the next three year Refugee Quota and the cost implications of any increase, the Ministry will provide options for your consideration of other forms of admission of refugees which may allow more flexibility in New Zealand's humanitarian policies.

Implementation of New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy

11. The New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy (the Strategy), approved by the Government in 2012, is a whole-of-government approach to delivering improved refugee resettlement outcomes so that refugees more quickly achieve self-sufficiency, social integration and independence. The Strategy is being implemented progressively from 2013/14 and applies in the first instance to quota refugees selected from 1 July 2013.
12. Changes have been made to the mix of services at the pre-arrival, reception and initial resettlement phases to achieve better resettlement outcomes for quota refugees. The reception programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre has been revised to have a stronger focus on engaging working-age refugees in practical preparations for work.
13. New Zealand Red Cross has been contracted to provide settlement support in the community for up to 12 months, including a community orientation programme and linking refugees to mainstream services. The New Zealand Red Cross National Pathways to Employment Programme for former refugees has been in operation for six months from September 2014 to February 2015, and is tracking positively. Achievements after six months include 90 active job seekers (defined as refugees with basic conversational English and available to work) being placed in paid employment, voluntary work or work experience.



BRIEFING

Cabinet paper: *Reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota places for 2015/16*

Date:	15 June 2015	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	3154 14-15

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Michael Woodhouse Minister of Immigration	Sign the attached paper	17 June 2015
Hon Murray McCully Minister of Foreign Affairs	Sign the attached paper	17 June 2015
Hon Craig Foss Associate Minister of Immigration	Copy attached for your information.	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Christine Hyndman	Manager, Immigration Policy, MBIE	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Floss Caughey	Senior Advisor, Immigration Policy		
s 9(2)(a)	Divisional Manager, United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted					
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasury	<input type="checkbox"/> MoJ	<input type="checkbox"/> NZTE	<input type="checkbox"/> MSD	<input type="checkbox"/> TEC	<input type="checkbox"/> MoE
<input type="checkbox"/> MFAT	<input type="checkbox"/> MPI	<input type="checkbox"/> MfE	<input type="checkbox"/> DIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TPK	<input type="checkbox"/> MoH

- Minister's office to complete:**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |



BRIEFING

Cabinet paper: *Reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota Places for 2015/16*

Date:	11 June 2015	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	3154 14-15

Purpose

To seek your agreement to sign the attached Cabinet paper concerning the reallocation of 150 places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota s6(b)(i) and to agree the composition of the 2015/16 refugee quota.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade recommend that you:

- a **note** that the attached paper recommends to the External Relations and Defence Committee that the 150 places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota, s6(b)(i) be used to resettle up to 150 refugees from the Asia-Pacific region referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Noted
- b **agree** the proposed composition of the 2015/16 Refugee Quota at Annex One (subject to Cabinet agreement to allocating to the Asia-Pacific region the 150 places not required by Australia)
Noted
- c **note** that for the attached paper to be considered by the External Relations and Defence Committee at its next scheduled meeting of Tuesday, 23 June 2015 it would need to be signed and lodged by 10am on Thursday 18 June 2015, and
Noted
- d **sign** the attached paper titled *Reallocation of 150 Refugee Quota Places for 2015/16*

Agree / Disagree

Christine Hyndman

Christine Hyndman
Manager, Immigration Policy
People, Science and Enterprise
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

15.6.2015
...../...../.....

...../...../.....

Lucy Duncan

Lucy Duncan
Deputy Secretary
Multilateral and Legal Group
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs

12/6/15
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Reallocation of up to 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region

- In June 2013, Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 places from the Refugee Quota were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), subject to Cabinet consideration of regional allocations [CAB (Min (13) 20/13], s 6(b)(1). At your meeting of 29 April 2015, you agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the 150 places s6(b)(1) should be reallocated to refugees from the Asia-Pacific region. The attached Cabinet paper reflects your decision.

Composition of 2015/16 Refugee Quota

- You are asked to agree to the proposed composition of the 2015/16 Refugee Quota which is attached at Annex One (subject to Cabinet agreeing to the reallocation of the 150 transferee places to the Asia-Pacific region). The numbers for the Asia-Pacific region at Annex One include the reallocation of the 150 transferee places.
- In the Asia-Pacific region, the refugee protection cases for resettlement mainly fall into three groups:
 - Afghans in Pakistan and Indonesia
 - Burmese in Thailand and Malaysia, and
 - Bhutanese in Nepal.
- In 2014/15, the number of Bhutanese (around 150) that we are able to resettle from Nepal is lower than previously anticipated on account of the earthquake in Nepal in April 2015.

We are hoping to re-start resettlement of the Bhutanese caseload early in 2016. This means that the Afghan caseload is correspondingly higher at around 185.

5. The Burmese caseload is expected to include Kachin, Chin, Burmese, Karen, Rohingya and other ethnic groups.

Questions about resettlement of Syrian refugees may arise

6. The alternative option outlined in the attached paper (that 100 of the 150 places be reallocated to resettle UNHCR-referred Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis) may prompt questions about the resettlement of Syrian refugees in New Zealand. In 2013, Cabinet agreed that up to 50 places annually within the Refugee Quota be used to resettle refugees from large-scale refugee crisis situations. In 2014, it was agreed that 100 places over two years be used to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis. So far, 83 Syrian refugees have been resettled in New Zealand under the Refugee Quota in 2014/15. The remaining 17 Syrian refugees out of the 100 will be resettled in 2015/16 Refugee Quota.

Timing of consideration of paper

7. The External Relations and Defence Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday 23 June 2015. For the attached paper to be considered at that meeting, it will need to be signed by both Ministers and lodged by 10 am on Thursday 18 June 2015.

ANNEX ONE: PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF 2015/16 REFUGEE QUOTA PROGRAMME

Note the numbers are indicative only. The numbers for the Asia-Pacific region include the reallocation of the 150 transferee places.

Region	Number **	Percentage
Asia-Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 185 Afghans • Approximately 150 Bhutanese • Approximately 150 Burmese • Various other nationalities 	485	65
America	115	15
Africa *	45	6
Middle East *	38	5
Remainder of 100 large-scale refugee crisis places for Syrians	17	2
Unallocated (large-scale refugee crisis places)	50	7
Total	750	100

*Family reunion / family-linked cases.

**There may be some variation in actual numbers and nationalities.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Immigration
Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee

REALLOCATION OF 150 REFUGEE QUOTA PLACES FOR 2015/16

Purpose

1. This paper seeks Cabinet's agreement to the reallocation of up to 150 places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota, s6(b)(i) to refugees from the Asia-Pacific region referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Cabinet decision on reallocation required

2. In June 2013, Cabinet agreed that up to 150 places would be allocated annually from within the Refugee Quota to resettle refugees who have been subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation (transferees). Should Australia decide not to take up the 150 places then, subject to Cabinet's consideration of the regional allocation, they would be reallocated to refugees referred by the UNHCR [CAB Min (13) 20/13]. When Australia advised that it did not require the 150 places for the 2014/15 year, Cabinet agreed to reallocate the 150 places to resettle UNHCR-referred refugees mainly from the Asia-Pacific region [CAB Min (14) 19/4].

3.  s 6(b)(i)

Two reallocation options have been considered

4. The reallocation options considered were:
 - Option One: reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region, or
 - Option Two: reallocate 100 places to resettle Syrian refugees from the Syrian crisis and reallocate the remaining 50 places to the Asia-Pacific region.
5. Option One would result in around two thirds of the 2015/16 Refugee Quota being allocated to refugees from the Asia-Pacific region. Option One would be consistent with Cabinet's reallocation decision for 2014/15. Enhanced resettlement from the Asia-Pacific region would demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to sharing regional responsibility in line with our efforts to counter people-smuggling through regional initiatives such as the Bali process.
6. Option Two would demonstrate New Zealand's humanitarian response to the Syrian crisis and respond to the United Nation's call on Member States for increased resettlement efforts. It would mean the Refugee Quota would be more evenly balanced between the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world.

In Confidence

Option One (Asia-Pacific) is proposed

7. Option One: *reallocate all 150 places to the Asia-Pacific region* is proposed because it demonstrates New Zealand's continued strong commitment to the Asia-Pacific region.
8. We (the Ministers of Immigration and Foreign Affairs) will decide the composition of the 150 places once Cabinet has made its regional reallocation decision. However, in the Asia-Pacific region, the refugee protection cases for resettlement mainly fall into three groups:
 - Afghans (both in Pakistan and Indonesia)
 - Bhutanese in Nepal, and
 - Burmese in Thailand and Malaysia (which are expected to include Kachin, Chin, Burmese, Karen, Rohingya and other ethnic groups).

Stringent security checks are undertaken for all cases submitted for resettlement

9. In addition to UNHCR's pre-selection security screening, all refugee cases submitted by the UNHCR for consideration for resettlement in New Zealand undergo the following assessments as part of Immigration New Zealand's decision-making process and are declined if they do not pass all the assessments:
 - on and off-shore screening and assessment (which may include interviews) that focuses on credibility, risk and settlement to ensure that the person is not a security risk or character of concern to New Zealand and that settlement in New Zealand is the right option for them;
 - security checks by the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service;
 - Five Country Conference biometric checks; and
 - an Immigration New Zealand health assessment.

Consultation

10. The Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Social Development, the Office of Ethnic Affairs and the Treasury have been consulted in the development of this paper. The Department of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet has been informed.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications requiring adjustments to Crown baselines as the 150 places are within the current Refugee Quota.

Human Rights Implications

12. The proposals are consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Legislative and Regulatory Implications

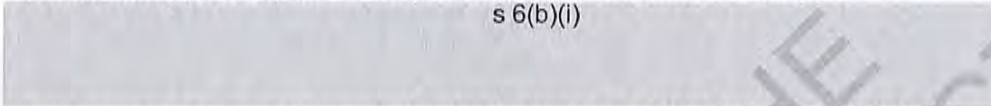
13. There are no legislative implications arising from this proposal. A regulatory impact statement is not required.

Publicity

14. No publicity is planned. The UNHCR will be advised of Cabinet's decision.

In Confidence

Recommendations

15. The Minister of Immigration and the Minister of Foreign Affairs recommend that the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee:
 1. **note** that Cabinet agreed that, if the 150 transferee places were not required for resettling transferees from Australia, the places would be reallocated to refugees referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), subject to Cabinet consideration of regional allocations [CAB Min (13) 20/13];
 2.  s 6(b)(1)
 3. **agree** to allocate the 150 transferee places within the 2015/16 Refugee Quota to UNHCR-referred refugees resettled from the Asia-Pacific region.

Hon Michael Woodhouse
Minister of Immigration

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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