

OUTLINE OF GOVERNMENT SCHEME

We must prepare in good time against the possibility of war, however remote that possibility may be. Most people will necessarily be kept where they are by their duties, but there will be many in the big cities who, both in the national interest and on grounds of humanity, should go to places where they will be rather safer from air attack.

Children must come first. That, I am sure, will be agreed by all, and I feel sure too that we can rely on willing help from all. Though we shall use empty houses and camps as far as we can, we must look in the main to householders to receive these children. We will do all we can to lessen the inconvenience and spread the burden evenly. That is one of the main reasons why we must plan in advance.

The attached notes explain in a general way the arrangements which the Government has in mind. They will not of course come into operation unless and until an emergency arises. If an emergency does come, an announcement will be made that the arrangements which have been planned are to be put into operation. In every case as much notice as possible will be given to householders.

Walter R. Illist

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

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The arrangements which are being made provide for dispersal from the crowded towns where the results of air attack would be most serious. In this movement priority will be given to children, and school children will, as far as possible, be moved school by school, accompanied by their teachers and other helpers. Where this arrangement is made householders will be asked to board and lodge the children. Homes are to be found for them in the districts to which they are to be taken: that is why arrangements must be planned in advance. Householders who provide such homes will be paid by the Government at the rate of 10s. 6d. a week where one child is taken and 8s. 6d. a week for each child where more than one child is taken.

Children under school age will be accompanied by their mothers or some other person who will be responsible for looking after them. In these cases the householder will only be asked to provide lodging, not board, and payment will be made at the rate of 5s. a week for each adult and 3s. a week for each child. Payment at the rate of 5s. a week will be made by the Government where the householder provides lodging for a teacher or helper accompanying a party of school children.

Arrangements for the necessary transport and for increased supplies of food to be made available for shopkeepers will be made by the Government.

Form Ev. 1.