

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### EASTERN EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS

#### Passenger In Defence

Sir,—One point which appears to have been overlooked in the correspondence that has arisen out of the childish and unjust accusations made against the Strathmore immigrants, is the vital necessity for easing the European situation immediately by the admission of immigrants to under-populated countries. After five years in the Eastern Mediterranean, I feel that I can speak with some knowledge of the problem.

To the north, our staunch allies, the Greeks, can barely support themselves in their own small and comparatively unproductive country, which, at the same time, is continually torn by domestic strife, and haunted by the likelihood of aggression. In Egypt, the whole European population, including many British Cypriots and Maltese, lives more or less anticipating its marching orders.

Much has been written about Palestine and the necessity for admitting immigrants, but not enough consideration has been given, to my mind, to those Palestinians who wish to go elsewhere, thus automatically relieving the tension.

These three countries alone, with their economic uncertainties and unhappy political passions, are a pretty considerable danger to world security, and we shall not do much to alleviate that situation by bottling up the inhabitants with their desperation. The European problem is still ours, in so much as we shall share inevitably in some future war that we shall prepare by our short-sightedness.

Full bellies, a roof, and a plot of land breed content. As these requisites are generally more accessible to the British and Americans, they are sometimes unable to understand the nostalgic desire of the have-nots to achieve the same state. Although I am myself a British national and an ex-Serviceman who shared a dormitory with nearly 100 foreign immigrants in the Strathmore, and although I argued for nine months to get a passage to Australia, I must still maintain the necessity for allotting a good percentage of passages to foreign immigrants whether it is to the

for allotting a good percentage of passages to foreign immigrants whether it is to the British Dominions, the United States, or South America, and that at once.

If a few Britons suffer temporarily by not travelling where and as they wish they have at least the mental comfort and moral support that a "safe" nationality brings in a world in which problems are still distressingly national. But the immigration issue is not a national one. We must learn to think in international terms if we are to avoid an accentuation in world suffering.

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