

PROF. DR J. TINBERGEN

THE HAGUE, 18 October 1950
Sijzenlaan 41

Prof. Mr C. Weststrate,
Department of Economics,
Canterbury University College,
Christchurch C.1,
New Zealand

Dear Weststrate,

I was very glad to hear from you and, as you write, the suggestion that your three colleagues and yourself would prepare in some way a planning activity for New Zealand is very interesting indeed. I quite agree with you, however, that it is impossible for you to carry out this planning currently. I therefore ~~think~~ like you do, that the preparation of a memorandum would be the best solution. Permanent activities or even a broader piece of incidental research should be left to people free to devote their full time to it.

As to literature, may I make the following suggestions? On the one hand there is Prof. Zweig's book "Planning in a free Society", which perhaps still gives a good background. More concrete information might be obtained from the experiences of the existing planning offices like the ones in Norway, Denmark, the U.K. and Holland. Some such reports on these activities have been submitted to some recent conferences and I am sending you (by steamer) some of ours.

Some of the further information you ask on the functioning of a planning office is already involved in these papers, but I am adding a few others giving details about our work. We have had sufficient contact with similar offices in other countries to know that our methods do not differ so very much from those tested elsewhere.

I hope your efforts will have a good success!

Best personal regards,

PROF. DR J. TIMBERGEN

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