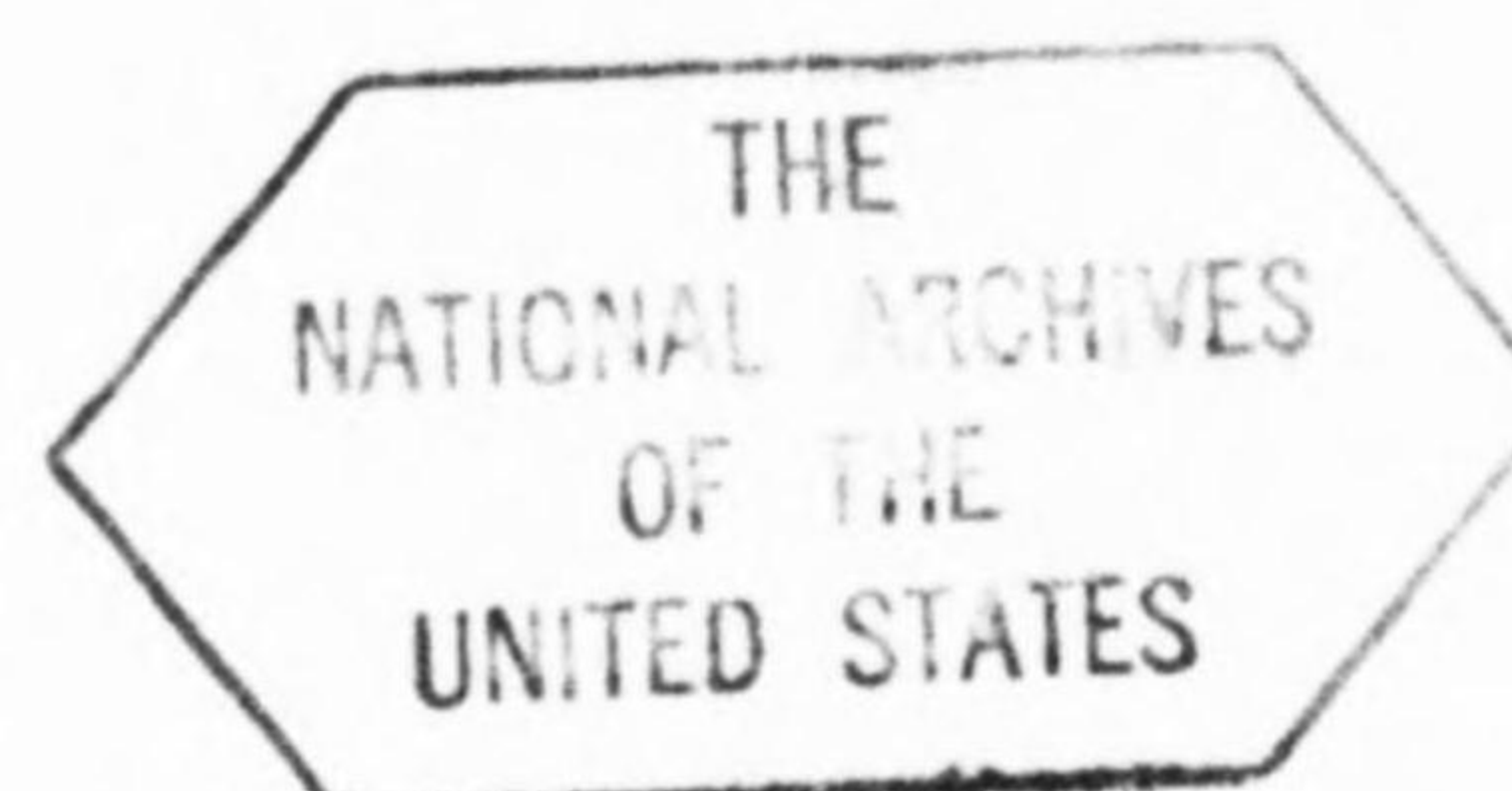


**GHQ/SCAP Records(RG 331)**  
Description of contents



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- (2) Folder title/number: (25)  
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Inspection of Boys Town (La Salle Home)

3 May 1949

This institution, located at Odawara, Sendai, was formally opened in December 1948. It is a small establishment run by the La Salle Christian Brothers, with facilities to accommodate only a small number of boys. At present there are 21 boys in the home.

The boys seem content and happy. Those of school age are sent to Public schools in Sendai. English classes are held every day for those who are interested, a library is available, movies are shown from time to time, ping pong tables are provided in the recreation room, as well as the availability of grounds around the building for other sports and recreation.

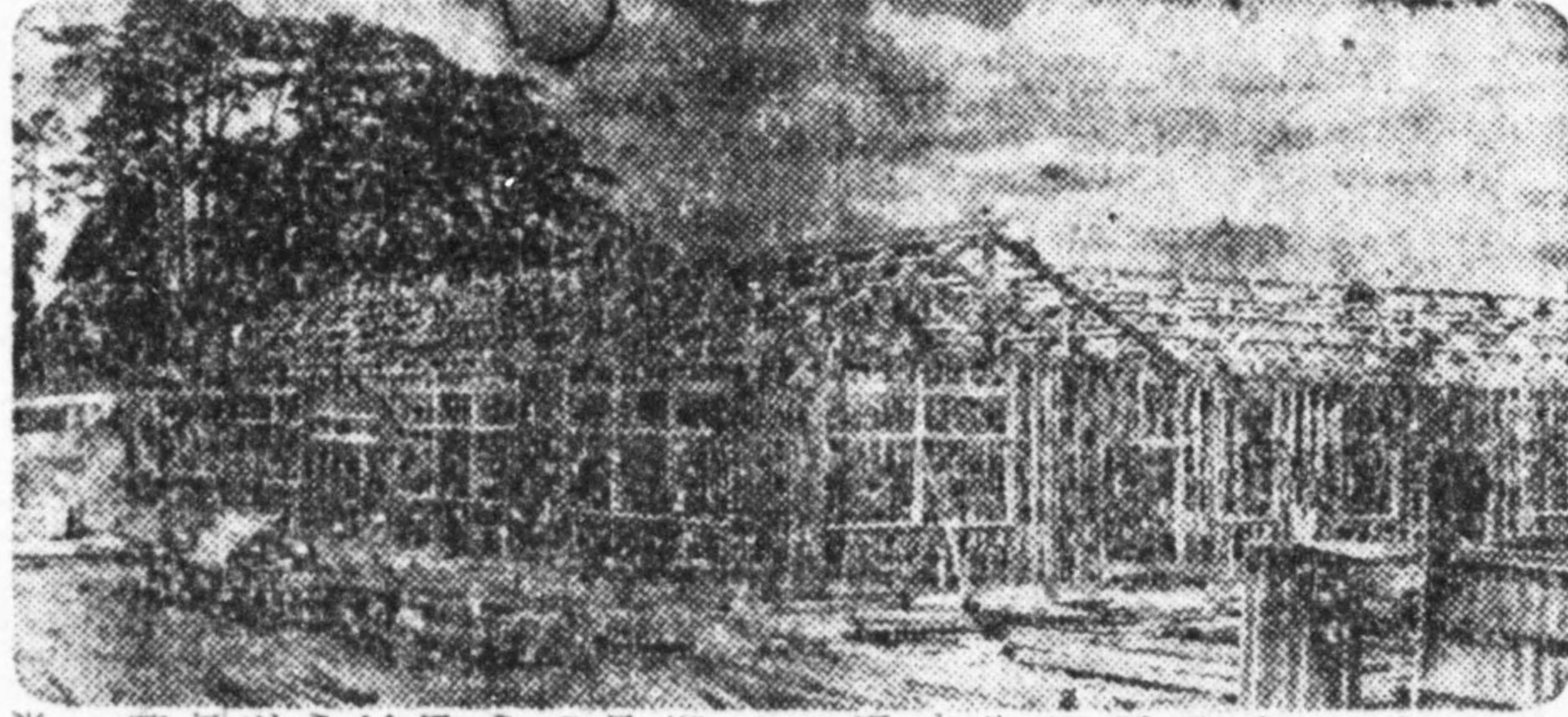
The dormitory, although crowded, appeared neat and orderly. A room is set aside as an isolation room for any of the boys who are seriously ill. A doctor comes regularly to examine the boys.

The boys are referred to Boys Town by the prefectural Child Welfare Center, and range from <sup>16</sup>-- to 19 years.

The kitchen, dining room, class rooms, etc., were all clean and in good condition. Brother Daniel Lepine, who conducted the tour through Boys Town, is in hopes of expanding the institution so that more boys will be able to enjoy the advantages offered by Boys Town.

### 薄幸の子らを待つ

仙台市小田原光ヶ丘の少年の町「光ヶ丘天使園」上棟式は、オ・ラポイント院長はじめ多数の関係者が出席して廿四日午後四時から光ヶ丘の現地でつこなわれ、光ヶ丘の町建設の計画はじめて完成されたのは三供のおおさんフ神父が日本を、仙台をおとすれた昨年四月、そのフ神父は去る五月ベルリンの空襲で急死したが、実はその神父の遺志をついで総工費二百九万八千円、木造平屋二層、百二十坪が種



上げのほごびとなつた、工事は八月の終り成屋梁、教室から講堂、作務室もあり、定員百名の滞留の子らが丘上にあが世の輝を迎えるのももう近い院長レオ・ラポイント氏をはじめ、すでに四人の職員がアメリカから精任、子供の子に話を教える木工職などあ破の地から響いて子供らの入つて来るのを待つてゐる、園では各社企業團體から百人の子たちをピック・アップしてここに收容、完成と同時に校舎をはじめ、【写真】骨組なつた光ヶ丘天使園

File ✓

Waiting For Less-Blessed Children

With the presence of Mr. Leo Laboint (?), the superintendent and many other persons connected, the celebration of the foundation of "Hikariga-oka Tenshien", the Boy's Town at Odawara, Sendai was held on the hill at 4:00 p.m. July 24. It is believed the plan of establishing of boy's town was first made public on the very day when father Franagan, a father of children, visited Sendai in April last year.

Father Franagan has been reported to die suddenly in Berlin in last May, however, succeeding his will, an one-storied, wooden building, with 220 tsubo has come to have the celebration with the total construction expenditure of ¥2,098,000. The building is expecting to be completed toward the end of coming August.

The building is to constitute living-room, class-room, auditorium and working-room, with the capacity of one hundred kids.

It will not be long before those expected 100 less-blessed kids would enjoy their happy life upon the hill.

Mr. Les Laboint (?), superintendent, and other four staffs has already arrived here from America, and some wooden craft machines by which vocational training will be given to kids, have also arrived here, waiting for their coming in.

Therefore, Prefecture is going to pick up at first 100 kids from each social institution by the time of completion of the building <sup>and are</sup> they <sup>expecting</sup> to start their training *at the same time.*

Picture shows 'Hikariga-oka Tenshien', constructed half way.

( Kahoku shimpo,  
issue of July 25. )

*Copy of 18 copy check slip  
30 June 1947  
and other transcripts  
about Boys Town*

Father Flanagan's presence in Japan has provided incentive for the local people to want a "Boys Town". Because Father Flanagan spoke about the necessity of religious teaching in an institution such as mentioned above, Brother Cliche, a Catholic teacher in Sendai, was asked to operate any such installation as could be provided.

The prefecture put "barkers" on street corners and collected several hundred thousand yen for the establishment of a "Boys Town." Central Government has agreed to match the amount collected by the prefecture.

Brother Cliche had his church to offer, as a loan, sufficient land on which to build this institution. This appears to be long range planning on Brother Cliche's part to have a school built according to his specifications, which he may be able to buy in the future, since his Brotherhood would own the land on which the buildings would be placed. Brother Cliche has been trying for some months to obtain materials and permission to build a school on this land.

On the opposite side of town is a well administrated "School of Correction" (Showa Gakuen), which could be expanded to care for as many as 200 children. The prefecture owns this land and has six buildings, a large amount of land under cultivation, and a large recreational field. The only objection to this place is that the Supervisor, although a very intelligent and conscientious man, is not capable of giving religious instruction. Governor Chiba wants religion offered the inmates, therefore believes that this place (Showa Gakuen) is not good and that the land belonging to the Catholic Brotherhood should be used.

Lt. Silbaugh, Miyagi Military Government Welfare Officer, investigated and estimates 2 to 3 years work on the Catholic land before completion. Expansion of prefectural institution could begin immediately. It is believed that the prefectural institution is best, and that if religion is to be offered, it should be done by visiting clergymen without preference being shown the Catholic Church.

Services by Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, and Shintoists could be scheduled, and the children given opportunity, not compulsion, to attend services.

Captain Jacobson, Eighth Army Welfare Officer, stated that Eighth Army and SCAP take a dim view of new institutions since there are sufficient institutions already in existence to solve the problems at hand. If the poorly administered institutions were made to function efficiently, there would be a surplus of institutions. Prefectures will have to have a very strong argument to convince SCAP that new institutions should be built.

They are wholeheartedly in favor of improvement of existing facilities, however, and Captain Jacobson believes that expansion of the Prefectural "School of Correction," which is not a reformatory, would be the logical answer to this prefectures desire to establish a "B oys Town."

Upon being interviewed, Brother Cliche admits that his plans are to buy this institution from the Prefecture in the future, and for that reason has told Governor Chiba that unless his whims are catered to thathe will leave Sendai and take the other Catholic teachers with him.

Central Liaison Office has been directed to provide a complete report of the efforts put forth to date on "B oys Town."

Miyagi Prefecture which would give vocational training to the needy boys over 14 years who should be given some training, and that is why the prefecture and civilian people took so much interest in the project. These needy boys who have been taken care of in some sort of orphanage when they become 14 are as a rule released, and at that time fortunate boys will be adopted into families who will take care of them, others will have to go on their own, some go to farms or to live with relatives, and the outcome is not always too good, and they had planned to give training to these boys who will be released from different institutions in vocational lines. For this to be definite, decision will be passed on by the prefectural legislature which is in session now. It will have to go through that, and apparently there is no reason to believe that it will not be passed; and then within two or three days the plan will go through the assembly, at which time it will take concrete form in the prefectural government. Another thing is that out at Hikarigaoka Tenshien area there is about 200,000 tsubo belonging to LaSalle Institute, and it has offered part of that for use of this school. Consequently if this plan goes through the question of suitable land is automatically settled. Actually, it is a sort of exaggeration to call it a Boys Town -- it is a small establishment, more of a Boys Home than a Boys Town. In conjunction with this, but not related to it in any way, there is another institution called the Wakabe Gakuen, which is located on the hill up toward the university grounds near where you live, which is an orphanage. That is a very good place, constructed and run solely by the prefecture, and there they house orphans of 14 years or less. Orphans who have no relatives or anyone to take care of them, and they estimate a minimum of 200 such orphans in Miyagi Prefecture. They only have 20 orphans there now, but they have a plan to rehabilitate and enlarge it so it will house somewhere around 100, and they have an estimated budget of 1,600,000 yen.

Col. Statham: What has been done and what are the plans in connection with the Boys Town in Sendai?

Mr. Miyakawa: Construction of this particular so-called Boys Town originated sometime in December of last year. The prefecture people and Father Marcell (?) of the LaSalle Institute were interested in this. The prefecture, Gov Chiba and Father Marcell have been discussing how or what to build and run the institute, and finally there was an agreement reached that the prefecture should build the establishment which would have about 200 tsubo and would house about 80 boys over 14 years of age to give them some sort of vocational training, and this place is out at Hikarigaoka Tenshien, Camp Schimmelpfennig. The plan was that the prefecture should prepare the building and establishment, and then the management would be handed over to this institution and Father Marcel would supervise the actual running of the place. The budget for it was estimated at around 3,100,000 yen, and the prefectural people negotiated with the Central Government, and they apparently obtained approval for a subsidy of about one-half. The rest of the money was to be raised locally, and some months ago when Father Flanagan visited Sendai he had been informed about this project, and the newspapers began talking about it in connection with Father Flanagan and referred to that particular institution as Boys Town, hence came the name Boys Town. The 2,000,000 yen was to be raised locally, and the civilian organizations and private persons in this area interested in it had been working in conjunction with the prefectural government to raise that amount of money or some part of it. What you see out here in the street is representatives of the Federation of Students organization, and they are the ones that on the surface are most active because they get out in the streets to collect contributions. Another reason not only the people but the prefecture took active action in this project was because there is no institution in



The plan is to take care of these orphans in this institute until they are 14 and when 14 they can switch them over to this Boys Town institution for vocational training. In this respect there is a connection between the two schools, but as far as managing and running then there is no connection. About a little over a month ago they took this plan to the MG Team and met Lt. Silbaugh and spoke to him about this plan, and gradually this plan was approved, and after that they went on to set up this budget expense, and based on that they have made some building plans, etc. About one week ago they got notice from Lt. Silbaugh saying that he had received certain instructions from 8 Army and also mentioned IX Corps, suggesting that this project be abandoned for the time being and to direct their efforts on the rehabilitation and extension of the Wakaba Gakuen institution, so they have for the time being stopped plans on it and that is how it stands at present.

Col. Statham: Has the Central Govt actually made a grant of money which is already authorized and ready to go?

Mr. Miyakawa: Yes, 1,100,000 yen.

Col. S: Was that approved for building on the LaSalle Institute grounds?

Mr. M: Yes, that information has been given to the Central Govt.

Col. S: Are local funds to be raised by voluntary contributions?

Mr. M: Yes.

Col. S: It will involve management by the LaSalle Institute?

Mr. M: Yes.

Col. S: What rights of ownership or rights of title will the prefectural government retain?

Mr. M: As far as the title to that building itself, the prefecture will retain the title to that. They will rent the building to the LaSalle Institute according to present plan, free of rent.

Col. S: Who will furnish money for operating expenses?

Mr. M: There is a poor law here which requires payment of 270 yen per month per person for any person who is unable to live without assistance, and for each person in the institution 270 yen will be granted to the institution from the prefectural government. That is the requirement by this law, and they anticipate receiving charitable donations such as food and clothing. All the rest of the operating amount is supposed to be borne by the LaSalle Institute.

Col. S: Have they made that agreement?

Mr. M: Based on this poor law, an oral agreement has been entered into between the two parties that the government will give the amount required by law, namely 270 yen, (Nothing is in writing to date) and that the LaSalle Institute will carry the rest of the expenses, less any contributions which may be received here in Japan. Of course there is the 200,000 tsubo of land which will be used for the financial benefit of the institute - - - cultivating the land, also selling or disposing of articles which the boys will be taught to make.

Col. S: The LaSalle Institute has title to that land?

Mr. M: Yes.

Col. S: Is it a Canadian Catholic institution?

Mr. M: Yes.

Col. S: Operating expenses will include necessary staff of teachers, as well as maintenance people, housekeepers, gardeners, laborers, etc.?

Mr. M: Yes, expenses will include such clerical staff as is necessary, teachers, and all servants necessary to run the establishment.

Col. S: This other place, Wakabe Gakuen, is it government owned?

Mr. M: Yes, that is owned and operated by the prefecture directly.

Col. S: How long would it take to build the necessary buildings at LaSalle Institute?

Mr. M: They have a plan for building a total floor space of 250 tsubo, the building to be completed by fall of this year, to take care of about 80 boys.

Col. S: Are buildings available out at the other place?

Mr. M: At Wakabe Gakuen they have a building there at present with a total floor space of 120 or 130 tsubo, and altho they only have 20 boys there now, feel that they can take care of 30 or possibly more than that under present conditions without building. In any case it would take until fall.

Col. S: There is no question about the desirability of establishing necessary facilities for taking care of homeless children, or the desirability of having everyone concerned interested. We questioned the feature of spending public funds in connection with a private religious institution. The element we question is the advisability of spending public funds in collaboration with a religious institution. ~~S~~Army informally indicated that they did not believe it was desirable. It has certain advantages of course, in that it opens up an additional facility and you obtain certain teaching stalls and management. Will the prefecture retain some overall management responsibilities?

Mr. M: As far as overall management is concerned, once it is handed over to LaSalle Institute they will retain no special right of government over that particular institution. The only thing they will have is the general supervision which they would have as the prefectural government over any similar institution. It will be subject to Japanese law and that is all.

Col. S: We may take the matter to ~~S~~Army for a formal decision and interpretation, because I know as far as American - - - - is concerned generally we divorce government from religion, and we also divorce government from private enterprise, so that in the states an institution like LaSalle Institute which is a religious institution, probably supported by voluntary contributions in Canada, would be supported by voluntary contributions or such other business ventures as the institution itself would care to carry on, and the government would - - - -

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Mr. M: If they control it like they do the Wakabe Gakuen, then there would be no particular objection to establishing and running an institution of that kind?

Col. S: No.

Col. S: We will take a reading with 8 Army and SCAP on this. Another question is setting up a precedent. What it amounts to is that LaSalle Institute get a nice building, partly out of public funds and partly from voluntary contributions. Every religious institution in Japan could do the same thing. It sets up a precedent.

Mr. M: On the 4th the governor is leaving to attend a governor's conference in Tokyo on the 5th to discuss problems of decentralization, and I think the conference will last on through until about the 7th. Governor will not be able to come back until the 11th, and he would like to report here about the 15th, when he will have a financial report and other items to report to you.

Col. S: I think on this Boys' Home we will probably put it up to 8Army -- just relate the circumstances and request that an exception be made in this case and that the project be allowed to go through if that is what you people would like. As far as we are concerned, we don't much care, but due to the technicality involved we will have to report to higher headquarters what is being done. If the Japanese prefectural government favors the LaSalle Institute plan over the plan of putting it out at Wakabe Gakuen our only interest is to clear it.

Mr. M: The governor appreciates your suggestion, only he would like to have a little time - - - - when do you expect to make this report to 8Army, very soon?

Col. S: Yes.

Mr. M: You see in the past they had looked at the establishment of the institution purely from the social side, and they had not looked at it from the legal point of view, and since you have mentioned this point Gov Chiba feels there is not

only the permission or exception to be granted by 8Army but there is this constitutional question, and if it is contrary to the provisions of the constitution, even if you did treat it as an exception in this case the Governor has this legal question in mind and feels he would like to reconsider this once more, purely from a legal point of view.

Col. S: Of course the Sendai community has quite a bit to gain from such an establishment -- for expenditure of a certain amount of public funds you would get in return management and a teaching staff from the institute, and it is entirely possible and probable that you would get a good many contributions thru the institute from Canada which would set up the machinery for disposing in Japan of contributions from Canada which would be desirable from the standpoint of the community. It is possible that SCAP might make an exception of that sort of activity, but I think in general SCAP could rather the institution be supported by voluntary contributions instead of public funds.

Mr. M: The governor would like to consider this matter further.

Mr. M: By the 15th the governor hopes to have financial reports not only of Miyagi but also the five other prefectures which he will report to you. He already has taken steps to get these reports in --- they are reports on the budgets of the prefecture. He says they may be a surprising group of figures, because personnel expenses are eating up a great part of the prefectural budget.

Mr. M: The roads in Miyagi prefecture are noted for their bad condition, and at the conference on roads recently there has been an act or ruling made that if the MG team in the prefecture, or IX Corps in this case, suggests by memorandum -- it does not have to be a PD --- that such and such road requires repairs, then the prefecture can go ahead and report, and the Central Govt will pay 70% of the expenses, so I think Gov Chiba would appreciate a memorandum instructing certain roads within Miyagi prefecture to be repaired. Otherwise they would have to do it all at prefectural expense, whereas if the suggestion comes from the Army

then 70% of expense is borne by the Central Govt. Tokyo and Yokohama got their roads done very well because they knew about it -- previously the Central Govt had paid 90% whenever there was a memorandum requiring or suggesting repairs to roads, and so Tokyo and Yokohama areas requested memorandums and got their roads fixed and the Central Govt paid 90% of the expense. Now it is fixed at 70% -- the prefectures outside did not know of such ruling or regulation until later.

Col. S: Is that a formal policy adopted by the Central Government?

Mr. M: Yes, it is definitely a decided rule that whenever a request comes from the Army then 70% of the expense will be borne by the Central Govt and 30% by the prefecture, whereas if the prefecture fixed the road on its own initiative they have to bear all the expense. You see, when the prefecture goes to the Central Govt and tells them that repair of certain roads is necessary they have not in the past trusted the prefectural officials or government in that respect, whereas if it is more or less supported or certified in some way by the army they will trust them, and if a memorandum is presented they will bear 70% of the expense.

Col. S: Does the same thing hold true for the streets in the city of Sendai?

Mr. M: Yes.