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Secretary's.
HVT/FC/EK/758.

23rd March, 1938.

Miss C. Vulliamy,
Ipswich and District Committee for Spanish
Refugee Children,
Plomesgate House,
Wickham Market,
IPSWICH.

Dear Miss Vulliamy,

REPATRIATION OF BASQUE CHILDREN.

I have your letter in regard to the above matter, a copy of which has been sent to other members of the Basque Children's Committee.

As I am personally interested in one of the homes I appreciate your desire for caution, but personally I am entirely opposed to the suggestion that the batch of children whose cases have been verified and approved by the homes should be held up.

I know that some time ago when the list of children was sent to the homes Mr. Garratt asked for the comments of the homes. In all those cases where there is reason to believe that there is grave danger in the children returning owing to their parents not being in Bilbao or one or both of them not being free, I know of no case where the children's return has been insisted on.

The National Committee is very anxious to protect the interests of the children, but it must be remembered, as a general principle, that if we are to be able to accept responsibility for the large numbers of children who are orphans or have one or more parents in Eastern Spain or in France it is necessary to be relieved of the

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responsibility for all those children who can reasonably be returned to their parents in the Basque country.

The financial position is very grave. Everyone who has come into contact with the children would like to keep them here until Spain is again in a peaceful state, but we have to be practical in our outlook, particularly in regard to those children who must still remain here. I have no doubt that the cases where there is reasonable ground for doubt will have already been removed from the list.

In conclusion may I say that with my close association with the children in our own home there is no-one more anxious that their interests should be safeguarded, and as a member of the National Committee I am satisfied that every possible step has been taken generally to safeguard this position. Out of the 1,200 children returned there are only two cases of doubt and these are subject to special enquiry.

Yours sincerely,