

Enclosure No. 2COPY

c/o. G.P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
 Suva Fiji  
 6.10.74.

The Commanding Officer  
 HMNZS WAIKATO  
 Devonport  
 Auckland  
 New Zealand

Dear Sir,

Junior Seaman Mark Spanswick

For some months past my son Mark has been writing that he intends to visit Fiji during his Christmas leave period.

In view of the current unrest in Fiji and especially here in Suva I have been trying to persuade him to postpone such a visit.

In his letter of last month he appeared to go along with our reasoning and asked us to write to his Commanding Officer indicating that we were willing for him to visit other parts of New Zealand. The letter was duly written, copy of which is attached, but it would appear that Mark decided not to forward it to his Commanding Officer.

Now in his latest letter he firmly states that he intends to visit Fiji and does not consider our reasons as important enough, to him, to postpone a visit.

Early we had enlisted the aid of Captain S. Brown, the Naval Liaison Officer here in Fiji, who fully agreed that Suva was no place for a young lad to be roaming around. I understand from Captain Brown that he wrote to the Commodore of Devonport along such lines but to date has not received a reply.

May I now seek your assistance in trying to persuade Mark that it is not in his interest or the New Zealand Navy's that a junior seaman would bring no credit to himself or the Navy by roaming the odious nightlife of Suva. You may feel that we are rather hard on the lad but can assure you of the contrary. During his last visit Mark spent the whole of his leave in various bars, poolrooms and guesthouses and showed not the slightest interest in entertainment we offered such as a stay at an <sup>outer</sup> island copra plantation, sea fishing trip, hikes through the bush or even a lengthy stay at some of our resort hotels, to assist in breaking his constant association with, frankly, the louts of the town.

We are presently considering a change in environment which we hope will enable us to set up a home in New Zealand both for Mark and his young sister, LW, who is presently at school in Masterton, which we trust and sincerely hope will be of benefit to our children and ourselves.

It would be appreciated if you would consider our appeal and could advise us in due course of the outcome and perhaps your feelings in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

sgd. John Spanswick