

Stan Sun 31st Aug

Detention of Murderesses Is Problem

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Following the conviction for murder of Pauline Yvonne Parker and Juliet Marion Hulme, the greatest problem faced by the authorities is what to do with the girls.

Senior officials of the Justice Department are in two minds as to whether existing places of detention can adequately deal with the situation, unique in the annals of New Zealand crime.

The difficulties are such that though the broad decision must be made before the Minister of Justice (the Hon T. C. Webb) leaves New Zealand for S.E.A.T.O. conference in Manila on Thursday, an announcement on where they will be confined and the conditions of their incarceration may not be made until later.

Not Suitable

Points uppermost in the minds of the Minister of Justice and department officials are understood to be as follows:

Firstly, a Borstal institution is designed as corrective treatment, and is not designed for holding perpetrators of this type of crime, however young.

Secondly there is a real danger in possible contact between these girls and other inmates in a reform school or prison farm type of institution.

Thirdly, the youth of the girls is one argument against their being confined in a regular prison.

Fourthly, a permanently-shutted existence in a cell is not regarded as a solution—but almost any form of work entails contact with other prisoners.

Fifthly, the insistence in certain quarters that the girls be separated whatever form of imprisonment is adopted doubles the problem.

At present the girls are being held at Paparua Prison, but almost certainly this will not be where they will serve the bulk of their sentence.