

① Registries - Quota.
Widow & young children.

② Amnesty - dependants & registries

1971 - Act 1 - Conventions of the British →

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY NO. 1....

③ Health Paps →

④ Student - Over-stay cas.

⑤ By law LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Teddy

⑥ Ticket for 6-12 months

5.00 p.m., Monday, 20th February 1978, in the
Leader's Room at the House of Commons.

① Registries Amnesty

①

AGENDA

1. The Control of Immigration, a paper by Mr. Whitelaw, LCC(78)171 - attached.
2. Any other business.

Proctorium →

Keith
Tom

Principles of Psychology - 1st ed.
published

LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 191st Meeting held at 5.00 p.m.
on Monday, 20th February, 1978, in the Leader's
Room at the House of Commons

Present: Mrs. Thatcher (in the Chair)

Mr. Whitelaw, Sir Keith Joseph,
Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr. Pym,
Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr. Jenkin,
Mr. Davies, Mr. Neave, Mr. Heseltine,
Mr. St. John Stevas, Mr. Maude,
Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Oppenheim,
Mr. King, Mr. Taylor

Mr. Atkins

In attendance: Sir Michael Havers, Lord Denham,
Mr. Speed, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Patten,
Mr. Ridley, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. True

Apologies: Lord Carrington, Lord Hailsham,
Lord Thorneycroft, Mr. Prior,
Mr. Peyton, Mr. Nott

1. The Control of Immigration

Mr. Whitelaw introduced his paper, LCC(78)171.
He explained that while the paper contained no reference
to repatriation, he and his colleagues had studied the
way the present system worked and believed that there
was scope for increasing, perhaps in line with
inflation, the sums allowed to immigrants who wished to
return to their countries of origin and giving more
publicity to this assistance.

There was a discussion and the paper was generally
agreed subject to the following points:

(i) Throughout the paper, whenever the term
'dependant' was used to describe one whom we intended
should be entitled to come to Britain and thus qualify for
our proposed register of dependants, we were referring only
to wives and young children and not other relatives whom
we proposed should only be admitted in compassionate cases.

(ii) It was confirmed that the only immigrants who
were entitled to benefit from the Government's amnesties
were those who had come here before 1st January, 1973,
and thus these immigrants were entitled to put their
dependants on our proposed register.

(iii) Mr. Whitelaw and Mr. Jenkin would discuss whether it was possible to tighten up the regulations for health checks on immigrants, such as insisting that they should have medical examinations at the British High Commission in their country of origin before they were entitled to come to Britain.

(iv) It was agreed that children who were under 18 at the time the register was compiled but whose entry was so delayed by the operation of the quota system that they had exceeded the age of 18, would not be allowed in, except in compassionate cases.

(v) On page 4, section 6 (iii) the expression 'dependants' in the sentence "We should change the rules as soon as we can in Government to remove the rights in the rules for both pre-1973 and post-1973 heads of households to introduce their dependants" meant dependants who were not wives or young children.

(vi) Mr. Jenkin would write to Dr. Owen over the question of British passport holders who had surrendered their British passports upon settling in India, but who retained the right to secure the return of that passport from the British High Commission and thus the right to enter Britain if they subsequently so wished.

(vii) Mr. Jenkin and the Research Department would consider how "over stayers" and other illegal immigrants might be detected through the social security system.

2. Presentation

There was a discussion on what our reaction might be if the present Government, by stringent administrative methods, were drastically to reduce immigration in the current year. It was agreed that while it was not desirable for us to produce a specific total of those to be allowed in under a quota, we could point out that the average number of immigrants entering the country each year under this Government had been substantially higher than that admitted by the previous Conservative Government, that the Government was only reacting because of the imminent General Election, and that only our present proposals would reduce immigration substantially and keep it down. We could also ask the Government to specify how many dependants in the Indian Sub-Continent were entitled to come to Britain and what measures, if any, they had to cope with this possible inflow. If immigration this year were substantially down, we should seek to take credit for this by referring to our positive tone on the subject.

3. Points for future discussion

It was agreed that a further meeting of the Leader's Consultative Committee would take place the following Monday, 27th February, when the following would be discussed:

(i) whether any measures, such as a moratorium, needed to be taken to halt or reduce immigration while the register of dependants was being compiled;

(ii) whether the upper age limit for children, at present 18, should be reduced;

(iii) the possibility of obliging visitors and students coming to Britain to obtain an entry certificate or visa before departure and of thus forcing airlines to fly back at their own expense any people who came to Britain without such documentation;

(iv) whether children born after the Register of Dependants had been closed should or should not be added to it;

(v) what our attitude should be to "permit-free employment".

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Conservative Research Department,
24 Old Queen Street, London S.W.1.

DJN/RME
27.2.78

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEADER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 20th February 1978 when immigration was discussed, have been sent to the Leader and Mr. Whitelaw only. If members of the Committee would like to see the minutes they can do so at the Research Department.

CHRIS PATTEN

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CFP/SRG
27.2.78