



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

20 June 1979

Dear Gerry

Thank you for your letter of 6 June enclosing this one from your constituent Mr. Roy Anthony Fisher of Treharrook, Port Isaac, Cornwall.

I was glad to have Mr. Fisher's letter and can well understand his feelings. Although the Government reached the conclusion that it was right to accept refugees from the Sibonga and Roachbank, we have been most careful to avoid any kind of open-ended commitment as regards future cases. This kind of decision is extremely difficult. We take account of humanitarian considerations when faced with a group of people rescued at sea by a British ship who have nowhere else to go and we thought it right to admit the people on the Sibonga and Roachbank as refugees. Of course, the real responsibility for their plight rests with the Vietnamese authorities and the Government has done all it can to draw international attention to their conduct and to seek an international conference so that the problem may be faced by the international community as a whole.

The Government's commitment to strict control on immigration is important. I can assure you that we intend to implement it.

Yours ever

(sgd)

Margaret

Gerry Neale, Esq., M.P.