

Immigration RH
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13 March 1980

Dear Mr Cocks

Thank you for your letter of 26 February enclosing a further one from the Reverend Ivan Selman about the new Immigration Rules.

I am sorry that Mr Selman was unhappy about my first letter to you. As I am sure he will acknowledge, we set out in our Manifesto last year what we intended to do about immigration, and how we related it to race relations. The British people endorsed our approach. I think there is wide acceptance - not least among the ethnic minorities - that fears about continuing large scale immigration are directly inimical to good race relations in this country. This is why in accordance with our mandate we have reinforced immigration control by the new Rules, which were laid in final form on 20 February and came into force on 1 March.

There is nothing racist about them. You do not need my assurance - although I am quite ready to give it - that the Rules will not be applied in a racially discriminatory way: they contain explicit injunctions that they are to be applied without regard to race, colour or religion.

On the two particular points which Mr Selman raises, you will know that we have modified our original proposals in relation to the entry of elderly parents and grandparents, to remove the test that to qualify for entry they should be faced with a standard of living substantially below that of their own country, which we accepted

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could in some circumstances have been difficult for them to meet in conjunction with the other requirement - preserved from the previous Rules - that they should be wholly or mainly dependent on children in this country.

Our changes in relation to husbands and fiances do two things. They strengthen the tests to ensure that a man is not able to come here by virtue of a marriage which he has contracted primarily for this purpose; and they confine the right to bring in a man to those women who have the strongest connection with this country, and who would therefore have to sacrifice most in going abroad to live with their husband in his country. The man's motives in marrying will be relevant. His racial origin will not.

Yours sincerely

MT

The Right Honourable Michael Cocks, MP

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Immigration



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

19 February 1980

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PRIME MINISTER

Dear Nick

To glance vs

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN IMMIGRATION
RULES

I enclose, for information, an advance copy of the new Immigration Rules which are to be published at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 20 February.

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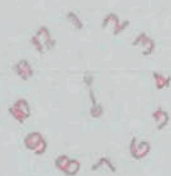
I am sending copies of this letter, and the new Rules, to the Private Secretaries to other Members of the Cabinet including the Minister of Transport, and to David Wright.

Yours sincerely
Tony Butler

A. J. BUTLER

N. J. Sanders, Esq.

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 January 1980

Dear Mr. Selman,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December enclosing one from the Reverend Ivan Selman, Chairman of the Race Relations Working Party of the Bristol Council of Christian Churches about the Government's proposals for revision of the Immigration Rules.

The proposals contained in the White Paper which we published on 14 November and which have now been approved by both Houses of Parliament are in no sense an attack on the arranged marriage or on the culture and traditions of minority groups. It is no part of our function as a Government to interfere with people's marriage customs, and of course we respect the right of the Asian Community here to adhere to their traditional practices and customs. All we have said is that we cannot be expected to admit men for marriages which are arranged with the husband's immigration in view. The new Rules will not discriminate on grounds of race or religion, and they embody different treatment of the sexes only to the extent which is necessary to curb the abuse of the existing rules and inevitable because of the primary legislation. Increasingly women from the Asian community who contract marriages with men from overseas will themselves have been born here and will thus satisfy the new requirements in this respect.

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We consider that public confidence in the effectiveness of our immigration control is an important factor in promoting good community relations in this country. The current influx of husbands and fiances is a clear contradiction of our efforts to assure people that primary immigration is a thing of the past. Our intention is to provide an unassailable base from which to resist racialism. In this way we shall ultimately attain our objective of ending any polarisation between the minorities and the rest of the population.

Although the particular figure is not relevant to the argument, the Council will no doubt have noted the most recent information from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys which shows a net inflow of migrants from mid 1978 to mid 1979.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Michael Cocks, M.P.