

AJC 9/A.

Island (2)



MS

P.B.

Prime Minister

To note, in particular x below.

FCS/82/76

CHIEF SECRETARY, TREASURY

AJC 29/5.

Polish Refugees

1. Thank you for your letter of 21 May.
2. I was glad to see that, on consideration, you have been able to acquiesce in the arrangements agreed with the Home Office for the acceptance of some Polish refugees from Austria who fulfil our criteria for acceptance, including reasonable assurances of long-term accommodation. As I have previously said, I do not think that, given these criteria, we shall find ourselves having to cope with a major inflow of Poles. Their numbers may indeed turn out to be even smaller than we expect, and I have no difficulty in accepting your suggestion that we should review the matter collectively when we have given clearance for 100 refugees to be admitted to Britain.
3. I anticipate that it may be some time before the new arrangements become effectively operational. It seems likely therefore that by the time 100 refugees have been accepted, we shall know more clearly whether there is any prospect of a significant number of islanders choosing to leave the Falklands. We may by then have a better idea of how many of the Poles temporarily resident in Britain will wish to remain. It should also be clearer how our Community partners are responding to the Austrian request, and whether the quotas they have set themselves are proving unrealistically low.
4. I am asking my officials to instruct our Ambassador in Vienna to convey our decision to the Austrian government. They will consult with your officials and those of the Home

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Office on the matter of publicising our policy and on the arrangements for review on the basis agreed.

5. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, members of 'H' Committee and Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Pym', written in a cursive style.

(FRANCIS PYM)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
28 May 1982

28 MAY 1982

