

Immigration 2



Prime Minister:

You discussed the point at X with the Home Secretary. He will speak to you this week about the possibility of restricting the right to bring in wives and fiancées to citizens. He is not optimistic, I understand.

FCS/82/196

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

JH
26/11

Immigration Rules: Husbands and Fiancés

1. Thank you for copying to me your minute to the Prime Minister of 18 November about the changes that you propose to make in the draft Immigration Rules to strengthen the safeguards against marriages of convenience.
- X | 2. I am concerned that anything which widens the disparity in treatment between husbands and male fiancés as compared with wives and fiancées is likely to heighten the risks that we run of a successful challenge to our Rules under the European Convention on Human Rights. These proposals will also inevitably bring us bad publicity in the Indian sub-continent (particularly India itself) where, although the relaxation that you have proposed has been welcomed, this has been seen not as a concession but more as the setting right of a wrong. But I realise the difficulties that the opposition within our party to your original proposals presents; and if it is your judgement, and that of colleagues, that these amendments to the proposals published in the White Paper are necessary to secure Parliamentary assent to the new Rules, then clearly we must try to live with them.
3. I note your intention to publish on 25 November the reply to the report of the Home Affairs Committee on Immigration from the Indian Sub-continent. The small changes that you propose to the reply that we originally agreed give me no difficulty.

/4.

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4. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister and to the other recipients of your minute.

[Handwritten signature]

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

26 November 1982

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