

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT



27 September 1983

*Mr White*

*I have spoken to Tony Rawsthorne and told him*

*that the message I received was that the reply should ~~be~~ say that the Home Secretary would be replying direct to Pereira.*

Dear Willie,

You will be aware that the current immigration cause celebre is the case of the Pereira family. They have no claim under the Immigration Rules to stay here, Mr Pereira having been admitted only on a temporary basis for shore leave when he was a merchant seaman. But their case has aroused a good deal of sympathy among the local community where they live and in the press, ironically mainly in the papers that generally advocate a tougher immigration policy. *I have apologized if this was a mistake*

Ministers considered the case last week and agreed that, despite this public sympathy, the decision that the family could not be permitted to stay should be upheld. They decided that, in the interests of minimising the adverse publicity, the necessary action should be taken as quickly as possible.

As a result a notice of intention to deport - the next step in the process - was issued.

Mr Pereira had written to the Prime Minister on 15 September seeking her intervention. Michael Scholar sent a copy of the letter to Mike Gillespie here the following day asking for urgent advice on what reply to send. Mike Gillespie advised Michael by 'phone that we would send an official reply. In the event, however, the acknowledgement that you sent on 19 September said "Mrs Thatcher has asked the Home Secretary to look into your case and he will be replying to you direct."

This apparently reached Mr Pereira in the same post at the notice of intention to deport and understandably gave rise to some confusion on Mr Pereira's part as it suggested that the Home Secretary would review the case, and some embarrassment for the Home Secretary.

In the light of all this, the Home Secretary asked me to write to say that he would be grateful if No 10 could be careful in such circumstances to avoid giving any impression that an immigration case will be reviewed as this may conflict with action being taken here.

*Yours over,  
Tony Rawsthorne*

A R RAWSTHORNE

Willie Rickett, Esq



28 SEP 1983



10:10

