



FCS/82/58

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS

*We must give
the required assurance
not.*

This is being done.

Prime Minister

*The 300 to 400 are those who at
present do not have the right of abode.*

A-J-C. 6/4.

Ad 3/4

p-a.

Falkland Islanders: Entry into the UK

1. I consider it highly likely that we shall be pressed in the debate on the Falklands on Wednesday to give an assurance that any Falkland Islander who wishes to settle in the UK should be allowed to do so, regardless of whether or not he or she has the formal right of abode in the United Kingdom. In my view, our position will be totally untenable if we fail to give that assurance. Only 300-400 people are concerned and we have made it clear throughout the present crisis that we consider ourselves responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the Islanders. MPs would refer to the assurance you gave during the second reading debate of the Nationality Bill on 28 January 1981 and insist that it now be fulfilled. In giving any assurance we should of course need to be careful not to suggest in any way that we might be encouraging the Argentines to expel the Islanders.

2. I should be grateful if you could let me know your views as soon as possible on 7 April so that we may have a line for the Parliamentary debate.

3. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister and John Nott.

(FRANCIS PYM)

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