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FCS/86/036

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

Review of Entry Clearance Policy

Thank you for your letter of 15 January. I agree that it is very important to have a carefully costed analysis of all the various options open to us. I also agree that the review should consider the longer-term implications of any particular course of action. There are important foreign policy considerations involved, as you acknowledged in your minute of 20 November.

Work on the joint Home Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office review is now well under way and should be completed during February. I am strongly of the opinion that we should wait until we have seen the recommendations before we consider drawing up any detailed contingency plans : additional visa regimes obviously have very big implications for FCO manpower resources and the Diplomatic Service structure.

It is difficult to see a situation over Bangladesh in which both governments would agree that the imposition of a visa regime was necessary or desirable. The circumstances which led to the imposition of a visa regime for Sri Lankans were abnormal. These and other aspects will need to be considered in greater depth when the results of the review are known. I

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feel however that summary removal could continue to be a most useful practice in deterring those who have a tenuous claim to admission.

I am sending copies of this minute to the recipients of your letter..

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

GEOFFREY HOWE

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
10 February 1986

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