



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP
Secretary of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London SW1A 2AL

Prime Minister

H

5/8

4 August 1982

Francis

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POLISH REFUGEES

Thank you for your minute of 27 July outlining recent developments and your wish to respond favourably to pressure to admit some exiles from the detainee camps in Poland.

I am sure that you are right that, since our partners now accept that we have done all we can to criticise enforced exile, we must accept some commitment to admit detainees. We are now relieved of the risk of refugees from the South Atlantic, and some of the Poles temporarily resident here are going home.

I see that you expect that the US and FRG responses will become public. I am not clear about the latter's position on numbers but I note that the US is committed to 150 ex-detainees and their families. I should have thought, if the US is prepared to put a number on its commitment, that we could do the same. It would not, I suggest, be prudent for us to be seen to "match" the US quota, so I suggest that we settle on 100, as in the Austrian case.

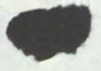
As you say, the UK commitment would be subject to the usual sponsorship, etc., criteria and not least, following the US scheme, clear identification of political threat if the detainees remained in Poland.

That leaves the public presentation of our decision. I readily agree that our officials should consult about briefing, etc. But, as I say, if the US view becomes public - as seems likely at the NATO meeting on detainees in August - then we should be ready to state publicly what our commitment is.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of "H" Committee and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Leon

LEON BRITTAN



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