

Marlow TP

23rd August 1979

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you very much for your letter of 13th July about the Vietnamese refugees.

The Prime Minister has always made it clear that there is a definite difference between immigrants and refugees from tyranny.

The Government has thought it right to continue with our long tradition of offering sanctuary for those who are refugees from tyranny, as we did in the case of refugees from Germany in the 1930s.

On the wider issue of immigration, the Government is, as you know, determined to implement in full the policies which were set out on page 20 of our Manifesto.

Do please have a word with me about this is you would like to do so when you are back in London.

With best wishes.

Ian Gow MP  
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Tony Marlow Esq MP



From Tony Marlow MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th July, 1979

The Rt.Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, PC, MP,  
Prime Minister.

*Dear Prime Minister -*

I am very concerned with the lofty attitude being adopted in some areas of the Party with regard to the Vietnamese refugees.

As you know, I represent an urban, marginal seat, won by us at the last election for the first time. The victory was largely due to massively increased support amongst trades unionists, council tenants and the members of our working men's clubs.

Amongst the reasons for this movement in support was our commitment to reduce immigration. This is an area in which Governments have, in the past, given undertakings which they have then failed to meet.

I believe that whatever we may consider to be the differences between immigrants and refugees it is a distinction that our new-found supporters will not be readily persuaded to make. The Government's credibility is obviously going to be a very precious thing in the difficult months ahead and I implore you not to use up some of the goodwill that exists by allowing the intake of quantities of refugees which the people who count, the people we are elected to represent, though they may sympathise, do not wish to join us in our over-crowded island.

*Yours Sincerely  
Tony Marlow*