



CONFIDENTIAL

cc PE

FCS/85/281

CDO 311X

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

Macau

1. Thank you for your letter of 16 October in which you echoed your predecessor's concern about the practical and political implications of the advantages enjoyed by Portuguese passport holders in Macau after Portugal accedes to the European Community next year.

2. As I explained in my minute of 20 September, in view of the concerns expressed by the Governor of Hong Kong and endorsed by the Executive Council we do not propose to initiate direct talks with the immigration officials in Macau about the issue of Portuguese passports there. But I entirely agree that it is essential to do all we can to encourage the Portuguese to tighten up the criteria for granting Portuguese nationality to Macau residents. I have instructed our Ambassador in Lisbon to make a further approach to the Portuguese, emphasising our concern and suggesting a possible way forward agreed with your officials. I have also instructed our Ambassador to make clear that we expect the tightening of criteria for the granting of Portuguese nationality to be accompanied by further efforts to clamp down on fraudulent issue of passports. We shall be calling in the Portuguese Ambassador in London to put the same points to him.

3. I should be glad to discuss what further measures might be taken, but think that it would be best to await the Portuguese response to the demarches we are making. If, in the meantime, you have any suggestions, I should be glad to consider them.

4. I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

31 October 1985

GEOFFREY HOWE

CONFIDENTIAL

EUR. POL: Embogenent: Pt 3.

