



Some 30 people yesterday picketed the Home Office, London, in support of Ms. Anwar Ditta (below), whose three children are in Pakistan and have been prevented from coming to Britain.

Mother forces Tory to think again

Morning Star Reporter

"THOUSANDS of people are separated from their children. I am not the only one. Others are in Rochdale, Manchester, Oldham, Birmingham, London."

This was the feeling of yesterday of Anwar Ditta (left), who has not seen her three children, born in Pakistan, since April 1975 and who has been refused permission to bring them to Britain.

Home Office Minister Timothy Raison has promised to reconsider the matter following an ITV World in Action programme about Anwar and her husband Shuja.

Their appeal to bring the children to Britain was dismissed last year.

Anwar, 27, who was born in Birmingham and now lives in Rochdale, has spoken at nearly 400 public meetings organised by the Anwar Ditta Defence Committee.

"Many, many people like me

have spent years appealing to have their children with them and some have given up in despair," she said yesterday, speaking from her Rochdale home. "I hope the publicity we have had will help them."

Anwar and her husband were married in Lahore when she was 14. Their children still live there with Anwar's mother-in-law.

The Home Office has said the children's father might have been married twice, each time to a woman called Anwar Ditta, but a Granada team in Pakistan arranged for five witnesses to make affidavits about the 13 years Anwar spent there.

The leading piece of evidence comes from blood tests arranged for Granada. Samples from the children, Anwar and her husband and other relatives were examined by Prof. Barbara Dodd, an accredited tester for the Home Office.

"There is a 99.9 per cent cer-



tainty that Anwar Ditta is the mother of Kamran, Saima and Imran," said Prof. Dodd on the programme. Anwar and her husband were beyond reasonable doubt the true parents, she said.