

NEW WORLD

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and
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Immigration and Nationality - There was a good attendance at the conference held on 14th July. There was considerable interest amongst those who came and much concern about how the proposed changes in the immigration rules might affect our people.

John Plummer of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants who spoke called for the repeal of the 1971 Immigration Act. It had he said been responsible for the abuse of civil liberties and for a number of vicious forms of immigration control. He attacked the long waiting periods for interviews, particularly at Islamabad and Dacca which resulted in long separations of families. The appeals system was also far from satisfactory.

About imprisonment without trial under the Immigration Act he said that more than 6,000 people had now been detained. Half were from West Africa. A quarter were from Asia and the other quarter from the rest of the world.

He also spoke about a new immigration offence - "entry by deception". For example, someone may have been brought to the U.K. illegally as a small child many years ago. If that person leaves the U.K. for a visit abroad and on return is suspected by an immigration officer of having entered illegally many years before, they can be detained.

Watch out for something else too! If you do not have a British passport and leave the country for a long period - but less than two years - you should be admitted as a returning resident. But if you do this again within a very short time you could find that your passport is endorsed for a stay of only six months when you return.