

Asylum-list report angers groups in Britain. (1995, October 26) *The Gazette.*

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REUTER

LONDON - Refugee groups reacted angrily yesterday to a report that the government plans to bar citizens of such strife-torn countries as Algeria, Sri Lanka and Nigeria from seeking political asylum in Britain.

The Guardian newspaper said it obtained a secret briefing note from the headquarters of the governing Conservative Party drawn up for its members of Parliament.

The Guardian said Interior Minister Michael Howard plans to spell out his proposals for a crack-down on immigrants in the speech from the throne, which will open the next session of Parliament in November.

Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said he believes the proposal for a so-called "white list" would put people at risk of persecution or worse.

"The use of an inflexible, rigid list of this sort will inevitably lead to some asylum seekers being sent back to torture, persecution and possibly death," he said.

An Interior Ministry official said: "We cannot pre-empt what may or may not be in the Queen's speech."

But the newspaper said Howard will propose legislation to bring in a "white list" of countries regarded as safe and whose citizens therefore have no reason to apply for political asylum on the grounds that they would be in danger. . . ."