Dr Otto Harpner
7 Central Camp,
Douglas, IOM.

2nd September 1940.

His Exc. Minister
Dr. Richard Schueller,
c/o Council for Austrian in Britain.
London.

Dear Minister Schueller,

I am writing this letter to you as speaker for the Austrians interned in this Camp and I suppose in the interest of the Austrian Internees in the other Camps as well.

I may suppose that my suggestions will coincide with steps already taken by you. It appears to us that in the struggle against the injustice committed by the internment of German political Refugees the Austrian case has not sufficiently been pleaded. The present state of increasing sympathy for the interned Refugees appears to give the best opportunity to make up for what might have been omitted. It should be possible to find understanding with the authorities and the public for the special tragedy of Austrian Refugees, seing that we have fought Nazisme in a battle of fife years which was only lost after we have been abandoned by the great powers.

It should be pointed out that of the victims of Nazi agression we are the only ones who are suffering general internment. It could be argued that Fifth Columnists might be hidden amongst us. In that case it should be pointed out that the character of every Austrian before having been admitted to this country, has been carefully examined by the Home Office and even more since the outbreak of the War by one or more Aliens Tribunals. Aliens from other countries under German domination however have not been generally interned although many of them came to this country without any previous examina-

tion, and none of them ever had to appear before an Aliens Tribunal. This applies especially to the many Aliens coming from rexgions with notorious Nazi sympathies such as for instance Sudeten Germany.

In the new White Paper (end of August) the Home Secretary has forshadowed the announcement of further categories, eligible for release. This announcement in connection with the already existing new category 19 providing for the release of prominent and persistent F to Nazism should in our opinion serve as a basis for dealing with Austrian in xgeneral. It should be stated as a general rule that any Austrian especially those who left Austria in the relatively short period between the occupation of Austria and the outbreak of the war be deemed a person whose prominent and persistent opposition to Nazism is to be held as notorious.

Fopposition

I may mention that I do not want to pleade my own case in this letter as I am about to emigrate overseas. But just this fact seemed to my mind to put me under the obligation of pleading the write arguments for a just cause as so frequently in previous years.

I leave it to you to forward copies of this letter to those of the many advocates of the Refugees, whom you think appropriate.

I am, dear Minister Schueller,

Yours very sincerely,