On 8 October 1940, Herbert Morrison took over the Home Office. Sir John Anderson, steady, painstaking, conscientious, unpopular, was kicked upstairs to become Lord President of the Council. It was left to Aneurin Bevan to speak the final words of condemnation: 'The Right Honourable Gentleman's handling of the internment of aliens was, and remains, a disgrace to the country. There are many examples of the appalling consequences of the way in which that matter has been managed. . . . Even now the categories of aliens still in internment are a disgrace to the country . . . .'

The *Jewish Chronicle* was characteristically optimistic about the change: 'Mr Morrison's presence at the Home Office will, it is believed, result in an extension of the categories for exemption and a more liberal interpretation of existing conditions for release.'

This time the *Chronicle* was not to be disappointed. A new White Paper appeared on 17 October announcing three new categories under which application for release could be made. They involved certain persons eminent in art and learning (category 20), certain categories of students (21), and certain categories of people who had lived for at least twenty years in the United Kingdom (22). Cases coming under this last category would be considered by the same tribunal, headed by Sir Cecil James Barrington Hurst, as decided on those under category 19. Nine *ad hoc* committees to deal with applications under categories 8 and 20 would be appointed by the Royal Society, the British Academy, the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors, the Royal Academy, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the PEN Club, Dr Ralph Vaughan Williams and the Right Honourable Justice Scott.

On 22 October a further positive step was signalled when Osbert Peake announced that a representative of the United Kingdom government was being sent to Canada at the request of the Canadian government to assist them in dealing with the internees
deported there from Britain. He was Alexander Paterson, MC, one of His Majesty’s Commissioners of Prisons in England and Wales. Paterson, who arrived in Canada on 19 November, was charged with selecting suitable applicants for the Pioneer Corps and also men who appeared to come within the other categories of eligibility for release.

Despite these two important developments, discontent rumbled on. There were troubles in the British camps themselves. On 1 November, Signor Cosomati, a well-known cartoonist, was attacked and severely beaten by two Fascist fellow-internees in the Palace internment-camp on the Isle of Man. Cosomati’s anti-Mussolini cartoons had recently been reprinted in the English Sunday press. The camp authorities held an enquiry and two internees were sentenced to twenty-one days’ detention in cells for having instigated the attack. The incident brought to light rumours of Fascist intimidation within the camp. The internees, it was said, were completely under the domination of an aggressive Fascist minority who had appointed themselves to all posts of responsibility, threatened those who volunteered for the Pioneer Corps, and intimidated all who did not share their Fascist sympathies. On 14 November a new camp was opened at Douglas, making segregation of Fascist elements possible.

Not all problems could be solved with such apparent smoothness. Mr Wedgwood, taking clever advantage of a debate on 7 November on a government proposal to increase aid to the voluntary organisations responsible for the German refugees, aired his condemnation of the policy as a whole. The increased sum should not be voted because it would enable the government’s internment policy to continue. ‘If these people were not interned, they would at the present time be able to support their families’, he said. And, later in the same speech: ‘We do not want charity, neither do the internees. They do not want your £375,000: what they want is justice.’ (The increased sum was voted.)

The attack was given added ammunition by the publication at approximately this time of two books, The Internment of Aliens, by Francis Lafitte (a Penguin Special), and Anderson’s Prisoners, by ‘Judex’ (a Gollancz ‘Victory Book’). Both were heavy indictments of government policy. Neither spared gruelling detail of the suffering and hardship it had caused.

More specific criticism of the White Paper itself was contained in a document dated 5 November, drawn up by a group of internees in