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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 December 1981

Dear John,

Arms from the United States for the RUC

In his letter of 2 December to Michael Alexander, Stephen Boys Smith wrote that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland proposed to authorise an order for Ruger rifles for the RUC to be placed with an arms dealer in the UK.

We understand that the procedure adopted will ensure that there is no mention of the RUC when the export licence is sought from the US authorities. On that understanding, we see no objection to the order being placed, while hoping that everything possible will be done to avoid publicity which might embarrass the US Administration.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Stephen Boys Smith.

yours ever
R M J Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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