



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 December 1981

ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RUC

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 2 December to Michael Alexander and Roderic Lyne's letter of 10 December. The Prime Minister agrees with your Secretary of State's proposal that he should authorise an order for Ruger rifles to be placed with a fire arms dealer in the United Kingdom and that, if any questions are raised, we should maintain the line that the Police Authority from Northern Ireland purchase arms in the normal way through legitimate dealers in the United Kingdom.

With regard to paragraph 3 of your letter, the Prime Minister has asked why we are manufacturing the Sterling AR 180 if it is not well constructed or robust. You may wish to pass this enquiry to the Ministry of Defence, but I leave it to you to explain the background.

I am copying this letter to Francis Richards (FCO).

A. J. COLES

Stephen Boys-Smith, Esq.,  
Northern Ireland Office.