

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Prime Minister 2

Wm
24/12



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON SW1P 3AJ

John Coles Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON WC1

26 December 1981

Dear John,

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ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RUC

In your letter of 14 December you put to us the question that the Prime Minister had raised about the Sterling AR 180.

The view of the Sterling that we reflected was based on an assessment by the RUC of the particular needs they had for rifles in their particular circumstances: largely border patrolling. It should not be taken as a general comment on the Sterling.

As you will know, the AR 180 is manufactured by the Sterling Arms Co., a private company, for a variety of customers and not at all specifically for the particular needs of the RUC in Northern Ireland.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Francis Richards (FCO).

S W Boys Smith

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