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Dear Douglas.

McGLINCHEY

Thank you for your letter of 5 October in reply to my minute of 24 September.

I agree entirely with what you say about the need to ensure that our answer to McGlinchey's challenge to the order for his return - if that is how the case goes - is handled on the lines we want, and by lawyers in whom we have confidence, right from the beginning. My officials have discussed this with the DPP (N.I.) and, though it is not his formal responsibility, he has agreed to take steps, informally and when we are a little closer to the relevant time, to make sure that the RUC come to him for advice on the handling of the proceedings. He will then see that they put the conduct of the case in the hands of the Crown Solicitor who in turn will be guided by me both as to the selection of Counsel and as to their instructions on the arguments to be deployed.

I agree that it would be sensible for the officials of our two Departments to consult on the preparation of briefing for the Prime Minister at the November Summit. Perhaps you could ask yours to get in touch with my Legal secretary as soon as convenient.

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I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor,
the Home Secretary and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

Yours ever

Michael

The Rt.Hon.Douglas Hurd CBE., MP.
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
Whitehall
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