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HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

15 February 1985

Dear Robin,

*with FERB ? SECURITY  
on Interception file  
Part*

HUMAN RIGHTS

Your letter of 31 January recorded the remit to the Home Secretary and the Foreign Secretary, in consultation with the Lord Chancellor and other Ministers concerned, to look again at ways of reducing the impact of the findings of the European Courts on our law, including incorporation of the European Convention into UK law possibly with derogations.

The Home Secretary has been considering how best to take this exercise forward. The issues are wide ranging and complex and it would be helpful, in his view, if Ministers were able to consider them on the basis of a succinct paper to be prepared by officials which would set out the various possibilities with arguments for and against, so that Ministers could then indicate what further work should be done. The paper would not make substantive recommendations. The Home Secretary suggests that his officials should take the lead in preparing such a paper in consultation with officials of those Departments which received your letter of 31 January. He would then propose that this paper form the basis for a collective discussion with Ministerial colleagues - leaving till later, perhaps when the Home Secretary has seen the paper, whether the Prime Minister wishes to chair the meeting herself.

On timing, the Home Secretary has in mind that this discussion might take place at the end of April or early in May. It would be helpful to know if the Prime Minister agrees with this approach.

Copies of this letter go to Janet Lewis Jones (Lord President's Office), Richard Stoate (Lord Chancellor's Office), Len Appleyard (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), John Graham (Scottish Office), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Jim Daniell (Northern Ireland Office), Henry Steel (Law Officers' Department), Iain Jack (Lord Advocate's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely,  
Hugh Taylor*

H H TAYLOR

Robin Butler, Esq

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

27 February 1985

HUMAN RIGHTS

Thank you for your letter of  
15 February.

The Prime Minister is content with  
the approach which the Home Secretary  
has in mind for fulfilling the remit  
in my letter of 31 January.

I am copying this letter to Richard  
Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

herb

Hugh Taylor Esq  
Home Office

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