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RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

1-19 VICTORIA STREET

LONDON SW1H 0ET 5422

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-215

SWITCHBOARD 01-215 7877

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

16 October 1985

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP
Secretary of State for Home Affairs
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

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21/10

De Douglas,

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: RENEWAL OF OPTION
CLAUSES 25 AND 46

FILE WITH TF 21/10

You wrote on 8 October to Geoffrey Howe about the answer to be given to Teddy Taylor and the desirability or otherwise of a debate.

2 I agree with your proposal. As to the question of a debate, you should be aware that the European Court is expected to rule, probably in December, on the case of Lithgow and Others v. the United Kingdom. This case concerns the compensation paid to the former owners of the nationalised aircraft and shipbuilding companies. Some of our supporters feel strongly that we should have provided additional compensation particularly given that when we were in Opposition we severely criticised the proposed compensation in the Nationalisation Bill as unjust and inadequate. Some have also argued in the light of our defence of these issues at the European Court that we ought to have legislation against unfair compensation for nationalised assets particularly given our privatisation programme. A debate would provide a forum for a further airing of all these topics. I do not consider that this would be helpful, and I would be grateful if this could be borne in mind.

3 Copies of this letter go to recipients of yours.

Lew,
Leon

LEON BRITTON

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HUMAN RIGHTS
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