



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref: B/PSO/17930/85

Your ref:

23 October 1985

In Dwyer.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: RENEWAL OF OPTIONAL CLAUSES 25 AND 46 (RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL PETITION AND COMPULSORY JURISDICTION OF THE COURT)

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 8 October to Geoffrey Howe.

I agree that we should again renew our acceptance of these two Articles for five years. A shorter extension might be seen as a diminution in concern for human rights. A longer one could be criticised by those who think the Strasbourg court is far from perfect. You may have seen it recently described in The Times as a place where "all things can happen".

I agree that you will have to consider the question of a debate in the light of reaction to the announcement of renewal. I think this is primarily a matter for the Leader in the House and the business managers.

Copies of this letter go to recipients of yours.

KENNETH BAKER

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HUMAN RIGHTS

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