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SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
LONDON  
SW1

*CDP*  
*25/12*

25 October 1985

*D. Douglas*

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 sending me a copy of your letter of 8 October to  
the Foreign Secretary.

I was pleased with your proposal to announce our intention to renew  
Articles 25 and 46 for a further 5 years.

A large part of any debate on the decision is likely to be devoted to  
controversial Northern Ireland issues. There would be no advantage  
to the Government either in giving them an airing or in my view in  
accepting the principle that we should debate the renewal of Articles  
25 and 46.

I therefore agree with you that a debate should be resisted. If,  
however, there were to be a debate, I am certain that it should not  
take place until after the conclusion of the present Anglo-Irish  
dialogue.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President,  
the Lord Chancellor, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry,

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the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Secretary of State for Employment, the Lord Privy Seal, the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate, the Chief Whip and the Secretary to the Cabinet

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