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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT
6 December 1985

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Dear Douglas,

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS BILL

You wrote to me on 29 November with your recommendations for handling the Bill introduced by Lord Broxbourne seeking to incorporate the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights into United Kingdom statute law.

I share your view that there is no reason to depart from our previously agreed line that it would be inappropriate for us to incorporate the Convention. I also agree with your proposal that the Government spokesman should set out our objections to the Bill at Second Reading in the Lords, that Ministers should abstain in the event of a division and that action be taken to block the Bill at Second Reading in the Commons should it progress that far. You may take it that you have the agreement of Legislation Committee to proceed accordingly.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, and members of Legislation Committee and to First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Biffen

JOHN BIFFEN

Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate

Human Rights: Buho. POL No 80.

