



Secretary of State

NIO

cc/c

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Prime Minister  
 Lord President  
 Lord Chancellor  
 Foreign Secretary  
 Attorney for General  
 SOS for Education and  
 Science  
 SOS for Scotland  
 SOS for Social Services  
 SOS for Employment  
 Lord Advocate  
 Secretary to the Cabinet

Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP  
 Secretary of State for  
 Home Affairs  
 Home Office  
 50 Queen Anne's Gate  
 LONDON SW1

22 April 1986

CDD  
28/4

*Don Dwyer*

STRASBOURG-PROOFING

Thank you for sending me a copy of your minute to the Prime Minister of 17 March. I agree both with your diagnosis and your proposed remedy.

Because we will automatically be receiving copies of correspondence between other Departments and FCO and because of the special legislative procedures for Northern Ireland, it will be necessary for complementary guidance to be issued to both the NIO and Northern Ireland Departments. It would therefore be very helpful if my officials could be kept in touch with the drafting of the Cabinet Office circular of guidance, so that they may both take account of it in their own drafting and, if possible, issue the Northern Ireland guidance at the same time.

I also see advantage in correspondence being copied to NIO, not only when FCO advice is being sought, but when the issues explored by Departments with their own legal advisers seem likely to affect us. Correspondence, for example, with Home Office or Scottish Office legal advisers about prisons issues would often be of particular importance. I hope that this point could be addressed in the Cabinet Office circular. My officials will be in touch about the details.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

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 T

Euro-pol: Human  
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Nov 1980

