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QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

3 April 1985

*D Douglas,*

*NBPM*

*CD 34*

1984 REVIEW OF SECURITY POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

*sec Pt A*

I was very interested to read your letter of 11 February to Michael Heseltine and the accompanying reports.

So far as the RUC is concerned, you know that the Home Office and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary are ready to give all the help they can in furthering your policy objectives.

The Republic holds many of the keys to success against PIRA. All PIRA activity on the mainland, and much of it in Northern Ireland, is planned and prepared in the Republic.

We have made a lot of changes and progress, following the Brighton bomb, in the arrangements and counter-measures on the mainland against Irish terrorism. But essentially it is a containment strategy, and we are crucially dependent on the provision of intelligence from the South.

I note what you say about the work in a separate context to establish a better political framework for security co-operation. In the meantime, on a day-to-day basis, it remains necessary for all concerned in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to continue to work together to get maximum help and action out of the Republic.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary for Defence and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Lew,*

*[Signature]*

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The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd, CBE, MP

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