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SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon Peter Rees QC MP
Chief Secretary
Treasury Chambers
Parliament Street
LONDON
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NBIM

CDP

10/3/85

April 1985

Dear Peter,

THE 1984 REVIEW OF SECURITY POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Thank you for your letter of 19^{A19} March. I was glad that it was possible to involve your officials in the preparation of the Review and I agree that they should be involved in the identification, refinement and application of security indicators which is proposed.

Like you, I welcomed the Review's accent on value-for-money and I have asked that the statistical analysis should continue to be developed and evaluated in the belief that it will help us considerably when we come to take policy and resource-planning decisions in the future.

I note what you say about overall security force strengths and I am content that our officials should discuss a timetable for further work; but I should repeat the point, which was stressed in the Review itself, that soldiers and policemen are trained for different kinds of work. The balance of security force strengths has changed over the years in response to changes in the nature of the security problem they face. Determining the right numbers of police and Army is bound to include a high element of political judgement and is unlikely to be reducible to a formula based on past statistical trends.

I am/...

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I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister and to Nigel Lawson, Michael Heseltine, Leon Brittan, Geoffrey Howe and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Lawson,

Doug '2.

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