

cc/c



HOUSE OF LORDS,
SW1A 0PW

CONFIDENTIAL

*NBPM
CPS
9/8*

8th August 1989

Dear Stephen,

Anti-Terrorist Legislation in Northern Ireland

You copied to me your letter of 26th July to Charles Powell. *✓*

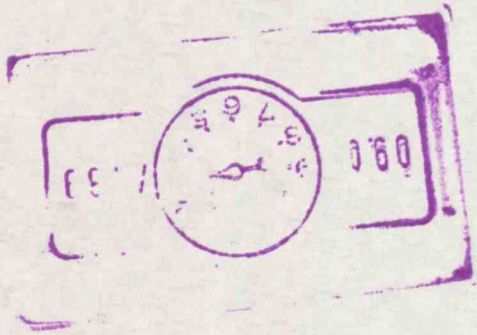
This is just to indicate that the Lord Chancellor is content with the proposed approach by your Secretary of State.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell (10 Downing Street) Stephen Wall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Colin Walters (Home Office), Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence), David Crawley (Scottish Office), Michael Saunders (Law Officers' Secretariat) and Trevor Woolley (Cabinet Office).

Paul Stockton

Stephen Pope Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State
Northern Ireland Office
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AX

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FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

CM 2777

Charles Powell Esq
PS/Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

27 July 1989

Dear Charles,

14 August 1989 will be the 20th anniversary of the deployment of troops on the streets of Northern Ireland. It is an anniversary which, predictably, is acting as a focus for an increasing stream of media appraisals, not only of the last 20 years, but also of present circumstances in Northern Ireland.

Earlier this year, in anticipation of this, Mr King set in hand work to ensure that the Government's own message was clearly articulated, and transmitted. We have since completed work on media themes for the 20th anniversary, which is being followed by Ministers and officials here in interviews and briefings with the press, radio and television. (Copies of these themes have already been sent to your own, and to other key departmental, press offices).

Mr King also asked Dr Mawhinney to supervise the production of a book to highlight the true nature of terrorist activity, and to contrast this negativism and wastefulness with the positive achievements of the Government in the Province. The emphasis on positive developments is not only important in its own right, but also as a corrective to those in the media (and there are many of them) who will too readily assume that little has changed in Northern Ireland in the last 20 years.

I enclose an advance copy of this publication, which, as further printed copies become available, we intend to issue within the next few days. Copies will be going to the press and broadcasting organisations, and to other opinion formers, in Northern Ireland, Great Britain, and the Republic of Ireland, and, on a more selective basis, overseas.

I am sending copies of this letter, with a copy of the publication, to the Private Secretaries to all Cabinet Ministers, Ministers in charge of Departments; the Chief Whip and the Attorney General; and to Trevor Woolley.

Yours, etc.

Stepha Leach

S J LEACH