

cc/c.



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FCS/89/181NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARYCDD
279.Inquests

1. I am grateful ^{Asap} to you for sending me a copy of your letter of 15 September to the Attorney General.
2. I agree that the prospect of further litigation, as outlined in the Attorney General's letter of 1 September, has immeasurably strengthened the case for deferring the introduction of any Order in Council until the result of the appeal to the House of Lords is known. We could at that stage take an overall view of the action required to ensure that our interests are safeguarded at the inquests.
3. Your letter of course preceded the meeting of the Anglo/Irish Conference. The sensitivity of all these security-related issues reinforces the argument you make. We must protect the legitimate interests of the Government and individuals when the inquests take place. But we can do this in a way which avoids a threat to the security cooperation with the Republic which we need in order to combat terrorism.
4. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, Home and Defence Secretaries and the Secretary to the Cabinet.

(JOHN MAJOR)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
24 September 1989

IRGIANO : Situazione PTZ

