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ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE
LONDON, WC2A 2LL

CEP

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The Rt. Hon. Tom King, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Defence,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB.

CEP 10/11

8 November 1989

1. Carson:

INQUESTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND : DRAFT CORONER'S ORDER

at hand

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 30 October to Peter Brooke.

As you say in your letter, I have previously expressed the view, on presentational grounds, that we should get this legislation out of the way rather than await the outcome of the appeal to the House of Lords. Much time has elapsed, however, since the decision to introduce the Order was made. We are already into the second week in November, and the hearing date in January is uncomfortably close. Accordingly I no longer think it necessary to oppose delaying our legislation until after an (unfavourable) decision in our appeal to the Lords. It may well now even be easier for us to present ourselves favourably if we do delay, as Peter Brooke desires. Whatever our expectations may be as to the result, we have no need to be diffident about taking our case to the Lords: we won at first instance in Mr. Justice Carswell's court.

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I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, James Mackay, Geoffrey Howe, John Major, Douglas Hurd and Peter Brooke, as well as to Patrick Walker and Sir Robin Butler.

James Mackay

Patrick Walker

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IRELAND: sat 10.11.89

