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CONFIDENTIAL

Martin Howard Esq  
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1 July 1996

Dear Martin,

**NI ARMS DECOMMISSIONING BILL: GB DIMENSION**

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 20 June to Paul Cohen.

The Lord Advocate is content with the course you propose, and with the way in which you intend to deal with queries during the passage of the Bill.

Lord Mackay would be grateful if his officials could be closely involved in the proposed discussions of the steps towards facilitating the decommissioning of arms in Great Britain.

I am copying this letter to Alex Allan (No. 10), Jane Hope (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office, H/C), Mary Ollard (Chief Whip's Office, H/L), Michael Lugton (Scottish Office), Ken Sutton (Home Office), Jan Polley (Cabinet Office) and Peter Moore (First Parliamentary Counsel's Office).

Yours sincerely,

Al Maxwell

ALAN MAXWELL  
PRIVATE SECRETARY