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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 0171-21 82111/2/3

SECRETARY OF STATE

MO 19/3J

14 May 1997

*Dear David,*

NORTHERN IRELAND BILLS

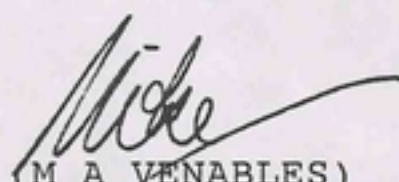
The Defence Secretary was grateful for the copy of the Northern Ireland Secretary's minute of 10 May to the Prime Minister. He agrees with the proposals.

He would be grateful, however, if the Northern Ireland Office would consult the MOD if, as the new legislation takes shape, there were any intention to change the emergency powers currently exercised by the Army under the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Acts. These powers are of fundamental importance to the support that the Army is able to give to the RUC.

The Defence Secretary agrees with the analysis that the legislation on the EPA and on the North recommendations is likely to be controversial, and that it will require careful presentation, especially with the unionists.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Yours ever,*

  
(M A VENABLES)  
Private Secretary

David Kyle Esq  
PS/Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

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