

RESTRICTED - POLICY



10 DOWNING STREET
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FILE
JA

From the Private Secretary

18 November 1996

Dee Paul,

DECOMMISSIONING BILL

Thank you for your letter of 15 November, reporting provisional agreement at the meeting chaired by the Lord President that the Bill should include provisions to enable the Home Secretary and the Scottish Secretary to apply the Bill in Great Britain. The Prime Minister is pleased with this outcome, while recognising that there are still further consultations to take place.

The Prime Minister was however uneasy about the suggestion in subparagraph c. on the second page of your letter, that the prohibition of forensic tests of decommissioned articles might not be applied in Great Britain. The Prime Minister has difficulty in seeing how this would be readily defensible.

I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries to members of NI Committee, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Lord Advocate, and to Jan Polley (Cabinet Office) and Peter Moore (First Parliamentary Counsel).

Yours ever
John

JOHN HOLMES

Paul Cohen Esq
Lord President's Office

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