

FROM:

THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST. MARYLEBONE, C.H., F.R.S., D.C.L.



HOUSE OF LORDS,  
SW1A 0PW

11th April, 1985

The Right Honourable  
Peter Rees, QC MP  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury,  
HM Treasury,  
Parliament Street,  
London,  
SW1P 3AG.

Our ref: P16/24/16 Pt 4

Dear Peter:

Assassination and Death in Service

with  
REES?

I have seen a copy of your minute of 27th March to the Prime Minister. I must accept your judgment about the likely dangers that improvements in cases of attributable deaths may repercuss on non-attributable cases. I therefore endorse your proposal that the improvements you mention at paragraph 9(a) and (b) should be introduced, but not those at 9(c) and (d).

I take it you would agree that the benefit of any improvements which are introduced ought to be extended to other public servants, including the judiciary? In this context I should say that I do not think your proposed definition of outrage - political assassination and terrorist activity - is quite wide enough. It would cover the judges murdered in Northern Ireland, but in 1981 Judge Openshaw, a Circuit Judge in Lancashire, was murdered by a man on whom he had passed sentence some years before. This is a potential danger to which all judges are exposed, and I hope you would agree that a revenge killing of a judge in this way constituted a public outrage.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Defence, Education, Scotland, the Environment and Social Security and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

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From: THE RT. HON. LORD HAILSHAM  
OF ST. MARYLEBONE, CH, FRS, DCL.

Quebec  
Relays

Service  
3/85

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