



Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

C41B

Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3ST
Telephone Belfast 63011

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP
Home Secretary
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

MBPM

19 August 1985

Dear Leon,

CONFISCATION OF THE PROFITS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

I have seen your letter of 23 July to Willie Whitelaw in which you asked whether orders made by English and Welsh courts against offenders who hold assets in Northern Ireland will be enforceable here against those assets, and am replying in Douglas Hurd's absence on leave.

In principle I think it is very desirable that such orders should be enforceable in Northern Ireland, otherwise drug traffickers might be quick to take advantage and try to hold their assets there out of reach of the courts in England and Wales. Because your proposals are breaking new ground, I doubt if the enforcement of these orders here will fall easily into the existing enforcement machinery in the Province. If it is necessary NIO officials will consider, with other interested parties, what steps should be taken in Northern Ireland to facilitate enforcement of orders arising elsewhere in the UK.

Subsuming all of these is of course the wider issue of how the overall package of measures should be enacted in Northern Ireland. As Douglas indicated in his letter of 24 June it might be possible for the resulting Act to extend directly to Northern Ireland and for the enforcement issue to be covered in that context. Whatever approach is ultimately adopted it will be necessary, if we are to achieve a satisfactory level of conformity, for our officials to be kept closely informed as developments take place.



I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Members of H and L Committees, the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate, the First Parliamentary Counsel and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours truly,

Nick.

NICHOLAS SCOTT

Drugs: Home
Affairs PEZ

