



FCS/86/046

CDP
24/2.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Force Levels in Northern Ireland

- WITH COP
1. Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 13 February to the Secretary of State for Defence seeking the commitment to Northern Ireland of an additional infantry battalion from the beginning of March.
 2. I quite understand that this reinforcement is necessary and agree that its presentation in Northern Ireland and elsewhere will need the most careful handling. I suggest that this question of presentation might, with benefit, be discussed when we meet in OD(I) on 27 February.
 3. Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, George Younger, Douglas Hurd and Sir Robert Armstrong.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
24 February 1986

IRLAND
Sinn Féin P120

