

Inquiry Into Legislation Against Terrorism

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Dr John Alderdice
Alliance Party of NI
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15 January 1996

Dear Dr Alderdice

INQUIRY INTO COUNTER-TERRORISM LEGISLATION

As the Northern Ireland Secretary announced in Parliament on 9 January I have been appointed by the Government to undertake an Inquiry into the Future need for Counter-Terrorism Legislation in the United Kingdom. I shall be assisted, in relation to Northern Ireland issues, by the Hon. Mr Justice Kerr. The terms of reference which have been given to me are as follows:

To consider the future need for specific counter-terrorism legislation in the United Kingdom if the cessation of terrorism connected with the affairs of Northern Ireland leads to a lasting peace, taking into account the continuing threat from other kinds of terrorism and the UK's obligations under international law; and to make recommendations.

I hope to be able to report to the Home Secretary and the Northern Ireland Secretary by the end of August.

My purpose in writing to you is to invite you to contribute to my inquiry. I should be happy to receive any views in writing in which case I shall need to receive them by by mid-March please. Alternatively, or in addition, I should be glad to arrange a meeting.

Among the matters which are relevant to my inquiry, and on which I would welcome contributions, are any observations on the way in which the existing legislation against terrorism has been used; any shortcomings which you feel should be drawn to attention; and any proposals relating to legislative measures against terrorism in the medium term once the Government decides that the Prevention of Terrorism Act and

(in Northern Ireland) the Emergency Provisions Act have served their purpose.

Perhaps if you would like a meeting, your office would be in touch with the Secretariat at the above address.

Yours sincerely
Anthony Lloyd

THE RT HON LORD LLOYD OF BERWICK

31 January 1996

The Rt Hon Lord Lloyd of Berwick
Inquiry Into Legislation Against Terrorism
PO Box 9998
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Dear Lord Lloyd

Thank you for your letter of the 15th inst. regarding the Inquiry into the Future need for Counter-Terrorism Legislation. You have been appointed to address a crucial question in the ongoing development of a more normal society in Northern Ireland and beyond in the wake of the ceasefires.

I have passed your letter to Councillor Steve McBride, who is both our Party Chairman and our Justice Spokesman. I trust he will be in touch with your office in due course. May I take this opportunity to wish you well in this role.

Yours sincerely

Dr J T Alderdice
PARTY LEADER