

CONFIDENTIAL

The Chief Crown Solicitor,
Royal Courts of Justice (Ulster),
BELFAST
BT1 3JY

AGNI/15/1973

4th May, 1973

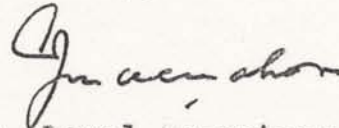
Dear Sir,

Londonderry Inquests

The problems surrounding these inquests were discussed at the Secretary of State's meeting on Wednesday the 2nd May as were the proposals put forward in the Opinion of Mr. Brian Hutton, Q.C., dated the 1st May. The Secretary of State felt that although there would be certain advantages in making the proposed order, he nevertheless thought that to do so could create considerable political difficulties and, on balance, he decided not to take any action to interfere with the normal procedure. He did not wish the inquests to be held ^{in the} after the elections. There are difficulties attending almost any period in the immediate future but it seems it would create the minimum of difficulties if the inquests could be delayed until, say, August. Although the GOC was present at the meeting I think it would be wise for you to inform the Ministry of Defence of the present position and no doubt you will also advise Counsel and the R.U.C. accordingly.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Hall, Ministry of Home Affairs and Leslie Imrie at Stormont Castle and M. de Winton of the Law Officers' Department, London.

Yours faithfully,



Asst. Legal Secretary