



SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP
Home Secretary
50 Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

*H' will witness meet tomorrow.
We shall need to have the committee
before its rechecked date.*

MUST 14.1

14 January 1986

Dear Secretary of State,

MR CHURCHILL'S BILL TO AMEND THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACT

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 18 December to Willie Whitelaw detailing your proposals for handling Winston Churchill's Bill to amend the Obscene Publications Act 1959.

I would like to record my general support for the approach you intend to take. While the proposed amendments to the Obscene Publications Act will not apply to Northern Ireland the implications, especially in the area of broadcasting, are of obvious interest. I see the consequences of the removal of the broadcasting exemption in England and Wales as being further complicated by the application of different standards in Northern Ireland (and seemingly in Scotland) to broadcasts capable of nationwide reception. For this reason I would share the reservations expressed against departing from the control of broadcasting through the duties laid down in the BBC Charter and Broadcasting Act 1981.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the other Members of H Committee and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours sincerely
Richard
(Private Secretary)*

for^{T K}
(Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence in
Northern Ireland)

HOME AFFAIRS

OBSCURITY

oct 83

