

RESTRICTED



*Ireland*

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*Prime Minister*

*mt*

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

Thank you for your minute dated 15th September about the case which Mrs. Stewart has brought against the Ministry of Defence.

2. I am grateful to you for letting me have this information. As you say, we shall need to take stock of the situation when Crown Counsel's views are available.

3. As far as the use of baton rounds by police forces in England and Wales is concerned, I have recently issued confidential guidelines to chief officers. These authorise the use of baton rounds only in defined circumstances and in the last resort; they require use of approved (Ministry of Defence) equipment only; and they prescribe the way in which the equipment is to be used so as to minimise the risk of causing any serious injury. To date five forces have taken steps to acquire supplies of baton rounds and launchers.

4. I am sending copies of this minute to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Attorney General, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Leon Stewart*

22 September, 1981

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