

SECRET

Confidential Filing

Queen Mother's visit to Queen's  
Dragoon Guards in Northern Ireland

ROYAL  
FAMILY

April 1982

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>21.4.82</del> 17.6.82							
<p>PREM 19/11/20</p>							



CONFIDENTIAL

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Prime Minister 2



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Referred  
to PM's Party  
in Stuttgart  
18/6/83

Tim Flesher Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

17 June 1983

A  
20/6

Dear Tim

ROYAL VISIT

As you know, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is to visit Northern Ireland on Sunday 19 June and Monday 20 June.

Some documents giving some details of the main events of the visit were stolen from a journalist's car in Dublin this afternoon. The journalist had had a confidential advance press briefing. There is no evidence that the information in the stolen documents, which have already been recovered has fallen into terrorist hands. The advice of our security advisers is that this theft is not sufficient reason for changing plans. The particular information in the stolen documents is already known to many, including staff and prospective guests, and the fact of the visit itself is very widely known throughout the Province.

Sir Philip Woodfield is quite satisfied there is no need to change anything and we have spoken to Clarence House accordingly. They are content.

The fact of the theft is known to the newspapers and is likely to be sensationalised. We are, however, continuing our usual practice of not commenting in advance on the details of royal visits.

Yours ever

Dave

D A HILL

NH

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

AND PERSONAL



4  
2/6 AH  
cc Sir Philip  
Sir Martin

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

17 June 1983

Thank you for your letter of 17 June about the visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to Northern Ireland on Sunday 19 and Monday 20 June.

I have shown this to the Prime Minister who has noted that the security forces will keep their assessment under review and will cancel the visit if their assessment should change.

I am sending copies of this letter to Sir Philip Moore and Sir Martin Gilliat.

*Angela Horner*

F E R BUTLER

Dictated by and signed  
in his absence

Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

SECRET

AND PERSONAL



Prime Minister  
To be aware



Permanent Under Secretary  
Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

3

**SECRET PERSONAL**

*I note that it will be necessary to push before the wind.*

SECRET/PERSONAL

F.E.R. Butler Esq.  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

17 June 1983.

*Wm. Lytton*

ROYAL VISIT

The Prime Minister will wish to know that the Secretary of State has agreed that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother should visit Northern Ireland to attend a parade to mark the 75th anniversary of the Territorial Army in Northern Ireland.

The outline programme is as follows:

Sunday 19 June

16.30 Arrive at RAF Aldergrove in Andover of the Queen's Flight. Transfer to helicopter of the Queen's Flight and fly direct to Hillsborough Castle. Stay overnight in Royal Apartments at Hillsborough Castle. Guest of Honour at small dinner party at Hillsborough Castle

Monday 20 June

10.40 Fly direct to St. Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena by helicopter of the Queen's Flight.  
11.05-15.00 Attend parade, reception and luncheon at St. Patrick's Barracks.  
15.15 Depart for RAF Aldergrove by Queen's Flight helicopter.  
15.35 Depart from RAF Aldergrove in an Andover of the Queen's Flight.

We agreed with the Queen Mother's household that a secret unannounced visit would be impracticable because of the ceremonial nature of

**SECRET**

**PERSONAL**

SECRET/PERSONAL

SECRET PERSONAL

the occasion and the prior arrangements which had to be made. We therefore followed the precedent of Princess Alice's visit to the Province to present new Colours to a Volunteer Battalion in August 1981 by making a low key announcement at the end of March that Her Majesty would be visiting the Territorial Army in Northern Ireland at some unspecified date in June.

At present the security forces see no reason why the visit should not go ahead since, apart from the flying time, it will take place entirely in secure locations. However, as usual, the visit may be cancelled at any time if the security forces' assessment should change.

--- I am copying this letter to Philip Moore at Buckingham Palace and to Martin Gilliat at Clarence House.

*Yours etc,*

*Philip*

SECRET

PERSONAL

SECRET/PERSONAL



~~SECRET~~ AND PERSONAL



2  
2/16 AH  
cc: Sir Moore  
e R. Smith

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

21 April 1982

Dear Philip,

ROYAL VISIT

Thank you for your letter of 20 April 1982 about The Queen Mother's forthcoming visit to the Queen's Dragoon Guards in Northern Ireland.

I have shown this to the Prime Minister.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Philip Moore.

Yours ever,  
Anne Whitmore.

P J Woodfield Esq., CB CBE

~~SECRET~~ AND PERSONAL

**SECRET**

**PERSONAL**

Copy no 1 96



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

Prime Minister

KW  
20.4.82

C A Whitmore Esq  
Principal Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

20 April 1982

*Sean Mr Whitmore*

*Mo*

ROYAL VISIT

The Prime Minister will wish to know that we have agreed that The Queen Mother should visit Northern Ireland on Tuesday 27 April on a secret unannounced visit to the Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The outline programme is as follows:

Midday	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
12.10 pm	Travel by helicopter to Lisanelly Barracks Omagh
	Visit Queen's Dragoon Guards <u>within</u> Lisanelly Barracks
4 pm	Depart Lisanelly Barracks by helicopter
5 pm	Depart RAF Aldergrove

At present the security forces see no reason why the visit should not go ahead but, as usual, the visit may be cancelled at any time if the security situation should worsen significantly or if prior news of the visit were to leak.

I am copying this letter to Sir Philip Moore at Buckingham Palace.

*P J Woodfield*  
P J WOODFIELD

Approved by Mr Woodfield  
and signed in his absence on duty

**SECRET**

**PERSONAL**



