

SECRET

Confidential Filing

Visit of Princess Alice,  
Duchess of Gloucester to  
Northern Ireland.  
Visit by the the Duke and  
Duchess of Gloucester to N. Ireland.

ROYAL FAMILY

June 1981

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
21-11-83							
PREM 19/11/21							

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PUS/L/1141/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AZ*Permanent Under Secretary  
Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE*F E R Butler Esq  
Principal Private Secretary to  
the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street

21 November 1983

*Dear Robin,*ROYAL VISIT

I am afraid that this letter will not reach you before your departure for Delhi, but the Prime Minister will wish to know that the Secretary of State has agreed to Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester making a secret, unannounced visit to Northern Ireland from 1045 to 1635 on Thursday 24 November 1983.

The Duke will be visiting a number of Army barracks housing soldiers of the Royal Pioneer Corps of which he is Colonel in Chief. The Duchess will be the Guest of Honour at three functions: the official opening of the new wing of a school for physically handicapped children in a safe area on the outskirts of Belfast; a lunch for the workers of Women Caring Trust at Hillsborough Castle; and a visit to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

All locations will be protected by the security forces and the Royal Visitors will travel separately to the respective locations by helicopter.

*read to  
Mrs. Pasty  
22/11/83*

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

At present our security advisers see no reason why the visit should not go ahead as planned. However, as usual with Royal Visits, the security situation will be kept under continuous review and, if necessary, the visit could be cancelled at any time.

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

*Yours truly,*

*Philip*

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Kfancy

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

14 June, 1982

ROYAL VISIT

Thank you for your letter PUS/L/1750 of 9 June.

I have shown this to the Prime Minister and she has noted that Princess Alice, the Duchess of Gloucester, is expected to visit Northern Ireland on Tuesday, 22 June for a secret and unannounced visit to the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment.

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

C. A. WHITMORE

SB

P J Woodfield, Esq CB., CBE.,  
Northern Ireland Office

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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

Prime Minister.

To note.

AW

14/6/82

PUS/L/1750

C A Whitmore Esq  
Principal Private Secretary  
No 10 Downing Street  
Whitehall

9 June 1982

*Dear Sir,*

*MF*

ROYAL VISIT

The Prime Minister will wish to know that another short Royal Visit to Northern Ireland is imminent. We have agreed that Princess Alice, the Duchess of Gloucester, should come to the Province on Tuesday 22 June for a secret, unannounced visit to the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment.

The outline programme is as follows:

Midday	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
1210	Travel by helicopter to Cloony Camp, Londonderry, and thence by car to Ebrington Barracks
	Visit within Ebrington Barracks
1530	Depart by car from Ebrington to Cloony Barracks and thence by helicopter to RAF Aldergrove.
1700	Depart RAF Aldergrove

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

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 Philip Moore at Buckingham Palace.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Philip*

P J WOODFIELD

SECRET

PERSONAL

SECRET AND PERSONAL



Royal  
Family

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

15 June 1981

Dear Ken,

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 1981 about the visit which Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester will be paying to Northern Ireland on 26 August to present new colours to a Territorial Army Battalion of the Royal Irish Rangers.

I have shown your letter to the Prime Minister, who has taken note of it.

Yours ever,

Anne

Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

SECRET AND PERSONAL

SP.

SECRET  
PERSONAL



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

*Permanent Under Secretary*

Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

*Prime Minister*

*KW*

12 June 1981

*m*

Clive Whitmore Esq  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*MS*

*Dear Clive.*

Further to my note to Edward Adeane on PENTACLE, you should be aware that Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, will be visiting Northern Ireland on 26 August to present new colours to a Territorial Army Battalion of the Royal Irish Rangers in their Depot barracks at Ballymena.

Invitations to this ceremony and a low key announcement in the most general terms will be issued next week.

This falls outside the scope of the Air Vice Marshal's review and recommendations because it is a very brief, purely military, engagement in which Princess Alice will be secure in RAF Aldergrove, travelling by RAF helicopter or secure in the barracks at Ballymena. Furthermore, public knowledge of this visit may well act to our advantage by serving to divert attention from PENTACLE.

*Yours*

*Ken.*

K R STOWE

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PERSONAL



