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Visit of Princess Alice,

Duchess of Gloucester to

Northern Ireland.

Visit by the the Duke and

ROYAL FAMILY

June 1981

Vuchess of Cloucester to N. Ireland. June 1981							
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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE WHITEHALL LONDON SWIA 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

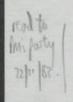
Den Robin

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.



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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.

Your win,

SECRET & PERSONAL



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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.

IC A. WHITMORE



SECRET PERSONAL

SECRET AND PERSONAL



Permanent Under Secretary

C A Whitmore Esq

No 10 Downing Street

Principal Private Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

PUS/L/1750

Whitehall

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE GREAT GEORGE STREET, LONDON SWIP 3AJ

9 June 1982

Dem Clin

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 1210

Arrive RAF Aldergrove

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.

Your war. Milip.

P J WOODFIELD

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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.

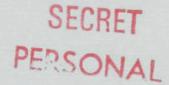
for and

Mwi

Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

SECRETAND PERSONAL

SP.



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON SWIP 3AJ

Prime Ministr.

12 June 1981

Permanent Under Secretary Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

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

Dray 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.

Jom m.

K R STOWE

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