

5
811

PREM 19/1547

PART 3

CONFIDENTIAL Final

Mr's Visits to N. IRELAND

IRELAND

PT 1: Aug 1979

PT 3: Dec 1982

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
21.12.82		24.9.85					
22.12.82		ENDS					
23.12.82							
29.12.82		PREM 19/1547					
6.1.83							
17.1.83							
2.2.83							
16.3.83							
15.12.83							
24.12.83							
5.1.84							
23.1.84							
30.4.84							
2.5.84							
4.6.84							
6.6.85							
13.8.85							
2/9/85							
24.9.85							
8.11.85							
12.11.85							
13.11.85							

PART 3 ends:-

Duty clerk to MFA 24-9-85

PART 4 begins:-

RTA to CDP(A085/2848) 6-11-85.



10 DOWNING STREET

Spoken
to Grattan.
Will approach
T. King

Mark,

Denis Grattan, PR exec
of Carne Harbour Board
rang. His chairman, Mr
Geoff Parker, has been
corresponding with you re
the possibility of the PM
opening the new passenger
terminal. They would like to
suggest a time between
the 5th + 15th of November.
If the PM cannot do it
can you suggest a
replacement - Tom King?
Can you phone Mr Grattan
on 0574 74609.

AP 24/9

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Charles Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

9 September 1985

Dear Charles,

EQUITY

Thank you for your letter to Jim Daniell of 3 September.
This is to confirm that Mr King endorses the views previously
expressed by Mr Hurd.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Duke-Evans

J B Duke-Evans

29F.

JL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 September 1985

EQUITY

The Prime Minister has considered the advice in Mr. Hurd's minute of 2 September that it would be better for her to visit Northern Ireland soon after rather than just before an Agreement was signed. Subject to the views of Mr. King, the Prime Minister is inclined to accept this advice.

I am reserving an alternative slot in the Prime Minister's diary for such a visit but, for security reasons, will not commit the dates to paper.

(C. D. POWELL)

Jim Daniell, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

SECRET
PERSONAL

SECRET

PERSONAL ²⁰¹²



PRIME MINISTER

Agree, subject to
Mr. King's views? *Yes*
EQUITY *CDP 2/9*

Prime Minister
Personally I am sure that
Mr. Hurd is right to suggest
that you should make your
visit to Northern Ireland after
rather than before an agreement. We
might use the details of the Italian
bilateral, which I am postponing.

We have discussed briefly on several occasions the possibility of your visiting Northern Ireland later this year. My Permanent Secretary wrote to your Private Secretary on 5 July with details of a possible programme for a visit which it was then envisaged might take place in late September, although it was recognised that both timing and contents would have to be reviewed in the light of progress of the Anglo-Irish negotiations.

I have been reflecting on this in the context of the possibility that we may now conclude an Anglo-Irish Agreement at the end of October. As you know, I very much hope that you will be able to come to Northern Ireland in the near future, and I think that the possibility of an Anglo-Irish Agreement strengthens the case for doing so. On balance I think it would be best if you were to come soon after rather than just before an Agreement was signed. If the visit took place before the Agreement had been signed you would be bound to be asked questions about it. You would be inhibited from saying very much; but it would be difficult to ignore the subject, and there would be a risk that anything you did say would be taken amiss by the Irish Government or by the Unionists. If you were to come soon after the Agreement had been signed, I think it would demonstrate that the new arrangements had your full support and at the same time would help to reassure the Unionists that they were not being abandoned.

I recognise, of course, the pressures on your programme in the Autumn. It may simply be impossible to fit in a visit to

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Northern Ireland in November. In that case I would hope that we could retain the existing slot, though we should need to look carefully at the draft programme to see whether any adjustments should be made. If it were at all possible for you to come later, however, I think that it would maximise the benefits of the visit.

Jonathan Dike-Evans

2 September 1985

D.H.

Approved by the
Secretary of State
and signed in his
absence

SECRET

PERSONAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 September 1985

I enclose a copy of the most recent letter from Mr. G. J. Parker, Chairman of Larne Harbour Limited, for information.

Mark Addison

Neil Ward, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.



Port of Felixstowe

The Felixstowe Dock & Railway Company,
European House, The Dock,
Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 8TB.

(Statutory Company - Incorporated in 1875)

Telephone: Felixstowe 604500

Telegrams: Dock, Felixstowe.

Telex: 98277 or 98535 (operations)

(A member of the European Ferries Group of Companies)

Our Ref. GJP/SJS

Your Ref.

Date. 20 August 1985

Mr M Addison
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Not Post. 0.

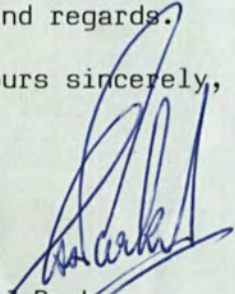
Dear Mr Addison,

I thank you for your letter of 13 August.

I fully understand the difficulties and we will try to be patient for a little longer before we have to make a decision to invite somebody else to perform the ceremony. Clearly we would very much like the Prime Minister to open the terminal, but we understand the difficulties. Perhaps I may write to you in a few weeks' time to see whether the situation has changed.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,


G.J. Parker
Chairman/Managing Director

*CF.
=*
*Repl. This note
NI visit forw.
MBA 29/8*



a letter to (46)

SKW

13 August 1985

You will remember you offered us advice on the original letter from Mr. Parker of 27 March. As you will see, Larne Harbour Ltd chose to read more commitment into my reply of 30 April than it contained and they are now pressing us to firm up on dates.

I enclose a copy of my reply to their latest letter in which I have explained that we are at this stage unable to give any further commitment, or any better idea of dates than was contained in my first reply.

(MARK ADDISON)

Neil Ward, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

8/13/85

13 August 1985

Thank you for your letter of 5 August.

I can appreciate your concern, but I am afraid that I cannot at this stage add anything to my letter of 30 April. I do hope you will understand why it is not possible for me to give you a more definite response.

The Prime Minister would, I know, fully understand if you decided in the circumstances to approach someone else to perform the opening ceremony of your new passenger terminal. As I indicated in my earlier letter, she would be happy to commend it to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful at this stage.

(MARK ADDISON)

G. J. Parker, Esq.

LARNE HARBOUR LTD

CF pps?

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

Larne Harbour
Larne
County Antrim
Northern Ireland BT40 1AS
(Registered office)
Telephone: Larne 79221
Telex No. 747814
Registered in Northern Ireland — No. R472

Please reply to:-
European House,
The Dock,
Felixstowe,
Suffolk IP11 8TB.

5th August, 1985.

Mr. M. Addison,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Addison,

I refer to my letter of the 2nd May, 1985, and am wondering whether there is any possibility of you giving us some indication of dates for the Autumn of this year, when the Prime Minister will be able to officiate in our new passenger terminal in Larne.

Yours sincerely,

G.J. Parker

pp G.J. Parker.
Chairman.

Directors:
G. J. Parker (Chairman)
K. Siddle
W. J. Ayers
W. W. Heubeck
D. H. Templeton



294

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

8 July 1985

SECRET AND PERSONAL

COPY No. 2 OF 2 COPIES

R.J. Andrew Esq CB
Northern Ireland Office

Your ref :- PUS/L/229/MLR

Dear Robert,

EQUITY

Thank you for your letter of 5 July which the Prime Minister saw over the weekend.

Subject to reviews of both the timing and the contents of the programme in the light of progress in the wider talks with Government of the Republic, the Prime Minister is content with the proposals in your letter. I suggest therefore that you plan on the basis of this programme and the agreed dates, but nothing should be done which would be difficult to revise until we have had an opportunity to consider

further nearer the time. Provided that it
would give you sufficient notice, could you
be in touch with us again on or about
10 September. (I cannot arrange for the papers
to be brought forward at this end, since none
of our clerical staff have access to the papers!).

Yours ever,

Robin Butler



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Robin.

This came in after you left on
Friday. I suggest that you
reply in manuscript to

say that :

⑤ a decision on dates
can only be taken once
we know when the Agreement
is to be concluded - given Mr.
Hard's judgement that the
visit must be afterwards - but

that we are keeping the
letter we discussed in the
diary;

(b) Subject to that, the
Prime Minister is content with
the programme envisaged, so
far as one can judge at
present; but

(c) The conclusion of an agreement
may change the political & security
situation to a point where we
have to revise the programme.
You will want to keep in your
copybook. C.D.P. 077.

TOP SECRET

291C.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister

Possible Visit to Northern
Ireland

Clearly you cannot reach any
decision on this for the
moment. It all depends on
- the timing of a possible
agreement with the Irish
- reactions in the North to
it - and developments generally
during the marching season.

/we

We have tentatively pencilled
in dates of 24/25 September, but
will not be able to confirm them
until end-August or the
earlier.

But, on a contingency
basis, would you be
content with the sort of
programme outlined in this
letter?

CDP Yes no
5/7.



PUS/L/229/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

*Permanent Under Secretary
R J Andrew CB*

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

5 July 1985

Dear Robin,

EQUITY

Earlier this year we discussed the possibility of a visit by the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland. We agreed that there was advantage in her staying overnight, which would permit a more extended visit than has previously been possible and would be seen as evidence of the greater normality of conditions in the Province compared with a few years ago. Dates have been noted in diaries, but for security reasons I will not mention them in this letter. I know that my Secretary of State discussed with the Prime Minister on 3 July his view that the visit should follow rather than precede any agreement with the Irish Government. As the next step I promised to let you have an outline of a possible programme.

2. On the first day we would propose that the Prime Minister should arrive at RAF Aldergrove at about 1015 and then travel by helicopter to Larne to open a new Ferry Terminal building. There would be a short speech followed by a walkabout. From Larne she would travel to Magherafelt to visit a school there, before going on to Loughry Agricultural College near Cookstown, where there would be a buffet lunch for about 30 guests from the local community. In the afternoon the Prime Minister would visit the British Army battalion stationed at Lisanelly Barracks, Omagh, where local RUC and UDR detachments could also be present. This would be followed by a visit to a small award-winning electronics firm at Portadown. In the evening that would be a reception at Hillsborough Castle for about one hundred guests, followed by a dinner for about 24 guests including party political leaders and others prominent in public life. This would provide an opportunity for a major speech, which could be televised.

3. After spending the night at Hillsborough, the Prime Minister would, on the second morning, visit the Army Headquarters at Lisburn and a Police Training establishment at Garnerville (on the outskirts

TOP SECRET
PERSONAL

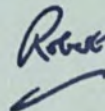
of Belfast) before going to the Harland & Wolff yard to name a ship. This ceremony would be followed by a lunch attended by up to 200 guests, with another speech. After lunch the Prime Minister would return to RAF Aldergrove and visit the special Army unit there before flying back to London at about 3.30 pm.

4. We have tried to create a balanced programme which would take in the Western as well as the Eastern part of the Province and include occasions of a social and economic character as well as visits to the Security Forces. The Prime Minister would meet a variety of people from both the majority and minority communities, and there would be an opportunity for at least one major speech. You will see that we have incorporated both the Ferry Terminal opening and the ship-naming ceremony about which approaches have already been made to the Prime Minister. This makes a fairly heavy programme, but I think it is just about manageable.

5. I have discussed this programme with Mr Hurd but at this stage have not approached the Chief Constable and the GOC, although at the time of our earlier discussion I established with the Chief Constable that an extended visit of this sort would not present any insuperable security problems (subject of course to review nearer the time in the light of developments).

6. I would welcome your views on the programme outlined above. You may like to discuss it with me - in which case it would be helpful if we could meet before 18 July when I plan to go on leave.

Your ever,



R J ANDREW

Encl

PERSONAL
TOP SECRET

DRAFT NO 1 Day 1

<u>Flying</u>	<u>Non-Flying</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1015	1015	1. Arrive RAF ALDERGROVE	
1020		Depart ALDERGROVE by helicopter	
1035		2. Arrive helipad at LARNE, transfer to car for short journey to Ferry terminal	
1040	1045	3. Arrive Ferry terminal building	See note below
1045	1050	4. OPENING OF NEW TERMINAL Walkabout meeting travelling public, transport workers and harbour workers	Speech on tourism and transport
1120	1120	Depart LARNE by helicopter	(SEALINK Ferry sails 11.30)
1130	1130	Arrive CARRICKFERGUS, visit FLAXALL PRODUCTS LTD, a subsidiary of (and showcase for) Kirkpatrick, Linron of Ballyclare, winners of 1985 Queen's Award for Exports	In term time a visit to Rainey Endowed School could be substituted at this point but allowing a minimum of 45 minutes. Serials 5-16 will be 15-20 mins later
1200	1200	5. Depart CARRICKFERGUS by helicopter	
1225	1255	6. Arrive LOUGHRY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, COOKSTOWN	
1230- 1245	1300- 1315	7. Break	

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

<u>Flying</u>	<u>Non-Flying</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1245 for 1300	1330 for 1345	8. Pre-lunch drinks	
		9. LUNCH (Buffet) for approx 30 guests from local community	
1400- 1410	1445- 1500	10. Break	
1415		11. Depart LOUGHRY COLLEGE by helicopter	
1430	Omit	12. Arrive LISANELLY BARRACKS OMAGH to visit 3 Light Infantry (550-600)	Omagh District Council area, (Chairman not to be invited). Local RUC, and UDR detachment to be present
1530		13. Depart OMAGH	
1555	1540	14. Arrive PORTADOWN helipad, transfer to cars for drive to BLOOMER ELECTRONICS in Carn Industrial Estate	21 employees; winner of 1985 Export Award for Smaller Businesses
1630	1615	15. Depart PORTADOWN by helicopter	
1645	1630	16. Arrive HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE	
1645- 1745	1630- 1730	17. Break	
1745- 1845	1745- 1845	18. RECEPTION (at 1730) Hillsborough Castle for 100 guests	
1845- 1930	1845- 1930	19. Break; final speech preparation	

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL

<u>Flying</u>	<u>Non-flying</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1930 for 2000	1930 for 2000	20. DINNER at Hillsborough Castle (Max 26)	Suggested guest list attached. Opportunities for political speech with TV

NOTE: Serials 1-4:if more time is needed it is suggested that departure from London be 15 minutes earlier to enable arrival at Ferry Terminal at 1025 (1030 non-flying)

TOP SECRETSUGGESTED GUEST LIST FOR DINNER AT HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE

Host	1	Secretary of State (Mrs Hurd)
	2	PS/SofS
Visiting Party	3	P
	4	2nd P
	5/6	2 Private Secretaries
	7	1 Press Secretary
NIO	8	PUS
	9	Mr Bloomfield
	10	Mr Merifield (Visit administration)
	11	Mr Gilliland (Information)
Guests	12/15	4 NI Party Political Leaders
	16	Speaker of NI Assembly
	17	Lord Mayor of Belfast
	18	Mayor of Derry City Council
	19	Chairman of SACHR - Mr J O'Hara
	20	Chairman of FEA - Mr Robert Cooper
	21	Chairman of EOC - Mrs M Clark-Glass
	22	Chairman of Police Authority - Sir Myles Humphreys
	23	Chairman of NIHE - Mr Norman Ferguson
	24	Chairman of IDB - Sir Desmond Lorimer
	25	Vice Chancellor of QUB - Sir Peter Froggatt
	26	Vice Chancellor UU - Mr Derek Birley
Reserves	27	National Governor of BBC - Lady Faulkner (or?)
	28	NI representative on IBA - Mrs Jill McIvor
	29	Chairman Police Complaints Board - Mr Damien Breen
	30	Chairman Probation Board - Mr James Grew

Alternatively Mr Merifield (10), Mr Gilliland (11), one of the 2 Private Secretaries (6) and possibly PS/SofS (2) could dine separately at Hillsborough and be available for the after dinner speeches. That would enable reserves to be included on the main dinner list.

TOP SECRET

PERSONAL

DRAFT NO 1

Day 2

<u>Flying</u>	<u>Non-Flying</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Notes</u>
	0845	1. Depart Hillsborough Castle by car	
	0900	2. Arrive HQNI LISBURN	Meet GOC, Cmdr
	1000	Depart HQNI	UDR; briefing, and meet troops
	1030	3. Arrive RUC GARNERVILLE (or Knock)	
	1130	Depart RUC GARNERVILLE	
	1145	4. Arrive HARLAND & WOLFF	
	1200	5. Naming Ceremony	
	1230 for 1300	6. LUNCH	Approx 200 guests can be accommodated
	1400- 1410	7. Break	
1415	1415	8. Depart HARLAND & WOLFF by helicopter	
1430	1445	9. Arrive ALDERGROVE	
1430- 1530	1445- 1545	10. Visit Army at Aldergrove	
1535	1550	11. Depart Aldergrove	

NEW PASSENGER TERMINAL AT LARNE HARBOUR

Larne Harbour which is owned by Larne Harbour Ltd, a subsidiary of the European Ferries Group, is the only one of Northern Ireland's main commercial ports in private ownership. It currently handles 35% of all trade passing through NI ports and specialises in drive on/drive off services to Stranraer, Cairnryan, Fleetwood and Liverpool.

In 1984 1.26 million passengers, almost 500,000 vehicles and 3.4 million tons of goods passed through the port.

Larne Harbour Board employs some 140 people. The new passenger terminal is a £1.9 m construction, granted aid by the Department of Economic Development and the European Regional Development Fund. It will provide direct under cover passenger access to ships' gangways, baggage handling facilities, a shop, restaurant facilities booking offices for the various travel companies and administrative offices.

The arrival and departure times of the BR Larne - Stranraer and the Townsend Thorenson ferries are frequent and there will therefore always be a number of people in transit through the terminal building.

TOWNSEND THORESEN - LARNE/CAIRNRYAN

Dept Larne	Arrive Cairnryan	Dept Cairnryan	Arrive Larne
04.00	06.15 (Except Sun/Mon)	00.30	02.45 (Except Sun/Mon)
08.00	10.00	04.30	06.30 (Except Sun/Mon)
11.30	13.45	07.45	10.00
16.00	18.00	12.00	14.00
20.00	22.15	15.30	17.45
23.00	01.00 (Except Sat/Sun)	19.30	21.30

SEA LINK - LARNE/STRANRAER

Dept Larne	Arrive Stranraer	Dept Stranraer	Arrive Larne
03.30	06.00)	03.00	06.00)
08.00	10.15)	05.30	08.00)
12.30	15.00)	07.00	10.00)
15.30	17.45) Mon/Sat	16.00	18.30) Mon/ Sat
18.30	20.45)	19.00	21.15)
20.00	22.35)	23.59	02.30)
22.30	00.45)		

FLAXALL PRODUCTS LTD, CARRICKFERGUS

(130 employees)

This is the holding company of which Kirkpatrick Linron of Ballyclare (100 employees) winners of the 1985 Queen's Award for Expert Achievement is a subsidiary. The premises at Ballyclare where flax is processed are not suitable for visitors but the management are pleased to receive visitors at Carrickfergus where household goods mainly curtains and bedspreads are made.

The group have contracts with a number of farmers in South Down and South Armagh for the growing of 1,000 acres of flax this year. Flax growing is being revived in Northern Ireland and linen products are increasing in popularity.

LISANELLY BARRACKS, OMAGH

3 Light Infantry (550 - 600 men) have recently moved to Omagh and will be there for 2 years.

A separate barracks in Omagh, St Lucia, is the base for 6 UDR. Representatives from the UDR could be invited to Lisanelly Barracks.

SHORT BACKGROUND NOTE ON LOUGHRY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Loughry Agricultural College in Cookstown is one of the three residential Agricultural Colleges in Northern Ireland.

The College accommodates approximately 215 students.

Out~~/~~term time when students are on holiday in order to reimburse expenses the college rents accommodation to various outside groups for meetings etc eg Federation of Women's Institutes for Northern Ireland hold their annual meeting in the College last week in July.

BLOOMER ELECTRONICS LTD - CARR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PORTADOWN

1. 21 employees at present - likely to double by the end of the year.
2. Winners of an 1985 Export Award for Smaller Businesses.
3. The Export Award for Smaller Businesses is the only Government backed export award specifically tailored for the UK smaller business exporter and it is presented through the British Overseas Trade Board who co-sponsor with British Caledonian Airways Limited, Midland Bank and Thomas Cook. Further support is given by the Department of Trade and Industry (Small Firms Division) the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, the British Invisible Exports Council the CBI and the TUC. This Award has no connection with the Queen's Award for Industry.
4. Bloomer Electronics Limited was started by Mr Jim Bloomer in 1975 and it has subsequently developed and expanded. It has gained the franchise for many of the world's leading electronics manufacturing companies, servicing the new technology industry throughout Ireland, and an associated company has been set up in Ennis, Co Clare, which makes it easier to obtain orders from Republic based companies. At first Bloomer Electronics simply supplied firms like Wang, Apple and Digital with components for their companies-designed electronics systems but it was later decided to help in the design of manufacturing. Such has been the success of the firm, it is now planned to double the 21 strong workforce later this year.

RECEPTION AT HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE

One hundred guests is the maximum number that can be accommodated comfortably in the Throne Room at Hillsborough Castle for a reception at which a distinguished visitor would circulate to meet guests.

Lists are available of persons nominated by NI Departments as deserving for an invitation to a function at Hillsborough. These lists include workers in the health and social security service, housing, local government, transport, fire, roads and water services, agriculture, youth training, education.

S.F. Copy for Northern Ireland Visits file.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

10 June 1985

Dear Jim,

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the newly elected Lord Mayor of Belfast. Subject to your advice, I suggest that we advise the Prime Minister to reply thanking the Lord Mayor for his letter, sending her best wishes to him and the City of Belfast for his mayoralty and saying that she greatly hopes to make a further visit to the City of Belfast during his period of office.

In addition to letting me know whether you are content with this line, perhaps you could note that, in view of this correspondence, we ought to include a meeting with the Lord Mayor if the Prime Minister does in fact visit Belfast during his period of office.

Yours ever,

Robin Butler

J.A. Daniell, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.



TOP COPY - G.R.

CITY HALL,
Belfast.

4th June, 1985.

27/6

FE RRS

Dear Prime Minister,

Having just been elected Lord Mayor of Belfast I have pleasure in extending to you a very warm invitation to visit our city when this can be fitted in to your busy schedule.

We recall with pleasure your previous visits to Belfast during my term of office 1980/81 and I hope to have the pleasure of welcoming you once again in the not too distant future.

Kindest regards and every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Mayor

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London SW1.



10 DOWNING STREET

1. Robin ~~Baxter~~^{PERB} 2. NI file.

Leslie Hurson

You will remember correspondence
on the invitation to open the new
passenger terminal in Larne.

Tel 583 9330
Paul Ellis, PR Director at

Chrysean Ferries, may we to say
we should use him as our first
point of contact if and when we come
to set up ~~the~~ arrangements.

MLBA 4/6

LARNE HARBOUR LTD

PA

cf. 770

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

Larne Harbour
Larne
County Antrim
Northern Ireland BT40 1AS
(Registered office)
Telephone: Larne 79221
Telex No. 747814
Registered in Northern Ireland — No. R472

Please reply to:
European House,
The Dock,
Felixstowe, Suffolk.
Telephone: 0394 604655

2nd May, 1985.

Mr. M. Addison,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

Dear *Mr. Addison,*

I thank you for your letter of the 30th April, 1985, and am delighted that the Prime Minister has agreed to perform the opening ceremony of our new passenger terminal in Larne.

*scrubbing of
an objection.*

We are, of course, happy to delay the ceremony to suit the Prime Minister's movements and for the time being the whole matter will remain confidential. Clearly, we would like to invite other guests to attend the ceremony so would appreciate as much notice as is possible.

I realise the question of security must be uppermost in everybody's minds and will agree with any measures you propose.

Yours sincerely,

Directors:
G. J. Parker (Chairman)
K. Siddle
W. J. Ayers
W. W. Heubeck
D. H. Templeton

PM's Visit to NI:- IRELAND A3.

THE IRISH REPUBLIC





P1. file

10 DOWNING STREET

~~Michael Alton~~

After consulting N10

I suggest that you
reply to Sir David Price
on the lines below.

✓ RIT FERB

When you have replied
please can we have a
copy of the exchange for
our file on future visits to
N. Ireland.

FERB



10 DOWNING STREET

30 April 1985

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April asking whether the Prime Minister would be interested in sponsoring one of the final pair of Blue Star vessels being built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast.

I cannot commit the Prime Minister to accepting your suggestion but it is a very attractive one and I can say that, if she is able to visit Northern Ireland in the autumn she would be glad to consider including such a ceremony as one of her engagements. I take it that the timing of the naming ceremonies for the final two vessels is flexible and perhaps we could have a further word about this. Because of the security which attaches to the Prime Minister's visits to Northern Ireland, I know that I can rely on you to restrict knowledge of even this tentative response to the smallest necessary number.

Yours ever
Michael

(Michael Alison)

Sir David Price, DL, MP.

CONFIDENTIAL
From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

GR



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Handwritten signature

29th April 1985

Dear Robin,

You wrote to Jim Daniell on 19 April about the suggestion from Sir David Price MP that the Prime Minister might 'sponsor' and name one of the second pair of refrigerated vessels being built by Harland and Wolff for the Blue Star Line. In addition Mark Addison had written to me on 29 March about an invitation to the Prime Minister from Larne Harbour Limited to open the new passenger terminal at that port.

Our advice would be that each of these engagements is inherently worth carrying out in its own right and would be of appropriate weight for the Prime Minister. The sensible thing would obviously be to include both of them in the schedule for a more comprehensive visit to Northern Ireland, as you discussed with Robert Andrew. It would be entirely practicable to contain both of these events on (say) the second day of a two-day programme.

Larne Harbour is the only commercial port in Northern Ireland in private ownership. The managing company, Larne Harbour Limited, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the European Ferries Group. Mr Parker, who is a director of the Group, is also Chairman of the Felixstowe Dock Company. His Larne company, which employs 140 people, has been energetic and enterprising in its development of the port from fairly modest dimensions to its present status as a vital link with the Great Britain mainland, handling 35% of all trade passing through Northern Ireland ports and over 80% of all sea-bound tourist traffic to the Province. The new multi-purpose passenger terminal building, costing £1.9 million, will add substantially to the comfort and convenience of passengers using the port.

Turning to the Blue Star proposition, as you know the order for four vessels was a very significant element in providing the Belfast shipyard with a reasonable flow of work until further orders could be achieved. The first pair of vessels have already been named (one by the Duchess of Kent). The standard naming ceremony at Harland and Wolff can be a somewhat protracted affair, allowing for a tour of the vessel as well as the naming ceremony itself and a formal luncheon with speeches, but this could no doubt be abbreviated to fit in with other events in a well-rounded programme.

I therefore attach draft letters which might go from you to Larne Harbour Limited and from Mr Alison to Sir David Price. You will see that each reply expresses interest in principle, but falls short of final commitment; we have very much in mind the inevitable uncertainties about the Prime Minister's forward programme, the development of political events here both internally and at the Anglo-Irish level, and the need to take careful security advice closer to the time. However, neither of these engagements necessarily has to take place on a set date.

*Yours Sincerely
Neil Ward*

N D WARD

File



cc: N10

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 April 1985

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of 27 March inviting her to open your new passenger terminal at the port of Larne.

I cannot commit the Prime Minister to accepting your invitation but she has asked me to say that, if she were to visit Northern Ireland during the coming months, she would be glad to consider including this ceremony as one of her engagements. I cannot go beyond that at present for reasons which I am sure that you will understand. You have stressed that there is considerable flexibility as far as a date is concerned, and if you are content to leave it on that basis for the time being we will come back to you in due course. If in the event it does not prove possible for the Prime Minister to accept this engagement she has asked me to say that she would be happy to commend it to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Hurd.

(Mark Addison)

Suff.

G. J. Parker, Esq.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

GR



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Handwritten initials/signature

29th April 1985

Dear Robin,

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/I

CONFIDENTIAL



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Yours Sincerely
Neil Ward

N D WARD

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATION EQUITY

NIO want 2 days, one in West, overnight at Hillsborough, one in East.

Possible ingredients

Day 1 :-

A school

Army unit + UDR

RUC training school, Enniskillen

PM to visit large city in West - Londonderry (probably not), Enniskillen or Omagh.

An important factor will be the Sinn Fein gains in the local elections.

Reception and dinner at Hillsborough

Day 2 :-

Harland + Wolff and/or passenger terminal at Larne and/or small firm in advanced technology.

Robert Andrew will think further about programme. I provisionally gave him 11-12 or 24-25 September. FERB



10 DOWNING STREET

cf
Mark
GAT. All above papers are
filed on FEELB subject.

After consulting N10
I suggest you reply to Mr.

Parker's letter on the
lines below.

Papers to be filed on
filed dealing with PM's
visit to Northern Ireland.

FEELB



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Butler
RJ

29th April 1985

Dear Robin,

You wrote to Jim Daniell on 19 April about the suggestion from Sir David Price MP that the Prime Minister might 'sponsor' and name one of the second pair of refrigerated vessels being built by Harland and Wolff for the Blue Star Line. In addition Mark Addison had written to me on 29 March about an invitation to the Prime Minister from Larne Harbour Limited to open the new passenger terminal at that port. *(Mr. G. J. Parker)*

Our advice would be that each of these engagements is inherently worth carrying out in its own right and would be of appropriate weight for the Prime Minister. The sensible thing would obviously be to include both of them in the schedule for a more comprehensive visit to Northern Ireland, as you discussed with Robert Andrew. It would be entirely practicable to contain both of these events on (say) the second day of a two-day programme.

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Yours Sincerely
Neil Ward

N D WARD

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT LETTER

FILE NUMBER.....

ADDRESSEE'S REFERENCE.....

<p>To</p> <p><i>S</i></p> <p>D J Parker Esq Chairman Larne Harbour Ltd European House The Dock Felixstowe Suffolk</p> <p>(Full Postal Address)</p>	<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>Copies to be sent to</p> <p>Hidden copies:</p> <p>PS/S of S (NI)</p> <p>EL3AG2</p> <p>(Full Address, if Necessary)</p>
--	-------------------	---

LETTER DRAFTED FOR SIGNATURE BY..... PS/Prime Minister
(Name of Signatory) *MEA*

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of 27 March extending ^{inviting} a kind invitation to her to open your new passenger terminal at the port of Larne.

I cannot commit the Prime Minister to accepting
While I am not in a position to convey the Prime Minister's definite acceptance of ^{your} that invitation ~~at the moment~~ ^{but}, she has asked me to say that, if she ^{were to} is able to fit a visit to Northern Ireland into her programme over the coming months, she would ^{be glad to consider} look very favourably on ^{including} the inclusion of this ceremony as one of her engagements. ^{I cannot go beyond that at present for reasons which I am sure that you will understand.} You have stressed that there is considerable flexibility as far as a date is concerned, and if you are content to leave it on that basis for ^{the time being} now we will come back to you in due course, ^{if in the event it does not} either to confirm a definite acceptance or to suggest that you make alternative arrangements (and ^{prove possible for the Prime Minister to accept this engagement she has asked me to say that she} if that should be necessary, the Prime Minister would be happy to commend ^{it} the engagement to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Hurd).

te

3/5
bc MA

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

19 April 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sir David Price, inviting her to go to Belfast in the autumn to name as a sponsor one of two refrigerated ships being built by Harland Wolff.

We would, of course, need to consider this invitation in the context of our general consideration about the Prime Minister's visiting Northern Ireland on which I have been in touch with Mr. Andrew.

But we will also have to send at least an interim reply to Sir David Price soon. I should be very grateful if you could let me have your advice, both on the merits of the invitation and on the reply to Sir David Price, as soon as possible.

(F.E.R. BUTLER)

J.A. Daniell, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

~~Robin Butler~~

Is there a special procedure,
presumably so, for NI invitations?

MLA 16/4

Private Office

The attached letter from Sir David Price
is self-explanatory.

I would be very grateful if you could let
me know how I should respond to him
about this invitation.

MA

MICHAEL ALISON
15.4.85



10 DOWNING STREET

15th April 1985

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd April asking if the Prime Minister might be interested in going to Belfast to name one of the refrigerated vessels being built by Harland & Wolff.

We will certainly have a look at this and I will come back to you again as soon as possible.

*Yours ever
Michael*

MICHAEL ALISON

Sir David Price DL MP

FROM: SIR DAVID PRICE, D.L., M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3rd April 1985

Dear Michael,

I looked out for you yesterday and today without any success. I am therefore putting in a letter what I was hoping to approach you about.

As I think you know, I have a connection with the Vestey family, and especially on their shipping side, Blue Star Line. The purpose of my letter is to ask you if the Prime Minister might be interested in going to Belfast to name as a sponsor, one of two refrigerated vessels being built by Harland & Wolff, some time in the autumn. The story is very simple.

We have four refrigerated vessels ^{being} built by Harland and Wolff. Two of them have been named (English Star and Scottish Star). We are seeking sponsors for the Auckland Star and the Canterbury Star.

Blue Star Line are the only British owner of refrigerated vessels of any size remaining; they are the only British owner to be involved in ordering refrigerated ships at the moment, and they are the only British owner who has ordered refrigerated ships in a British yard. Harland & Wolff were the most competitive Tenderers and after very detailed and somewhat exhausting negotiations, Edmund Vestey placed the order with them about two years ago. The ships are intended for the worldwide reefer operations, in which market, they have carved out for themselves a substantial share within the last ten years. Blue Star Line are perhaps the third or fourth biggest in the world refrigerated shipping market.

The second vessel, the 'Scottish Star' is being delivered on time this week, although unfortunately, the yard had a fire on the first vessel the 'English Star' and she has been delayed. Each vessel costs about £17.5m, and all are financed by British leasing institutions.

Security arrangements at Harland and Wolff can be extremely good and were quite watertight for the naming of the 'English Star' by the Duchess of Kent. There is, of course, plenty of room to land by helicopter and Shorts runway is just adjacent. If the idea appeals to the Prime Minister, perhaps we could have a word together after the Easter recess.

The Hon Michael Allison, MP,
House of Commons,

Townsend
David

G-J. PARKER



file 12/4 R07

1) 16/4
2) 23/4
3) 30/4

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 March 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from Mr G J Parker, Chairman of Larne Harbour Limited, inviting her to undertake the official opening ceremony of a new terminal at Larne, Northern Ireland.

I should be grateful for your advice as to whether or not the Prime Minister should consider accepting this invitation, bearing in mind the heavy demands on her diary.

(Mark Addison)

N Ward Esq
Northern Ireland Office

l

R29/3

LARNE HARBOUR LTD

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

Larne Harbour
Larne
County Antrim
Northern Ireland BT40 1AS
(Registered office)
Telephone: Larne 79221
Telex No. 747814
Registered in Northern Ireland — No. R472

PLEASE REPLY TO:-
EUROPEAN HOUSE,
THE DOCK,
FELIXSTOWE, SUFFOLK.
TELE: 0394 604655

27th March, 1985

The Prime Minister,
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON W.1

Dear Prime Minister,

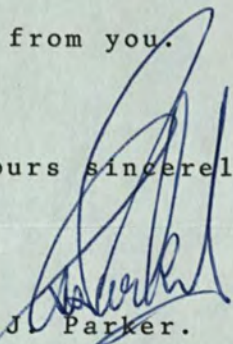
The Port of Larne has recently undertaken a significant investment to construct a terminal to provide comfort and facilities for passengers waiting to travel by ferry between N.Ireland and the U.K. mainland. The building is due for completion shortly and we would be greatly honoured if you would agree to undertake the official opening ceremony.

I realise that there are tremendous demands on your time but the Province does have specific problems and an investment such as the passenger terminal is most significant in giving a boost to much needed tourism.

We would of course, be prepared to agree to any date which you could suggest or alternatively, if the pressure on your diary prevents you from attending, perhaps you could suggest one of your colleagues who could be persuaded to undertake the function.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,


G. J. Parker.
Chairman

Directors:
G. J. Parker (Chairman)
K. Siddle
W. J. Ayers
W. W. Heubeck
D. H. Templeton

16 Dec destroyed
26 Jan. 84.



10 DOWNING STREET

MR EWING

I attach a letter from the Northern Ireland Office about arrangements for the Prime Minister's visits to Northern Ireland. Please could you put it on the file and take the action required in relation to the earlier letter of 7 March. I have detached from these papers the note giving the new codeword. Please put this note on the file so that those concerned will note that I am holding the new codeword in my personal security container in my room.

F.R.B

23 January, 1984

E.R.

SECRET
PERSONAL

Copy No /

ADM 18/47/04

29A

VISITS TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY THE PRIME MINISTER -
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF CODEWORD

1. It has been agreed with No 10 Downing Street that any visit by the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland should be the subject of an operational codeword. This will make it easier to inform officers who need to know of the visit beforehand, and will facilitate communication about the visit in writing or by telephone.
2. The codeword to be used is EQUITY. It should normally be used in the form "OPERATION EQUITY". The formal meaning of the codeword is "Visit of the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland". The codeword itself is classified CONFIDENTIAL; its meaning is classified SECRET.
3. Knowledge of the codeword and its meaning is to be controlled on the strictest possible "need to know" basis. This memorandum is accordingly issued on the authority of the PUS of NIO for the personal information of the addressee. It should not be shown, nor should the codeword or its meaning be revealed orally or in any other document, to any other officer without prior consultation with me.
4. The codeword is changed after each visit. It may also need to be changed if it is compromised by incorrect use, unauthorised communication of its meaning, or through a security breach. Any known or suspected compromise of the codeword should be reported immediately by telephone in guarded terms, and then in writing to me (telephone: 01 273 5148).



D BROOKER
Establishment Division

20 January 1984

em

PERSONAL
SECRET

29



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ

Telephone Direct Dialling 01-273 5148
Exchange 01-273 3000

F E R Butler Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Your reference

Our reference

ADM 18/47/04
Date

20 January 1984

Dear Sir,

VISITS TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY THE PRIME MINISTER

- Following the Prime Minister's visit to Northern Ireland last month, the codeword circulated by Mrs Newman under cover of her letter of 7 March 1983 is out of date. Accordingly, I attach, for your personal information, copy number / of a memorandum containing a new codeword and explaining its use. I should be grateful if you would destroy Mrs Newman's letter of 7 March and sign and return the enclosed receipt to me.
2. I also enclose, for your personal information, copy number / of a revised version of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). This supercedes SOP NIO1/81 which was circulated by Mr Rickard on 21 July 1981 and which I would ask recipients to return to me for destruction. The two main changes in the new version are designed to take account of the fact that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is no longer accompanied to Northern Ireland by Metropolitan Police Special Branch officers, and that the post of Personal Air Secretary to the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Defence Procurement has been dis-established and his duties, with regard to Prime Ministers' visits, transferred to the Head of Movement Operations. The revised SOP is still tailored towards a two day visit with at least one major public speech.

Yours sincerely,
David Brooker

D BROOKER
Establishment Division

Encls

DISTRIBUTION

1. Principal Private Secretary, 10 Downing Street
2. PS/Secretary of State, London
3. PS/Secretary of State, Belfast
4. PUS, NIO(L)
5. PUS, NIO(B)
6. DUS, NIO(L)
7. DUS, NIO(B)
8. Under-Secretary, (Political Affairs and Information Policy)
NIO(B)
9. Principal Establishments and Finance Officer (PEFO), NIO(L)
10. Chief Constable, RUC HQ
11. GOC, HQNI
12. Press Secretary, 10 Downing Street
13. Head of Movement Operations (RAF), MOD Main Building
14. Second Permanent Secretary NIO and Head of NICS
15. Director, NI Information Services, NIO(B)
16. Head of the Prime Minister's Protection Team
17. Station Commander, RAF Northolt
18. Station Commander, RAF Aldergrove
19. File: ADM 18/47/04

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ADM 18/47/04

Copy No 1.... of 18....

ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITS TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY THE PRIME MINISTER
STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE - NIO 1/83

Background

1. This SOP is to be implemented from the time that a visit by the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland is first broached; it supersedes SOP ADM 18/47/03 of 16 July 1981. It is based on the assumption that the Prime Minister may stay overnight and will wish to include in her visit at least one major political speech.

Security

2. Security will be the overriding consideration in all planning and action:

- (a) Prior information about a visit will be classified TOP SECRET up to 24 hours before the visit, and SECRET thereafter. Following a visit, papers concerning the arrangements and programmes will be downgraded to RESTRICTED.
- (b) Reference by telephone to the visit or to any aspects of the arrangements must be kept to a minimum and the most secure telephone system available must be used, ie PICKWICK (or its replacement, STS), BRUIN, GOLIATH or at least (and only as a last resort) a privacy set but then only using extremely guarded speech.
- (c) To ensure that explicit references to the visit are restricted to a few essential occasions, an operational codeword ("Operation") will normally be used to refer to the Prime Minister's visit. The codeword and its meaning will be made known only to those who need to receive information concerning the true nature of the visit before the Prime Minister's first public appearance in Northern Ireland. All concerned must understand their roles sufficiently well for the passing of the codeword and the date to be an adequate indication of the action required of them. The codeword will be changed after each visit.
- (d) PUS will decide, in the light of all available intelligence reports received prior to the proposed visit, whether to recommend any changes to the visit arrangements.

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Dissemination of Information Concerning the Visit

3. The Prime Minister's decision to visit Northern Ireland will be agreed with the Secretary of State and the PUS. All those who are subsequently informed will receive the information on a strictly personal basis.

4. At the outset the PUS will sound out those most directly affected including the Chief Constable and the GOC on the timing and content of the programme so that he can advise PS/Prime Minister accordingly. Initially, only the following will be informed within the NIO:-

- (a) The Secretary of State
- (b) PS/Secretary of State
- (c) The PUS
- (d) PS/PUS
- (e) The Second Permanent Secretary
- (f) The Deputy Secretary (London)
- (g) The Deputy Secretary (Belfast)
- (h) Under Secretary (Political Affairs and Information Policy), (Belfast)

The Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister will be responsible for informing the Head of the Prime Minister's Special Branch Protection Team of the planned visit and asking him to consult the Chief Constable about security arrangements.

5. Detailed consultations with the Prime Minister's Private Secretary concerning the programme and the theme of any major speeches should be started by PUS at least 10 working days before the visit.

6. Seven working days before the visit the Press Secretary at No 10 and the Director NI Information Services should be informed and should meet to discuss speeches and press coverage before the programme is finalised. Others who should be informed at this stage are:-

- (a) The Assistant Secretary, Political Affairs Division
- (b) The Principal Establishment and Finance Officer (PEFO)
- (c) NI Permanent Secretaries concerned with the visit
- (d) The APS/Secretary of State (Belfast)
- (e) The APS/Secretary of State (London)

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7. Not more than 24 hours before the visit, PS/Prime Minister will inform the Head of Movement Operations (Mov Ops) (RAF) (Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Tel: 01-218 6073) who should notify directly the Station Commander, RAF Northolt, by-passing all normal chains of command. No other officers in the MOD or the RAF need to know about the visit before the Prime Minister's departure.

8. During the 24 hours prior to the visit the areas which the Prime Minister will visit will be checked in accordance with arrangements made between the Chief Constable and the Head of the PM's Special Branch Protection Team.

9. PUS, or AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy) (B) on his behalf, will consult with the Chief Constable and GOC to determine at what point before the visit they can inform those of their subordinates who need to know and to make dispositions that a visit is in prospect. However, unless the PUS authorises otherwise, the Chief Constable and GOC may only issue orders for arrangements to be made for a "proxy" visit.

10. One hour before the estimated time of arrival of the Prime Minister's aircraft the Assistant Private Secretary (Belfast) to the Secretary of State will notify the Station Commander, RAF Aldergrove, by passing the codeword and timing to him personally by telephone.

11. When the Prime Minister's aircraft has landed at RAF Aldergrove, the Senior RUC Officer on the Stormont Estate will be informed by the Assistant Private Secretary (Belfast).

Co-ordination of the Visit

12. Although overall responsibility for co-ordination of the visit and for preliminary arrangements will rest with the group at paragraph 4, working through PS/Secretary of State to PS/Prime Minister, there is a requirement for a small co-ordination team to take over the detailed planning of the visit not more than seven days before it takes place. The team will be chaired by the AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy) who will be supported by the Director of NI Information Services, the Assistant Secretary, Political Affairs Division and APS/Secretary of State (Belfast).

13. The Assistant Secretary, Political Affairs Division will act as PUS's special assistant during the period of the visit, to be available to deal on the spot with the various unforeseen problems which are likely to arise. His task is to ensure that the visit goes as smoothly as possible. He will also be available, in the absence of the PUS or the Private Secretary, to effect any necessary immediate co-ordination with the PS/Prime Minister.

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Planning the Programme

14. A draft outline programme for the visit (to include flying and non-flying arrangements) and the outlines of any proposed speeches will be prepared under PUS's directions as soon as the visit has been agreed. These should be cleared with the Prime Minister's Secretary at least 10 working days before the visit. Once the Prime Minister has agreed to the outline programme and speeches, the Co-ordination Team should take over to fill in the precise details of the programme and to liaise with the appropriate senior officials from the groups at paragraphs 4 and 5 to flesh out the outline proposed speeches (including clearance with other Whitehall Departments where appropriate). Final programmes and speeches must be with the Prime Minister at least five working days before the visit.

15. AUS (Political Affairs and International Policy) (B) is to ensure that the objectives of the visit are clearly defined in advance during the early consultations with the PUS, PS/Secretary of State and PS/Prime Minister. The programme should then be assembled based on those objectives and bearing in mind the hazards of and time wasted in too much travelling. This constraining factor, however, must be counter-balanced by the enhanced value of the visit when the more remote parts of the Province are included in the itinerary. Helicopters should be used for travelling wherever possible. But an alternative non-flying programme is always essential in the event of bad weather.

16. Given the need for the strictest security concerning the visit, a "proxy" programme offers the best chance of combining advance planning with secrecy and accordingly, unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, a "proxy" programme will always be used. A credible "proxy" other than the Secretary of State should be considered where possible, since using the Secretary of State as a cover has become transparent due to the number of times this device has been used.

17. The visit will normally be for two days and will include one major speech. The programme should include items during which the Prime Minister is seen outside the Stormont Estate or the perimeter of a security force base, security permitting (eg a city centre walkabout). Civil dignitaries, especially the Lord Mayor of Belfast feel strongly that they should be involved when the Prime Minister visits their areas and this should be taken into account in planning so that no offence is caused. The Co-ordinating Team must decide how much notice of the impending visit should be given to civic dignitaries, using the "proxy" in the first instance and revealing the true identity of the visitor only at the latest possible moment.

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18. The programme should ideally include at least one visit to a civilian organisation which serves the community such as the medical or fire services.

Briefs

19. DUS (London) will co-ordinate briefing for the visit. Those commissioned to brief should not be told why it is required unless they belong to the groups at paragraphs 4 and 5 above when they will be told at the due time. Briefs will be submitted to PUS five working days before the visit. PUS will arrange for the briefs to be sent to No 10, PS/Secretary of State and for information to other officials who are already aware of the visit and need it. The briefing should contain a statement of the agreed principal objectives of the visit and how they might be achieved, a background note on the general situation in the Province, and further notes on specific topics relevant to the visit or which might be raised by those whom the Prime Minister will meet (about whom short biographical notes will be attached). Special briefing will also be required for any interviews to be given by the Prime Minister to the press or on television or radio.

UKCS and NICS

20. The possibility of the Prime Minister meeting members of the UKCS and NICS during the visit should be borne in mind.

Transport

21. Careful co-ordination is essential to ensure that the aircraft, helicopter and car arrangements for the visit work effectively. The Co-ordination Team will ensure that the necessary transport for the flying and alternative non-flying programme is laid on. In particular APS/Secretary of State (Belfast) is to arrange, as late as possible on the day before the visit, with ASOC (Air Support Operations Centre) at HQ NI for helicopters of the required capacity to be provided for the "proxy" and his party, to meet the requirements of the programme.

22. The responsibility for making arrangements for additional RUC cars will be solely for the Chief Constable. To avoid the omission of this essential contingency planning, PUS will confirm this requirement with the Chief Constable when initially informing him of the proposed visit. The Chief Constable is to make appropriate contingency arrangements as late as possible, without disclosing the true identity of the visitor.

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Meetings

23. Formal meetings between the Prime Minister and political representatives or, say, representatives of industry will usually take place in Stormont Castle.

24. Once proposed meetings have been agreed with No 10 the Co-ordination Team will discreetly ascertain the availability of the appropriate groups, individuals and organisations. All external consultations in the pursuit of these enquiries must be cleared first with PUS. PS/Secretary of State will then make advance internal arrangements within the Private Office for the issue of invitations to any meetings at the appropriate time. If an important group or any individual essential to the purpose of the meeting is discovered to be unable to attend, the Co-ordination Team will consult PUS as to whether the item should be cancelled, and whether any other action will be necessary.

Receptions (Meals or Drinks)

25. Usually the Prime Minister will give at least one reception. PUS, in consultation with PS/Secretary of State will consider:

- (a) How many receptions there should be and of what kind.
- (b) Where the receptions should be held (eg Stormont House, Parliament Buildings or Hillsborough Castle).
- (c) Who should be invited.

26. Having obtained the agreement of PS/Prime Minister to suitable proposals for one or more receptions, PUS will authorise APS/Secretary of State (Belfast) to issue invitations, normally by telephone, 48 hours in advance, to a reception with the "proxy". The RUC will produce addresses and telephone numbers of guests about whom such information is not known. Guests will be told that provisions for car parking will be made, and they will be advised by which gate(s) they should enter the Stormont Estate (if applicable). A guest list will be provided by APS/Secretary of State (Belfast) for the Senior RUC Officer on the Stormont Estate or at Hillsborough Castle at 9.00 am on the day of the reception explaining that those invited are coming to a reception given for the "proxy". Provision for secure parking under police surveillance will be required.

Selection of Guests for Receptions etc

27. Guest lists will vary according to the occasion and whether the Prime Minister is meeting prominent Northern Ireland figures on other occasions during the visit, but PUS, AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy), PS/Secretary of State and the Assistant Secretary (Political Affairs, Belfast) should consult and choose from among:

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- (a) Leaders of the established political parties.
- (b) Leaders of the four main Churches.
- (c) Chief Constable and Senior Deputy Chief Constable.
- (d) GOC, CLF and possibly Commander UDR.
- (e) Lord Mayor of Belfast and Mayor of Londonderry.
- (f) President and Secretary of Northern Ireland Branch of CBI.
- (g) Chairman and Secretary of Northern Ireland Committee of ICTU.
- (h) NI Permanent and Under Secretaries.
- (i) NIO Civil Servants of the grade of Under Secretary and above.
- (j) Prominent members of the business or commercial community.

28. The Co-ordination Team will designate Civil Service staff to help guests to circulate at the reception and, as appropriate, to meet the Prime Minister. VIPs (eg Church leaders) will be escorted in and out of the reception area and will be offered assistance in handling the media. This will also be arranged by the Co-ordination Team.

Public Relations

29. Subject to guidance from PUS and PS/Prime Minister on PR objectives of the visit, AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy) and the Director of NI Information Services will submit to PUS, as soon as possible after being informed of the proposed visit, plans for handling the media which will specifically include the extent to which, without revealing the Prime Minister's visit, they would wish to prepare the ground for suitable PR coverage. No action of any kind with the media in advance of the visit will be taken without the express authority of PUS.

30. The Director of NI Information Services will agree in advance with the Press Secretary at No 10 a draft press announcement for issue on the Prime Minister's departure from Northern Ireland which should be cleared by PUS and PS/Prime Minister. Amendments in the light of developments during the visit on procedure and timing for release will be agreed between the Director of NI Information Services and the Press Secretary of No 10 and cleared as appropriate.

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31. Within the objectives of the visit, time should be set aside for the Prime Minister to give a Press Conference and/or a radio or television interview. The Secretary of State and PUS will brief the Prime Minister for this and will be available during the interview or Press Conference.

Office Support for the Prime Minister's Party

32. It is essential that the Prime Minister's party should have day and night access to full office services throughout the visit (ie secretarial support, MUFAX links, secure telephone links etc). APS/Secretary of State (Belfast) is responsible for arranging these and ensuring that all members of the Co-ordination Team, PS/Secretary of State and PS/PUS are fully briefed on all the arrangements.

Movements in Advance of the Prime Minister's Arrival

33. The Secretary of State should normally be in Belfast in advance of the Prime Minister. Together with the AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy), he should receive the Prime Minister at Aldergrove. AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy) will accompany the Prime Minister throughout the visit.

34. AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy) will be assisted by the Assistant Secretary (Political Affairs, Belfast) during the visit who will keep closely in touch at all times with the Belfast Private Office, the administrative focal point. The Assistant Secretary will be responsible for dealing with all unforeseen problems which are likely to arise during the visit. It is to him that any snags (eg helicopters unable to fly, guests held up in traffic, personal problems of dignitaries) should be immediately reported. If PUS is for any reason unavailable the Assistant Secretary in consultation with AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy) is authorised to take any essential decision on changes to the programme.

Check Lists

35. An activity list setting out the arrangements for the PM's visit in chronological order is at Annex A and a daily check list for key officials is at Annex B.

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

20 January 1984

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ANNEX A

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PM's VISIT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Serial	Date	Activity	Person Responsible	Comments
1	V - ?	SoS, PUS and No 10 agree on a visit taking place.	SoS PUS PM	(Prior information about the visit will be classified TOP SECRET up to 24 hours before the visit.)
2	V - ?	PUS informs GOC, Chief Constable and all those at (A) not yet informed and discusses timing and content of visit.	PUS	(A) SoS, PS/SoS, PUS, PS/PUS, Second Perm Sec, DUS(L), DUS(B). (This group will have responsibility for overall co-ordination working through PS/SoS to PS/PM.
3	V - ?	Draft outline programme and outlines of speech(es) prepared (to include flying and non-flying arrangements) including decisions on whether any meetings and receptions take place, and if so of what nature.	PUS	
4	V - ?	Chief Constable asked by PUS to consider Security and arrangements for additional RUC cars.	Chief Constable	Contingency plan required without disclosing true identity of visitor.
5	V - 10	Draft programme and speech(es) discussed and cleared with PS/Prime Minister (including plans for any meetings or for receptions). AUS (Political Affairs) to ensure that objectives of visit are clearly defined in advance.	PUS AUS (Pol Affairs)	

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Serial	Date	Activity	Person Responsible	Comments
6	V - 10	DUS(L) will commission briefing for the visit.	DUS(L)	Briefing should contain a statement of the agreed principal objectives of the visit, a background note on the general situation in the Province and further notes on other relevant topics.
6A	V - 10	PS/PM informs Head of PM's Special Branch Protection Team of draft programme. Head of PM's Protection Team and Chief Constable make all arrangements before and during the visit, to check the areas the Prime Minister will visit.	PS/PM Chief Constable Head of PM's Special Branch Protection Team.	
7	V - 7	Director of Information Services and Press Secretary at No 10 meet and discuss speeches and press coverage subject to guidance from PUS, PS/PM and AUS (Pol Affairs).	Director of Information Services	No action to be taken with the media in advance of the visit without PUS's authority.
8	V - 7	Co-ordination Team established to be chaired by AUS (Pol Affairs) and composed of Director of NI Info Services, AS(PAB) and APS(B).	AUS (Pol Affairs)	The Co-ordination Team will be responsible for precise details of programme, liaison as necessary with other Whitehall Departments fleshing out outline speech(es), ensuring all transport arrangements are made and all proper arrangements made for meetings and receptions (see below).
9	V - 7	The following informed of the visit - PEFO, NI Perm Secs involved in the visit, APS(L).	PS/PUS	

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Serial	Date	Activity	Person Responsible	Comments
10	V - 7	Once proposed meetings are agreed with No 10, the Co-ordination Team will discreetly ascertain the availability of the appropriate groups, individuals and organisations subject to PUS's approval.	Co-ordination Team	
11	V - 7	Co-ordination Team begins detailed arrangements for reception(s).	Co-ordination Team	
12	V - 5	Final speech(es) and programme sent to No 10.	PS/PUS	
13	V - 5	Briefing submitted to PUS.	DUS(L)	
14	V - 4	Briefing forwarded to No 10.	PS/PUS	
15	V - 3	Draft press release agreed between Director of NI Information Services and Press Sec at 10. (Cleared by PUS and PS/PM).	Head of Info Services	Amendments in the light of developments should be made. Procedure and timing of release will be agreed between Director of NI Info Services and Press Sec No 10 and cleared as appropriate.
16	V - 2	APS(B) - with PUS's authorisation - issues invitations, normally by telephone to a reception with the "proxy" visitor - guests will be told that car parking is available and RUC will arrange secure car parking.	APS(B)	RUC will produce addresses and telephone numbers of guests about whom such information is not known.
17	V - 1	PS/Prime Minister informs Head of Mov Ops (RAF) 01-218 6073 of visit who will notify directly the Station Commander, RAF Northolt (by-passing all normal chains of command).	PS/PM Head of Mov Ops	No other officers in the MOD or the RAF need to know about the visit before the PM's departure.

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Serial	Date	Activity	Person Responsible	Comments
18	V - 1	Check of areas which the PM will visit.	Chief Constable, Head of PM's Special Branch Protection Team.	
19	V - 1	APS(B) arranges with ASOC (Air Support Operations Centre) at HQ NI for helicopters of the required capacity to be provided for the "proxy" and his/her party.	APS(B)	
20	V day - 1 hour	APS(B) informs Station Commander, RAF Aldergrove by passing codeword and timing to him personally.	APS(B)	
21	V day	When PM's aircraft lands at Aldergrove, APS(B) informs the Senior RUC officer on the Stormont Estate.	APS(B)	PM met by SoS and AUS (Pol Affairs). AUS (Pol Affairs to accompany PM throughout visit.)
22	V day (1 or 2)	APS(B) provides a guest list for reception to the Senior RUC officer at Stormont Castle or Hillsborough <u>at 9.00 am on day of reception.</u>	APS(B)	
23	V day	AS(PAB) will act as PUS's special assistant during visit.	AS(PAB)	
24	V day	APS(B) will ensure that PM's staff have full day and night office support, and that the Co-ordination Team, PS/SoS and PS/PUS are fully briefed on the arrangements.	APS(B)	

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ANNEX B

VISIT BY PM - KEY OFFICIALS DAILY CHECK LIST

Key Officials		V - ?	V - ?	V - 10
S of S	Agrees with PUS and PM that visit should take place.	V - ?		
PUS	Agrees with PM and S of S that visit should take place.	PUS informs GOC, Chief Constable and the following (AUS (Pol Affairs)), PS/PUS, PS/SofS, Second Perm Sec (NIO), DUS(L), DUS(B) and discusses timing and content of visit.	PUS prepares draft programme and outline of speeches and asks Chief Constable to arrange for appropriate additional RUC cars.	Draft programme and speeches discussed and cleared with PS/PM.
Chief Constable			Chief Constable is asked by PUS to consider arrangements for additional RUC cars.	
DUS(L)				DUS(L) commissions briefing for visit.
AUS (Political Affairs)				AUS to ensure that objectives of visits are clearly defined in advance.

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Key Official	V - 7	V - 5
PS/PUS	PS/PUS will inform the following of the visit: PEFO, NI Permanent Secretaries involved in visit, APS(L).	Final speech(es) and programme sent to No 10.
AUS (Political Affairs)	Co-ordination Team established. Chaired by AUS composed of AS(PAB), Director of NI Information Services and APS(B).	
Head of Information Services	Head of Information Services will meet Press Secretary at No 10 to discuss speeches and press coverage.	
Co-ordination Team	Once proposed meeting has been agreed with No 10, the Team will discreetly ascertain the availability of the appropriate groups, individuals and organisations - subject to PUS's approval. The Team will also begin detailed arrangements for the reception(s).	

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Key Official	V - 5	V - 4	V - 3	V - 2
PS/PUS		Briefing forwarded to No 10.		
DUS(L)	Briefing submitted to PUS.			
Head of Information Services			Head of Information Services to agree draft press release with No 10 (cleared with PUS and PS/PM.)	
APS(B)				APS(B) - with PUS's authorisation to issue invitations normally by telephone to a reception with the "proxy" visitor.

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Key Official	V - 1	V - 1 hour	V Day
S of S			Meets PM at Aldergrove
AUS (Political Affairs)			Meets PM at Aldergrove and accompanies PM throughout visit.
AS(APB)			AS(PAB will act as PUS's special assistant during the visit.
APS(B)	APS(B) arranges with ASOC at HQNI for helicopters to be provided for the "proxy" and his/her party.	APS(B) informs Station Commander RAF Aldergrove by passing code-word and timing personally.	When PM's aircraft lands, APS(B) informs senior RUC officer at Stormont Castle.
PS/PM	PS/PM will inform the Head of Mov Ops (RAF) of the visit.		
Head of Mov Ops (RAF)	Head of Mov Ops (RAF) will notify directly the Station Commander, RAF Northolt by-passing all normal chains of command.		
Chief Constable and Head of PM's Special Branch Protection Team	Head of SBPT will check areas which PM will visit.		

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Key Official	V - day
APS(B)	<p>APS(B) provides guest list for reception to the Senior RUC officer at Stormont Castle or Hillsborough at 9.00 am on day of reception.</p> <p>He will ensure that PM's staff have full day and night office support and that the Co-ordination Team, PS/Secretary of State and PS/PUS are full briefed on the arrangements.</p>

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PUS/L/45/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Permanent Under Secretary
R J Andrew Esq CB

Mr. Butler o/v.

A.Y.C. 5/1

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street

5 January 1984

C.F.

Pl. arrange

Dear Robin,

FERB

10.1.

OPERATION ABERCORN

Although I am sure you will have done so already, I am writing to let you and copy recipients know that all the papers relating to OPERATION ABERCORN and emanating from this office can, with one exception, be downgraded to RESTRICTED.

The exception is the brief entitled "Northern Ireland: current position" attached to Sir Philip Woodfield's letter to you of 20 December: this should be classified CONFIDENTIAL.

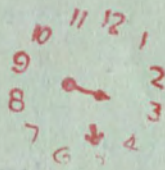
I am copying this to Bernard Ingham at No 10 and internally here.

*Yours sincerely,
Simon Marsh*

S A MARSH
Private Secretary

RESTRICTED

5 JAN 1984



STATIONER
1000 N. 10th St. S.W.



POST BOX 2747 VAN
CURRIENT
NORTHWEST BUREAU OFFICE



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Sir

I was very grateful to you for accompanying me on my visit to Northern Ireland and for the excellent arrangements which your Office made. As previously, I found the visit very encouraging. The warmth of the response of those whom I met in Newtownards is a reminder of the extent to which the great majority of people in Northern Ireland support our efforts for peace and reconciliation; and the professionalism and morale of the security forces are reassuring and impressive.

Please will you pass on my thanks to your Ministers and all the staff of the Northern Ireland Office for the work they do throughout the year to promote peace and prosperity in Ulster. Denis joins me in sending to all of them and to Jane and yourself our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours
James Prior

The Rt. Hon. James Prior, M.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

My dear General.

I was enormously impressed and encouraged, on this visit to Northern Ireland as previously, by the professionalism and morale of the Armed Forces I saw there. They are in Northern Ireland in the just cause of promoting peace and reconciliation, and of enabling the people of Northern Ireland to lead their daily lives in peace and safety. We owe an enormous debt to those who undertake this task, often in conditions of risk and danger to themselves.

Please will you pass on my thanks to Brigadier Rose and Brigadier Mattingley for receiving me at Drumadd Barracks and Aughnacloy. To them, to you, and to all who serve under you, I send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Robert Richardson

Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson, KCB, CVO, CBE.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Mr. Kilfedder,

I am writing to thank you for your courtesy in receiving me on my visit to Northern Ireland. As always I found the visit enormously encouraging. The warmth of the welcome from the people whom I met in the streets of Newtownards, and the professionalism of the security forces who work to sustain peace and order, are a beacon of hope. The purpose of my visit was to try to express the Government's support for them and for all who work for peace and reconciliation in the Province.

I send you my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Chanter

James Kilfedder, Esq., M.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Sir John,

Following my visit to Northern Ireland, I am writing to say how encouraged and impressed I was, as always, by the professionalism and morale of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The purpose of my visit was to try to express the Government's support for their work and that of the other security forces in the just cause of protecting the people of Northern Ireland and enabling them to lead their lives in conditions of security and order.

Please will you pass on my warm thanks to your many Officers who were concerned in making such excellent arrangements for my visit. To you and to them, and to all the members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, I send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Sir John Hermon, O.B.E.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Group Captain Salter,

I am writing to thank you most warmly for the excellent arrangements made at R.A.F. Aldergrove for my visit to Northern Ireland. I should be grateful if you would pass on my thanks to all concerned, and particularly to the helicopter crews who enabled me to fulfil my whole programme despite the efforts of the weather.

I was delighted to have the opportunity of meeting some of those who work on the Station. To them and to you I send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Group Captain Tony Salter, R.A.F.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Mr. Mayor.

It was a great pleasure for me to visit Newtownards during my visit to Northern Ireland and to meet some of those who were shopping there. I am most grateful to you and the Deputy Mayor for receiving me.

Thank you especially for the beautiful shield bearing the arms of the Borough of Ards which you presented to me. I shall value it as a memento of a happy visit.

To you and the Deputy Mayor, and to all the people of the Borough of Ards, I send my best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Mayor of Ards Borough.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Mr. Hull

I am writing to say how pleased I was to visit Newtownards during my visit to Northern Ireland this Christmas and to thank you for receiving me. In addition to the shops which I saw - and I should be grateful if you would pass on my particular thanks to Mr. Brown and the staff of Browns' Drapery Store, which I greatly enjoyed visiting - I also had a fleeting glimpse of Newtownards' impressive new shopping centre.

To you and all the members of the Newtownards Chamber of Trade I send my best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Barber

Cecil Hull, Esq.



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Chief Superintendent Forde.

I was delighted to be able to visit the Royal Ulster Constabulary station in Newtownards during my visit to Northern Ireland, and I am very grateful to you for receiving me so hospitably. It was a particular pleasure to meet so many of the officers of the station and their wives. As always, I was impressed and encouraged by the professionalism and devotion of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the work you do to uphold the law and protect the people of Northern Ireland, the vast majority of whom want to lead their lives in peace and harmony.

I am especially grateful to you for presenting to me the book "Arresting Memories" which I will value as a reminder of the distinguished history of the RUC. To you and all who work at the Newtownards station, and your families, I send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Stalker

Chief Superintendent Michael Forde



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Colonel Beroy:

I was very glad to visit Drumadd Barracks again during my visit to Northern Ireland and I was impressed and encouraged by the professionalism and morale of those whom I met there. To you and Lieutenant Colonel Nicholson I send my thanks for the excellent buffet lunch which you provided for us; and to all who serve under you, and their families, I send my thanks for the marvellous work they do and my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Stiller

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Beroy



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

Dear Colonel Draper.

I was delighted to visit Aughnacloy Army Base and the border checkpoint during my visit to Northern Ireland, and to have the opportunity of meeting some of those who serve there. I was greatly impressed, on this occasion as previously, by the courage, professionalism and morale of the security forces, who work to maintain peace and order in the Province often in circumstances of risk and danger to themselves.

To you and all who serve at Aughnacloy, and to your families, I send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Lieutenant Colonel Robin Draper



PREM 19/1547

PHOTO SECTION

REF. ACD. 1135/83

DATE 23 DEC 83

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
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REF ACD 1131/83

DATE 23 DEC 83

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Mr. Butler - for your file

But 23/12

P1. file

*Prime Minister's statement issued to the press
on leaving Northern Ireland.*

Christmas is a time of peace and reconciliation. This peace was cruelly shattered last Saturday in London, as it has been many times in Northern Ireland. But the courage and dedication of all those who work for peace and who guard our freedom shine through like a beacon of hope.

2. I began my visit this morning in the beautiful Ards Peninsular and met the many shoppers in the streets of Newtownards. They gave us a wonderful welcome. I can assure them, and families throughout the Province, that the Government is fully committed and determined to make Northern Ireland a better and more peaceful place for everyone. In the face of considerable difficulties we have managed to allocate over £4,000 million to the Province next year, and I know the money will be used to good effect.

3. But none of us can forget the inhuman, contemptuous and contemptible work of the terrorists. It will not achieve their objective. We do not surrender to bullets or bombs.

4. I have visited some units of the Army and police and UDR, who are charged with defending our freedoms under the law. I saw them in barracks at Armagh, and at duty stations as far apart as Newtownards and Aughnacloy. I also met the wives of many RUC officers who I know share the anxiety and responsibilities of their husbands. We thank them for their bravery and assure them of our total support in their difficult and often dangerous work.

5. May I say that I warmly welcome and accept the invitation of the



Taoiseach to step up even further our cooperation in the battle against terrorism.

6. We are thankful too for the valiant efforts of those in the churches and the community who are forthright in condemning violence and who strive to build harmonious relations between all our citizens.

7. Jim Prior and I will do everything in our power to achieve peaceful political progress in the year ahead. To all who yearn for peace with freedom I wish you a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

E.R.

Christmas is a time of peace and reconciliation. This peace was cruelly shattered last Saturday in London, as it has been many times in Northern Ireland. But the courage and dedication of all those who work in peace and who guard our freedom shine through like a beacon of hope.

2. I began my visit this morning in the beautiful Ards Peninsular and met the many shoppers in the streets of Newtownards. They gave us a wonderful welcome. I can assure

them, and families throughout the Province, that the Government is

determined to continue to show its concern for the life and welfare of the people of N.I. fully committed and determined to make N.I. a better and more peaceful place for everyone.
~~committed to improving the daily life of our citizens in Northern Ireland.~~ In the face of considerable difficulties we

have managed to allocate over £4,000,000,000 ^{million} to the Province next year, *and I know the money will be used to good effect.* ~~something over £2,500 for every man, woman and a child living here.~~ // ² But none of us can forget the inhuman,

contemptuous - and contemptible - work of the terrorists. It

will not achieve their objectives. We do not give in to bullets or

bombs. // I have visited some units of the Army and police and UDR,

who are charged with defending our freedoms under the law. I saw

them in barracks at Armagh, and at duty stations as far apart as

Newtownards and Aghnacloy. I also met the wives of many RUC

officers who I know share the anxiety and responsibilities of

their husbands. We thank them for their bravery and assure them

of our total support in their difficult and often dangerous work

// In this connection, I warmly welcome the invitation of the

Taoiseach to step up even further our cooperation in the

battle against terrorism.

Malcolm...

3. We are thankful too for the valiant efforts of those in the churches and the community who are forthright in condemning violence and who strive to build harmonious relations between all our citizens.

4. To all who yearn for peace with freedom I wish you a happy and joyful Christmas. And a happier and more joyful New Year.

PP 1 and Jim Prior will do everything in our power to pursue peaceful political progress in the year ahead.

~~TOP SECRET~~
RESTRICTED

28

1. Christmas is a time of peace and reconciliation. This peace was cruelly shattered last Saturday in London, ^{as it has} and is ~~absent~~ ^{been in my hands in} from the lives of many in Northern Ireland. But whenever I visit Northern Ireland, as I have done today, I am reminded of all those who are working to secure peace for the ordinary people of this country.

the concrete decisions

of all those who work for peace and reconciliation and who guard our freedom & live through like a beacon of hope

2. I began my visit this morning in the beautiful Ards peninsular and met the many shoppers in the streets of Newtownards. ^{They} I was heartened by the warmth of their welcome. I can assure them, and families throughout the Province, that the British Government is committed to improving the daily life of Northern Ireland.

gave us a wonderful

our interests in

3. In the face of considerable difficulties we have managed to allocate over 4 billion pounds of public funds to the Province next year, something over £2500 for every man, woman and child living here. And we have agreed a special package of economic measures to help to stimulate new jobs.

thous and million

Reminds that

4. But none of us can forget the heartless and destructive work of the terrorists. Here, and this month in Britain and the Republic, the terrorists have shown their contempt for those political, religious and personal freedoms on which civilised life depends.

(A)

5. I have visited some units of the Army and Police and UDR, who are charged with the onerous task of defending our freedoms under the law. I saw them in barracks at Armagh, and at duty stations as far apart as Newtownards and Anghnacloy. I also met the wives of many RUC officers who I know share the anxiety and responsibilities of their husbands. I have assured them all of my support.

6. I welcome the courageous work of the security forces, and welcome too the equally courageous efforts of those in the churches and the community who are forthright in condemning violence and in striving, with us, to create reconciliation.

Thank them for their soot bravery and crime then of our total support in their difficult & often dangerous work.

4

to build harmonious relations

Reminds's last sentence

(B)

7. The work of the Security Forces and other agencies can never be enough in itself. It needs to be underpinned by political stability. I hope that those who cherish the democratic process will use the opportunities we have provided, in the Assembly to work out together arrangements which can win the support of all sections of the community.

8. To you all, I wish a happy and peaceful Christmas.

In this connection I should
say how much I warmly
welcome the invitation of the Taoiseach to step
even further our cooperation in the
battle against terrorism.

Invitation we welcome
Step up even further
Cooperation in the
battle against
terrorism

Friday 23 December 1983

27

Outward Car Plan (ETA Northolt 08.50)

06.45 Mr Ingham (driving own car) will pick up Chief Insp Edgar from his home and bring to No 10.

07.15 Tom will pick up Mr Butler from 28 Half Moon Lane SE24 and bring to No 10.

07.30 Ken will pick up Ray Parker from his home and bring to No 10.

0800 Depart No 10 for Northolt

Car 1 Prime Minister
(Ken) Mr Thatcher
Supt Parker

Car 2 Mr Butler
(Tom) Mr Ingham
Chief Insp Edgar

Return Car Plan. (ETA Northolt approx 16.45)

16.50 approx Car 1 Prime Minister depart for Chequers
(Ken) Mr Thatcher
Chief Insp Edgar

Car 2 Mr Butler depart for No 10.
(Tom) Mr Ingham
Supt Parker

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL



PUS/L/1849/MLR

~~TOP SECRET
PERSONAL~~

RESTRICTED

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Copy 193

26

*Permanent Under Secretary
Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE*

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street

22 December 1983

Dear Robin,

Thank you for your letter of 21 December to Sir Philip Woodfield. We have taken points (i) and (ii) on board. So far as point (iii) is concerned, the Private Secretary can replace Mr Merifield in Car Plan B.

I attach a copy of the communication plan; the telephone numbers of RUC Newtownards, Drumadd Barracks, Aughnacloy and Aldergrove are on page 3. Owing to the incompatibility of the several secure telephone systems, however, it would probably be best if initial contact could be made through the NIO Private Office in Stormont Castle.

I understand that Mr Prior has already spoken either to the Prime Minister or yourself about Mr Kilfedder's presence at Aldergrove. One final point - I understand that members of the party will all need wellington boots!

Yours sincerely,

Simon Marsh

S A MARSH
Private Secretary

Encls

~~RESTRICTED
TOP SECRET PERSONAL~~

~~TOP SECRET PERSONAL~~
RESTRICTEDCOMMUNICATION PLANSecure Communication

Secure communication (up to Secret) via the Erastos (Bruin) network exist between Stormont Castle, RAF Aldergrove, Drumadd Barracks, Armagh, RUC Headquarters and HQNI.

Secure communication (up to Secret) on the RUC net exist between RUC Newtownards and RUC Headquarters and on the Army net between Aughnacloy Army Base and the Operations Room at HQNI.

The Private Office at Stormont Castle, which will be manned by Mr Reeve and Mr Cornick can receive secure messages either direct from the party or via the RUC and HQNI and can pass them by the Secure Telephone System (STS) (up to top secret) to No 10.

Secure document transmission from Stormont Castle to NIO (London) and thence to No 10 can be effected by Mufax. Documents to be mufaxed should be addressed to Mr Cornick in the Private Office at Stormont Castle.

During flight the helicopter can contact HQNI and the army bases, and RUC HQ which would be in touch with ground police. This is not secure.

A list of secure telephone numbers is given below.

NI ERASTOS (Bruin)RAF Aldergrove

Army Air Corps Ops Room	(96) 28, 29 or 30
Senior RAF Officer (NI)	(96) 20

Drumadd Barracks, Armagh

Battalion Ops Room	(90) 799
CO	(90) 688

RUC Headquarters

Chief Constable	(95) 20
Deputy Chief Constable	(95) 21
Force Control	(95) 26
Security Branch	(95) 25

~~TOP SECRET PERSONAL~~
RESTRICTED
TOP SECRET

E.

~~TOP SECRET PERSONAL~~

TOP SECRET

*Restricted*HQNI

GOC	(90) 601
CLF	(90) 602
Civil Adviser	(90) 664
Operations Room	(90) 681 or 682.
Major Trigger	(90) 682

NIO Stormont Castle

Mr Reeve)	(94) 20, 21, 22 or 23
Mr Cornick)	

Secure Telephone System (STS)

NIO Stormont Castle	(0232) 63011 Ext 226
NIO London	(01) 273 3730
10 Downing Street	(01) 930 4433

Useful numbers (Codes given are from Belfast)

	Home	Office
Mr J Kilfedder MP	Donaghadee (973) 88322	Belfast 63210 Ext 2577
Rt Hon John Taylor MP	Armagh (0861) 522409	Belfast 224601 (UUP HQ)
Cllr McBriar Mayor of Ards	Castlereagh (823) 454	Newtownards (971) 812215 (Council Offices)
Cllr Johnston Deputy Mayor of Ards	Killinchy (9) 541085	Newtownards (971) 812215 (Council Office) Millisle (91) 861376
Mr Cecil Hull President, Newtownards Chamber of Trade		Newtownards (971) 821085
Mr Jim Nicholson MP	Armagh (0861) 523307	Belfast 224601 (UUP HQ)
Mr Hutchison Chairman, Armagh District Council	Richhill (0762) 871637	Armagh (0861) 524052 (Council Office)
Mr Ken Maginnis MP	Dungannon (08687) 23265	Belfast 63210 Ext 2581 (NI Assembly) 224601 (UUP HQ)

Restricted~~TOP SECRET PERSONAL~~

2-3

TOP SECRET

F.R.

~~TOP SECRET~~

TOP SECRET

~~PERSONAL~~

~~Restricted~~

Mr W R Brown
Chairman, Dungannon
District Council

Dungannon
(08687) 22007

Dungannon
(08687) 25311
(Council Office)
Dungannon
(08687) 2245

Other Communication

Whenever the party is in transit, and during the visit to Newtownards shopping centre no secure communications are available. Messages can be transmitted on RUC and Army radio networks or over open telephone lines, but guarded language must be used.

GPO telephone numbers are as follows

RAF Aldergrove	Crumlin 084-94-52051 Ext 313
Woolworths, Newtownards	Newtownards 0247-81309
Brown's Drapery Shop	Newtownards 0247-813087
RUC Newtownards	Newtownards 0247-818080 Ext 218
Drumadd Barracks, Armagh	Armagh 0861-523388 (direct)
Aughnacloy Army Base	Aughnacloy 066252-588 Ext 24
RUC Headquarters	Belfast 0232-65022
HQNI	Lisburn 08462-5111
NIO Stormont Castle	Belfast 0232-63011 or 63255
NIO London (Private Office)	London (01) 273 4783 or 4784
10 Downing Street	London (01) 930 4433

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~PERSONAL~~

~~Restricted~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

PUS/L/1852/MLR

~~PERSONAL~~

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

*Restricted**25*

Permanent Under Secretary
Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

B Ingham Esq
Chief Press Secretary
to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street

22 December 1983

Dear Mr. Ingham,

OPERATION ABERCORN

I understand that you have been in touch with David Gilliland about press facilities.

We have made the following arrangements, which I believe will meet your requirements:

- a. no press/TV on arrival
- b. open press attendance at Newtownards, but no close microphones
- c. rota party of 6 only will be allowed at Newtownards police station; they will be called in at the end of the coffee reception to record the final farewells
- d. open press facility on arrival at entrance of Drumadd Barracks. A selected rota party to be allowed to film farewell statement at end of lunch. No other press involvement
- e. selected rota party to travel from Drumadd to final [undisclosed] engagement. They will be carried to the Aghnacloy base in a military vehicle by a route which minimises risk of their being followed by other pressmen. Two minutes before move to check point Mr Gilliland will escort the rota party to the check point itself
- f. no press presence on departure but facilities will be available to type a farewell message which will be communicated by David Gilliland to Stormont Castle for distribution. Because there will be no TV interview, departure will be 15.30 if the main flying programme is followed.

Restricted~~TOP SECRET PERSONAL~~

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL

~~TOP SECRET PERSONAL~~
Restricted

PUS/L/1852/MLR

No doubt you will get in touch with David if necessary. I am copying this to Robin Butler.

*Yours sincerely,
Simon Marsh*

S A MARSH
Private Secretary

Restricted.
2-2
~~TOP SECRET PERSONAL~~

PRIME MINISTER

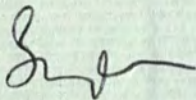
OPERATION ABERCORN

I attach at Annex I a draft statement which you might issue at the end of your visit, as you agreed.

Could I also remind you that, subject to advice on the spot, you will have three opportunities to address a wider public through the media (cameras, microphone and press) at:

- Newtownards police station: a few words to the officers would get over your message through the evening papers and early broadcasts
- Armagh Barracks: I suggest you treat this as your main platform
- the border post: anything you say here is likely to be used because of the dramatic situation.

We can of course work on the message for issue on departure on the way out, if you wish.



B Ingham
22.12.83

E. R.

TOP SECRET

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON DEPARTURE

At the end of my visit I would like to address a few words to the people of Northern Ireland as they prepare to celebrate Christmas.

We have had a heart-warming day in N.I.

First, I have been greatly heartened by the warmth of my reception by the people and those who, with great courage and fortitude, are working for peace and reconciliation in the community.

Second, the British Government is firmly committed to improving the daily life of the people of Northern Ireland.

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damaged by counter-productive
then
of which

Third, the inhuman, contemptuous - and contemptible - work of the terrorists is, ~~and will remain, utterly~~ counter-productive: we do not give in to bullets or bombs.

Fourth, while we grieve for those who lost their lives or were maimed and injured in London a week ago, we remember all those who throughout the years have suffered death or injury at the hands of terrorists, both in Northern Ireland and on the mainland.

ⓑ To all who yearn for peace with freedom I wish you a happy and joyful Christmas. And a happier and more joyful New Year.

7

TOP SECRET

23

HOME MINISTER

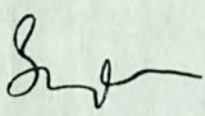
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- Armagh Barracks: I suggest you treat this as your main platform
- the border post: anything you say here is likely to be used because of the dramatic situation.

We can of course work on the message for issue on departure on the way out, if you wish.



B Ingham
22.12.83

TOP SECRET

SHORT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON DEPARTURE

I have had a heartwarming day among

~~At the end of my visit I would like to address a few words to the people of Northern Ireland as they prepare to celebrate Christmas.~~

~~First, I have been greatly heartened by the warmth of my reception by the people and those who, with great courage and fortitude, are working for peace and reconciliation in the community.~~

Second, the British Government is firmly committed to improving the daily life of the people of Northern Ireland.

Third, the inhuman, contemptuous - and contemptible - work of the terrorists is, and will remain, utterly counter-productive: we do not give in to bullets or bombs.

Fourth, while we grieve for those who lost their lives or were maimed and injured in London a week ago, we remember all those who throughout the years have suffered death or injury at the hands of terrorists, both in Northern Ireland and on the mainland.

To all who yearn for peace with freedom I wish you a happy and joyful Christmas. And a happier and more joyful New Year.

TOP SECRET



22

Copy No 1 of 2 copies

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

TOP SECRET

21st December 1984

Sir Philip Woodfield, KCB, CBE

Northern Ireland Office

Your ref:- PUS/L/1800/MLR

Dear Philip,

OPERATION ABERCORN

Many thanks for your letter of 20 December containing a detailed programme. The Prime Minister has approved this. One or two points of detail:-

- i. The Prime Minister will not hold a final press conference or make a statement to camera. She will issue a written statement which we are drafting on the basis of the notes enclosed with your letter. This means that the Prime Minister should be able to leave a little earlier and I have changed the timing of her leaving the VIP lounge for the runway to 1530.
- ii. Our party will include one Private Secretary, not two. The reference to an Assistant Private Secretary should be deleted throughout. Our party will therefore be six (2 plus Private Secretary, Press Secretary, 2 Special Branch).
- iii. Provision is needed for the Private Secretary in Car Plan B.
- iv. Could it please be arranged that there is a dedicated telephone (preferably in a private room) by which we can contact No. 10, and vice versa, at RUC Station Newtownards; Drumadd Barracks; Aghnacloy; and Aldergrove. Could I please have numbers of manned telephones through which No. 10 can contact me at those places.

Yours ever,
Robin Butler.



21

10 DOWNING STREET

Copy 1 of 2 copies

From the Principal Private Secretary

TOP SECRET

21st December 1983

Sir Philip Woodfield
Northern Ireland Office

Your ref: PUS/L/1800/MHR

Dear Philip,

OPERATION ABERCORN

Many thanks for your letter of 20 December containing a detailed programme for Operation Abercorn.

The Prime ^{Minister} has approved this. There are two changes of detail:-

- i. The Prime Minister will not hold a final press conference or make a statement to camera. Instead she will issue a written statement which we are drafting on the basis of the notes enclosed with your letter. This means that the Prime Minister should be able to leave a little earlier and I have changed the timing of her leaving

the VIP lounge for the runway to 1530

- ii. Only one Private Secretary ^{*} will be accompanying the Prime Minister from here. The reference to an Assistant Private Secretary should therefore be deleted throughout. The main party will be six people (2 plus Private Secretary, Press Secretary, 2 Special Branch). Yours ever, Robin Butler

* N.B. There appears to be no provision for Private Secretary in Car Plan B: such provision will be needed!

Restricted Copy 1 of 2
~~TOP SECRET~~



PUS/L/1809/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

20

Permanent Under Secretary
Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street

21 December 1983

Dear Mrs Butler

With reference to my letter to you dated
20 December 1983 would you please substitute
the attached Page 9 for the one enclosed with
that letter.

Sincerely

M L Rundle

M L RUNDLE
APS/PUS

Encl

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Prime Minister

OPERATION ABERCORN

Three points on the attached :-

1. You should look at the draft of the statement to be issued as you leave, attached to Bernard's minute at the top of the folder. It is based on a draft from N10, but I will clear it with the Secretary of State when you are content with it.
2. The plan provides for you to go straight to Chequers on return: is this right? No. No. 10.
3. We are told that Wellington boots are required for the visit to the border post. The men can rely on the army to provide them; but you may like to take something you can change into to walk through mud.

P.R.B.

TOP SECRET

HELICOPTER SUPPORT

H1

Main party (2):
Private Secretary
2 Metropolitan Police protection officers
Supt Donaldson (RUC Head of Security Branch)
Press Secretary
Mr Merifield

H2

Secretary of State
~~Asst Private Secretary~~
Mr Gilliland
Mr Lyon
Secretary of State's escorts (2)
NIO Secretary
Major Trigger (army liaison)

H3

Doctor and medical team

H4

Army protection unit

TOP SECRET

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CAR PLAN A

- No 1 RUC Pilot car. Metropolitan Protection Officer
- No 2 Main Party (2)
+ Supt Donaldson
- No 3 Sec of State and Mr Lyon
2 escorts
- No 4 Private Secretary
Mr Merifield
2nd Metropolitan Protection Officer
- No 5 ~~A/Private Sec~~
Press Sec
Mr Gilliland
- No 6 Major Trigger
NIO Secretary
Miss J Owens
- No 7 RUC Rear Escort

CAR PLAN A1

As above plus

- No 8 Mr J Taylor
+ 2 escorts
- No 9 Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Ards Borough

TOP SECRET

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CAR PLAN B

No 1 RUC Pilot Car
 + 1 Met Protection Officer

No 1A Brig Mattingley, Lt Col Draper
 and Major Trigger

No 2 Main Party (2) and Supt Donaldson

No 3 Sec of State and Mr Lyon
 2 Escorts

No 4 Press Secretary
 Mr Merifield
 Mr Maginnis

No 5 RUC Rear Escort
 + 1 Met Protection Officer

[Car: Mr Gilliland with special press group to travel
from base to check point in advance of main party]

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NON FLYING TIMETABLE

If helicopters are grounded the final serial (Aughnacloy) will be deleted, and the main programme will be re-timed as follows:

10.00	Arrive Aldergrove	
10.05	Depart by car for Newtownards	Car Plan A
10.55	Arr Newtownards Regent St (Car parking area facing Queens Hall)	
	Tour shops in Conway Square calling in Browns (General drapery store) in High Street	
11.30	Leave town centre by car	Car Plan A
11.35	Arr RUC Station Newtownards	
11.55	Leave RUC station by car	Car Plan A
13.05	Arr Drumadd Barracks, Armagh	
13.05 -	Break	
13.15		
13.15 -	Buffet lunch	
14.00		
14.00 -	Tour of barracks	
14.15		
14.15	Leave Drumadd by car [15 minutes later than in main programme]	Car Plan A
15.05	Arr Aldergrove [as in main programme]	

TOP SECRET

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BRIEFING ON EACH STAGE

SERIAL 1: ARRIVAL ALDERGROVE RAF

1. SECRETARY OF STATE

2. PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY NIO

Sir Philip Woodfield, KCB, CBE

3. 2ND PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY AND HEAD OF NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE

Sir Ewart Bell KCB 2nd PUS NIO 1981: Head of NICS 1979 (Northern Ireland Civil Service since 1948).

4. GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING

Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson, KCB, CVO, CBE. : GOC NI June 82; Commander 39 Brigade NI 1974-75. (Latterly GOC British Sector Berlin 1978-80 and Vice Adjutant General/ Director of Manning Army 1980-81. Colonel of Royal Scots. (350th Anniversary this year)

5. CHIEF CONSTABLE

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable RUC 1980. Educated Larne Grammar School. RUC since 1950.

6. STATION COMMANDER

Group Captain Tony Salter (assumed command early 1983).

To accompany visiting party

7. UNDER SECRETARY (POLITICAL) NIO

Mr Anthony Merifield. NIO October 1982; DHSS London 1965-82

8. DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION NIO

Mr David Gilliland. Under Secretary NIO Information Department. NI Civil Service now working in Stormont Castle. Accompanied Secretary of State on his recent visit to USA.

9. PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr John Lyon. Assistant Secretary. Private Secretary 1982, on secondment from Home Office.

10. SUPERINTENDENT WILLIAM DONALDSON - RUC PROTECTION OFFICER

Superintendent Donaldson joined RUC 1961, wide range of posts; Superintendent 1980; Protection Officer 1982 (and saw PM last year). His brother, Constable Samuel Donaldson, was murdered in Crossmaglen, Co Armagh in 1970 in the first booby trap car bomb.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SERIAL 2 VISIT TO NEWTOWNARDS

Newtownards a Plantation town now a Belfast dormitory and market centre serving North Down agricultural area: 20,000 pop, largely Protestant and relatively unscathed by sectarian troubles. Has some light industry, and a new shopping centre (the largest in Ireland) which has taken trade from town centre shops.

Programme

Walk to town centre (Conway Square) bounded on 3 sides by a selection of small shops. Visit Woolworths (a small branch) and Browns of High Street an old established family draper business which has recently been extended. This shop stocks a large selection of Ulster made shirts (made in Londonderry).

Note

If the weather in Newtownards is so poor as to preclude a visit to the main streets and square, cars will move direct to the WOOLCO shopping centre, to arrive at the main entrance. Mr Hewitt NIO will be in attendance with Mr Cecil Hull, and with the Head of Operations and Security at the centre who will guide the party on a tour of the centre visiting interesting shops such as Easons, large newsagents with a fine display of recently published books on NI.

Personalities

Rt Hon John D Taylor MP MEP Official Unionist MP for Strangford 1983- Member of Northern Ireland Assembly. Former Stormont Minister for Home Affairs. Mr Taylor survived an IRA murder bid in 1972 in which he was severely injured.

Mr Thomas J McBriar Mayor of Ards Borough Council. Alliance Party. Deputy Mayor Ards Borough 1981-83, Member 1978- Area Chairman of the Round Table 1982-83. Formerly member of the Young Farmers Association. Age 40, married with young family.

Mr Oliver W Johnston Deputy Mayor of Ards Borough Council. Democratic Unionist Party (but formerly Officier Unionist). Has business interests, including concrete products firm. Age 60, married 1 son, 1 daughter.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Mr Cecil Hull President of the Newtownards Chamber of Trade. Has held this office for less than 1 year. Owns two jewellers shops (one in High Street and in the Ards shopping centre).

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

SERIAL 3 NEWTOWNARDS POLICE STATION

Background This station is Headquarters G Division (covering the Eastern portion of County Down, including Newtownards, Downpatrick and Newcastle) and sub divisional headquarters for Newtownards. Building fully completed in 1981 and serves a population of 118,700.

The total strength of the force based at Newtownards is 535 men and women: of these 350 are full time and the remainder part time.

Programme will include a visit to the Operations Room followed by coffee in the station canteen with serving officers, their wives and 3 widows whose husbands were killed on duty this year.

Personalities

Assistant Chief Constable David Cushley

Regional Assistant Chief Constable David Cushley has operational responsibility for all NI except Belfast. He will be supervising local Police operations in Newtownards. Has been in the RUC since June 1955. Assistant Chief Constable since May 1983.

Chief Superintendent Michael Forde, Divisional Commander, G Division, is based at Divisional Headquarters, Newtownards. Joined RUC in 1944. Promoted to Chief Superintendent in May 1974. Was Divisional Commander at Springfield Road, Belfast, during a period of much unrest and terrorist activity.

Superintendent Austin Anderson, Deputy Divisional Commander has been at Newtownards for past 2 years. Previously served in Newry as Border Superintendent.

TOP SECRET

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SERIAL 4 DRUMADD BARRACKS (ARMAGH CITY)

Background

Armagh. Cathedral city (RC and Prot). One of the cultural centres of Northern Ireland. Centre of religion and learning. Situated on one of old routes between Belfast and Dublin.

Drumadd Barracks. Modern barracks. Currently occupied by:

- a. Battalion HQ, and one company 1 Grenadier Guards;
- b. One company 1st Devon and Dorsets. One company of 1st Queen's Own Highlanders under operational control of 1st Grenadiers;
- c. Battalion HQ and three companies of 2 UDR;
- d. RUC Divisonal Mobile Support Unit (DMSU), a quick reaction RUC unit.

PROGRAMME

Brief meeting with military patrol immediately after landing.

Buffet lunch for Officers, WOs and SNCOs of 1 Grenadier Guards, 1 Devon and Dorset, 1 Queen's Own Highlanders, 2 UDR. Guests will include RUC Div Commander, Mr Nicholson MP, and Chairman, Armagh District Council.

Short tour of barracks to meet other ranks and DMSU.

PERSONALITIES

1. Comd 39 Inf Bde. Brig H M (Mike) Rose OBE QGM. Assumed comd 39 Inf Bde this month. Last job was Col GS in ASD, MOD.

2. CO 1 GREN GDS. Lt Col Alexander Beroys, who assumed command Sept. 82. Been moved to NI from Hounslow October 1983 for a "roulement" tour which ends in February 1984.

3. CO 2 UDR. Lt Col M (Mike) J Nicholson MBE RA. Assumed command May 1982.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

TOP SECRET 13 -

4. Mr James Nicholson MP. Official Unionist. MP for Newry and Armagh 1983. Assembly Member for Armagh. Council Member since 1975. A quiet man, who just defeated Mr Mallon (SDLP) when the Catholic vote split SDLP 17,000: 10,000 (Sinn Fein), and the Unionists fielded only 1 candidate. Farmer.

5. Mr Douglas Hutchinson. Chairman of Armagh District Council. Democratic Unionist Party. Became Chairman following the murder by terrorists of Mr Charles Armstrong in November. Councillor since 1953. Former Assembly and Convention member. Strong line on security. (Was expelled from Orange and Black Orders in mid 60's for opposing their leader's "appeasement", and later received short sentences for anti-civil rights disturbances). Owns large fruit farm. Met PM in December 1982 when Deputy Chairman.

SERIAL 5 AUGHNACLOY ARMY BASE (COUNTY TYRONE)

Background

1. Aughnacloy. Border village in an agricultural community. Has always been close to a principal border crossing point and has therefore always been a focus of security force attention. Army base in village since early days of campaign. RUC station is located elsewhere in village.
2. Army Base. Currently occupied by:
 - a. Company of 1 CHESHIRE detached from barracks at Ballykelly.
 - b. Part-time company of 8 UDR.
3. Vehicle Check Point (PVCP). This check point operates between the village and the border to cover an approved road crossing point. Permanently manned by Army and RUC. Border at its closest is 200m away across fields.
4. Programme.
 - a. Tour of base to meet officers and other ranks.
 - b. Brief visit by principal visitors to PVCP to meet soldiers and policeman on duty.

PERSONALITIES

1. Comd. 8 Inf Bde. Brig C (Colin) Mattingley OBE. Brigade Commander since Nov. 82; commanded 1 KOSB 78-81.
2. CO 8 UDR. Lt Col R (Robin) A Draper. Assumed command in September 1983.
3. Mr Ken Maginnis MP. MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone 1983. Official Unionist Member of the NI Assembly and until his party's walkout, Chairman of its Security Committee and Deputy Chairman of its Finance and Personnel Committee. Member of the Dungannon District Council. Formerly principal of a primary school and UDR Major. Age 45.

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4. Mr W Ralph Brown. Chairman Dungannon District Council. Official Unionist. Sixth term as Council Chairman; Council member since 1973. Owner of Dungannon Electrical Store. Late 40's.

5. Supt David Hall. Deputy Div Commander. Based at Cookstown, has responsibility for Aughnacloy. Previously served in Bessbrook, Newry and Dungannon.

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NORTHERN IRELAND: CURRENT POSITION

1. Politics in Northern Ireland are currently unsettled, ostensibly deadlocked. (The constitutional parties see little immediate room for manoeuvre and are under no pressures from their supporters to take risks). There are some signs of serious thinking in most of the parties, but no sign of movement at present. The murder of Edgar Graham makes it difficult for the UUP to resile from their withdrawal from the Assembly even if their pro-integrationist leadership favoured renewed participation. Mr Paisley's DUP have had little reward for their relatively positive approach in the Assembly and may contemplate reverting to a more populist and harder line. Alliance have as usual been moderate and constructive but the electoral breakthrough they seek seems as elusive as ever. On the nationalist side the SDLP's grip on community politics (particularly in Belfast) has been loosened by Sinn Fein. The party has staked its future on the New Ireland Forum (as to a lesser extent has Dr FitzGerald's government) and the European election in June 1984 will be a severe test of its capacity to resist the Sinn Fein challenge.

2. There is no possibility of the SDLP taking their Assembly seats before the Forum reports, and without their participation and that of the UUP the Assembly is unable to submit proposals for devolution. While Mr Kilfedder occupies a potentially crucial role as Speaker (technically presiding officer) of the Assembly, he can do little at the moment to enhance the prospects for political development (and he perhaps also lacks the weight to act with full effectiveness as an honest broker between the parties). Mr Molyneux hopes to develop proposals for administrative devolution, but whilst he might be able to devise arrangements acceptable to the DUP and perhaps Alliance, there is little prospect of the UUP securing SDLP support.

3. There have been a number of very serious security incidents recently. In addition to the murder of Mr Graham, there have been a number of attacks against the security forces. But the

TOP SECRET

overall level of violence has continued to decline since the mid-1970s. For instance, as of 20 December this year there had been 74 deaths attributable to terrorist activity compared with 97 in the whole of 1982 and 101 in 1981. Similarly, the number of injuries due to terrorism has continued to decline. On the other hand, the number of people charged with serious crimes continues to increase: 63 people have been charged with murder so far this year and 59 with attempted murder.

4. The Chief Constable and the GOC have made a number of fresh dispositions following recent incidents both to protect individuals and to provide some reassurance in the border areas. The Secretary of State has given public assurance of his support for the security forces and his readiness to consider any requests for additional resources. At the same time has confirmed his commitment to the existing broad policy of police primacy, with the army in support, and of actions within the normal conventions of the law, and has stated his continuing belief that this is the most effective long term means of securing the kind of community support which is essential to the long term defeat of terrorism. The RUC remains committed to effective cooperation with the Garda and there is no reason to believe that at operational level collaboration is unsatisfactory. But relations between the two Chief Officers remain uneasy because of the McGovern affair. Mr Prior hopes to discuss these matters with the Republic's Justice Minister next month.

5. Political instability and violence have discouraged potential investors and currently, through the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit, every effort is being made to promote local jobs and attract new inward investment. Fresh investment incentives were announced in March 1983. In November this year the number of unemployed was 119,748 or 21.5% of the workforce. The Government has allocated a proportionately higher share of resources to Northern Ireland and a comprehensive youth training programme was introduced a year ahead of the GB scheme.

SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

OPERATION ABERCORN

In line with your response to my earlier minute (Annex I), I have made the following media arrangements with the NIO for your visit:

- i) there will be NO advance information to the media of your visit; NIO are confident they can get cameras to your first port of call without such notice;
- ii) NIO will organise a media pool of one TV camera crew, one still photographer, one radio reporter and one press reporter (Press Association) who will have sole access at particular points in the programme; the Northern Ireland media are against pooling but they will have to lump it;
- iii) it will be made clear to the media at the outset that you do not intend to give interviews or be doorstepped; (some of course will try to defeat this and you should be very firm);
- iv) where you can go on walkabout there will be no restrictions on the media except by means of a mobile barrier (rope) operated by the police, if this is possible; NIO are going into the feasibility;
- v) only the pool will be admitted to any store at your first port of call;
- vi) there will be unrestricted access at Armagh for your arrival and departure, though the media will be penned behind a barrier;
- vii) we will admit the pool to the last five minutes of your lunch with the security forces etc in order to film your remarks; if you agree to address those present briefly this will enable you to get across your message to a wider public;
- viii) only the pool will be admitted to the border post;
- ix) no objection is raised to the media filming your departure at Aldergrove, subject to their being penned behind a barrier
- x) NIO will consult the authorities to ensure there is no objection to the presence of cameras when you meet the security forces.

B Ingham
20.12.83

SECRET

SECRET

PRIME MINISTER

OPERATION ABERCORN

I would like your guidance on the handling of the media on this event.

The media has always been a problem in Northern Ireland because of their aggressiveness, refusal to pool resources and propensity for abusing help.

Because of this we tried to restrict access on the occasion of your last visit to sound and pictures. This almost worked, at the price of a lot of grumbling, apart from a snatched interview by ITN. You also gave a straight-to-camera statement at the end of your visit in place of the interviews which would be normal elsewhere.

Your interests are largely served if you are seen moving among and talking to the security forces and the public. There is therefore a great deal to be said for restricting access and for resolutely refusing to be doorstepped.

Such an approach to the media would not be popular and there would be complaints, but you do not go to Northern Ireland for the media's benefit.

Content therefore for me to arrange with the Northern Ireland Office a media programme which:

- rules out interviews, including doorstepping?
- bans the presence of microphones except where laid down by us - i.e. excludes them from ordinary conversations with members of the public or forces put permits them on those occasions where you are saying something you want to be heard more widely?
- to achieve this we so arrange the programme that the media are admitted - e.g. to a barracks or a meeting room - for when you say a few words to the assembled company?
- you dispense with the statement to camera at the end (which I do not think you regarded as a success last time) and simply issue a written statement, having said what you want to say to the media at pre-determined points?

B Ingham
B Ingham
16.12.83

SECRET

Annex 1

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~
Restricted

Prime Minister
Here is the detailed plan
for Operation Abercorn.



PUS/L/1800/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

FERB
20-12

Permanent Under Secretary
Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
to The Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street

20 December 1983

14
Mud
no

Dear Mr Butler

OPERATION ABERCORN

I enclose a programme with supporting briefing for OPERATION ABERCORN.

We have, after further consideration, omitted a visit to Musgrave Park Hospital. When we came to work it out it would make the programme too tight and in any case the hospital will try to let as many patients as possible out for Christmas. Last year you remember it was just after Ballykelly and we hope not to have a repeat of anything like that.

I understand that Bernard Ingham and David Gilliland have been in consultation about the information side.

I confirm that as last time we shall be providing a secretary with portable typewriter throughout the visit.

You will, of course, let me know if you want any further information or any variation in the programme.

Yours sincerely
M. Lunde
APS/PUS

Dictated by Sir Philip Woodfield
from Belfast and signed in his absence

Encl

~~TOP SECRET~~
Restricted

Note
by Bernard
at flag A

OPERATION

FLYING PROGRAMME

- 08.00 Depart No. 10
- 08.50 Depart Northholt
Main Party (2), 2 Private Secretaries
2 Special Branch, Press Secretary
- 10.00 Arrive ALDERGROVE
Met by Secretary of State
~~Speaker of the Assembly~~ - Mr. Kirkedder
PUS (Sir Philip Woodfield)
2nd PUS (Sir Ewart Bell)
GOC (Sir Robert Richardson)
Chief Constable (Sir John Hermon) Limited TV facility
RAF Station Commander (Gp Cpn Salter) to record arrival
In attendance
Asst Under Secretary NIO (Mr Merifield)
Director of Information NIO (Mr Gilliland)
Private Secretary to S of S (Mr Lyon)
S of S's escorts (2)
Army Liaison Officer (Maj Trigger)
RUC Protection Officer (Supt Donaldson)
- 10.10 Dept by helicopter for Newtownards
H1 Main Party (2), Private Secretary,
2 Special Branch, Supt Donaldson RUC (Blankets reqd)
Press Secretary, Mr Merifield (8)
H2 Secretary of State, A/Private
Secretary, Mr Gilliland, Mr Lyon,
Sec of State's escorts (2), NIO
Secretary, Major Trigger (8)
- 10.20 Arrive NEWTOWNARDS (adjoining Regent House
School)
H2 lands followed by H1 RUC cars
Car Plan A
Transfer to cars and travel to Miss Owens with
Newtownards Town Centre Sgt Craig in
attendance

~~TOP SECRET~~ Restricted

10.30	<p>Arrive Regent St Newtownards opposite <u>Queen's Hall</u></p> <p>Met by MP for <u>Strangford Rt Hon John Taylor MP, MEP</u>; Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Ards Borough Council</p> <p>(Councillor McBriar and Councillor Johnston); Chamber of Trade President Mr Cecil Hull; RUC commanded by Assistant Chief Constable David Cushley</p> <p>Walk to Conway Square (Chief Supt Pordo on duty). Call at <u>shops</u>, including visit to <u>Woolworth's entrance</u> and <u>Brown's Drapery</u>.</p>	<p>Mrs Morrow in attendance</p> <p>Miss Owens and Mrs Morrow in attendance</p>
11.15	<p>Leave town centre from corner of Pound Street by car for Newtownards RUC Station</p>	<p>RUC Cars</p> <p>Car Plan A</p>
11.20	<p><u>Arrive RUC STATION NEWTOWNARDS</u></p> <p>Met by Assistant <u>Chief Constable Cushley</u> with Chief Supt Ted Elliott</p> <p>Call at Control Room. Meet staff, serving officers' wives and recent RUC widows over coffee in Station Canteen</p>	<p>Possible press presence - subject to space constraints</p>
11.55	<p>Depart RUC station by car for helipad</p>	<p>RUC cars</p> <p>Car Plan A</p>
12.00	<p>Depart by helicopter</p> <p>H1 as before</p> <p>H2 as before</p>	
12.20	<p><u>Arrive DRUMADD BARRACKS ARMAGH</u></p> <p>H2 lands followed by H1</p> <p>Met by GOC Lt General Sir Robert Richardson and Brigadier Mike Rose</p> <p>Commander 39 Brigade</p> <p>Guard and Patrol with Lt Col Alexander Heroys, Commanding Officer 1st Grenadier Guards</p>	<p>Press</p> <p>Photographs</p>

~~TOP SECRET~~ Restricted.

	Cars to lunch	RUC cars Car Plan A plus CO 1st Grenadier Guards
	Outside lunch hall met by Lt Col Mike Nicholson CO 2 UDR	
12.25 -	10 minute break	
12.35		
12.35	Buffet lunch for Officers, WOs and Sergeants of 1st Grenadier Guards and 2nd UDR with representatives of 1 Devon and Dorsets, 1st Queen's Own Highlanders and Chief Supt Leslie Hodgetts, H Div Commander RUC	Guests will include Mr Nicholson MP for Newry and Armagh Mr Hutchison Chairman of Armagh District Council
13.30 -	Break	
13.40		
13.40 -	Tour of barracks to meet other ranks	
14.00	and call on RUC Divisional Mobile Support Unit	
14.00	Leave <u>Armagh</u> by helicopter for Army Base at Aughnacloy	(RUC cars stand by)
14.10	<u>Arrive AUGHNACLOY ARMY BASE</u> H2 lands followed by H1 Met by Brig Colin Mattingley Commander 8 Brigade, Lt Col Robin Draper 8UDR and Supt David Hall <u>Tour of base to meet troops</u>	(Wellingtons required) at base meet MP for Fermanagh and S Tyrone Mr K Maginnis and Chairman Dungannon DC Mr W R Brown
14.30	Travel to RUC/Army border check point by <u>car</u>	RUC cars Car Plan B
14.35	<u>Arrive check point</u> and meet personnel on duty	
14.40	Return from check point by car Remainder of party assemble in forecourt of base	

~~TOP SECRET~~
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14.45 Leave Aughnacloy by helicopter
H1 followed by H2

15.05 Arrive ALDERGROVE
H2 lands followed by H1
Met by RAF Station Commander
Group Capt Salter
Meet RAF staff in Operations
Room (about 50 yds walk)

(RUC cars stand by
Car Plan A)

15.15 Move to HQ Offices Tea
~~Preparation for any final press
appearance~~
PUS, GOC and Chief Constable
(or Deputy)
to be present

Not necessary -
see Bernard's note

RUC cars
Car Plan A
plus: PUS with
RAF Gp Captn
(RAF cars) GOC and
Chief Constable
(CC car)

15.30 Leave VIP lounge for runway

RUC cars
Car Plan A
plus: PUS with
RAF Gp Capt (RAF
cars) GOC and
Chief Constable
(CC car)

~~TOP SECRET~~ Restricted

~~TOP SECRET~~
Restricted

BRIEFING ON EACH STAGE

SERIAL 1: ARRIVAL ALDERGROVE RAF

1. SECRETARY OF STATE
 2. PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY NIO
Sir Philip Woodfield, KCB, CBE
 3. 2ND PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY AND HEAD OF NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE
Sir Ewart Bell KCB 2nd PUS NIO 1981: Head of NICS 1979 (Northern Ireland Civil Service since 1948).
 4. GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING
Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson, KCB, CVO, CBE. : GOC NI June 82; Commander 39 Brigade NI 1974-75. (Latterly GOC British Sector Berlin 1978-80 and Vice Adjutant General/ Director of Manning Army 1980-81. Colonel of Royal Scots. (350th Anniversary this year)
 5. CHIEF CONSTABLE
Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable RUC 1980. Educated Larne Grammar School. RUC since 1950.
 6. STATION COMMANDER
Group Captain Tony Salter (assumed command early 1983).
- To accompany visiting party
7. UNDER SECRETARY (POLITICAL) NIO
Mr Anthony Merifield. NIO October 1982; DHSS London 1965-82
 8. DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION NIO
Mr David Gilliland. Under Secretary NIO Information Department. NI Civil Service now working in Stormont Castle. Accompanied Secretary of State on his recent visit to USA.
 9. PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SECRETARY OF STATE
Mr John Lyon. Assistant Secretary. Private Secretary 1982, on secondment from Home Office.

9
~~TOP SECRET~~
Restricted

TOP SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

Prime Minister
Here is the detailed plan
for Operation Abercorn.

Restricted

PUS/L/1800/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

FERB
20.12

Permanent Under Secretary
Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
to The Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street

20 December 1983

18

Dear Mrs Butler

OPERATION ABERCORN

I enclose a programme with supporting briefing for OPERATION ABERCORN.

We have, after further consideration, omitted a visit to Musgrave Park Hospital. When we came to work it out it would make the programme too tight and in any case the hospital will try to let as many patients as possible out for Christmas. Last year you remember it was just after Ballykelly and we hope not to have a repeat of anything like that.

I understand that Bernard Ingham and David Gilliland have been in consultation about the information side.

I confirm that as last time we shall be providing a secretary with portable typewriter throughout the visit.

You will, of course, let me know if you want any further information or any variation in the programme.

*Yours sincerely
M. Lunde
APB/PUS*

Dictated by Sir Philip Woodfield
from Belfast and signed in his absence

Encl

~~TOP SECRET~~ *Restricted*

*Note
by Bernard
at flag A*

OPERATION

FLYING PROGRAMME

- 08.50 Depart Northholt,
Main Party (2), 2 Private Secretaries
2 Special Branch, Press Secretary
- 10.00 Arrive ALDERGROVE
Met by Secretary of State ← letter
PUS (Sir Philip Woodfield)
2nd PUS (Sir Ewart Bell)
GOC (Sir Robert Richardson) ← letter
Chief Constable (Sir John Hermon) ← letter
RAF Station Commander (Gp Cpn Salter) ← letter
In attendance Limited TV facility
to record arrival
Asst Under Secretary NIO (Mr Merifield)
Director of Information NIO (Mr Gilliland)
Private Secretary to S of S (Mr Lyon)
S of S's escorts (2)
Army Liaison Officer (Maj Trigger) mention
RUC Protection Officer (Supt Donaldson) - mention
- 10.10 Dept by helicopter for Newtownards
H1 Main Party (2), Private Secretary,
2 Special Branch, Supt Donaldson RUC (Blankets reqd)
Press Secretary, Mr Merifield (8)
- H2 Secretary of State, ~~A/Private~~
~~Secretary~~, Mr Gilliland, Mr Lyon,
Sec of State's escorts (2), NIO
Secretary, Major Trigger (8)
- 10.20 Arrive NEWTOWNARDS (adjoining Regent House
School)
H2 lands followed by H1 RUC cars
Car Plan A
Transfer to cars and travel to Miss Owens with
Newtownards Town Centre Sgt Craig in
attendance

~~TOP SECRET~~ Restricted

10.30

Arrive Regent St Newtownards opposite
Queen's Hall
Met by MP for Strangford Rt Hon John
Taylor MP, MEP); Mayor and Deputy Mayor
of Ards Borough Council

Mrs Morrow in
attendance

(Councillor McBriar and Councillor
Johnston); Chamber of Trade
President Mr Cecil Hull; RUC commanded
by Assistant Chief Constable David Cushley
Walk to Conway Square (Chief Supt
Pordo on duty). Call at shops,
including visit to Woolworth's entrance
and Brown's Drapery.

letter

Mrs

Miss Owens and
Mrs Morrow in
attendance

Mr. Brown

11.15

Leave town centre from corner of Pound
Street by car for Newtownards RUC
Station

RUC Cars
Car Plan A

11.20

Arrive RUC STATION NEWTOWNARDS

Met by Assistant Chief Constable
Cushley with Chief Supt Ted Elliott
Call at Control Room. Meet staff,
serving officers' wives and recent RUC
widows over coffee in Station Canteen

letter

Possible press
presence - subject
to space constraints

11.55

Depart RUC station by car for helipad

RUC cars
Car Plan A

12.00

Depart by helicopter
H1 as before
H2 as before

12.20

Arrive DRUMADD BARRACKS ARMAGH

H2 lands followed by H1
Met by GOC Lt General Sir Robert
Richardson and Brigadier Mike Rose
Commander 39 Brigade
Guard and Patrol with Lt Col Alexander
Heroy, Commanding Officer 1st Grenadier
Guards

Press
Photographs

~~TOP SECRET~~ Restricted

~~TOP SECRET~~*Restricted*

	Cars to lunch	RUC cars Car Plan A plus CO 1st Grenadier Guards
	Outside lunch hall met by Lt Col Mike Nicholson CO 2 UDR	
12.25 -	10 minute break	
12.35		
12.35	Buffet lunch for Officers, WOs and Sergeants of 1st Grenadier Guards and 2nd UDR with representatives of 1 Devon and Dorsets, 1st Queen's Own Highlanders and Chief Supt Leslie Hodgetts, H Div Commander RUC	Guests will include Mr Nicholson MP for Newry and Armagh Mr Hutchison Chairman of Armagh District Council
13.30 -	Break	
13.40		
13.40 -	Tour of barracks to meet other ranks	
14.00	and call on RUC Divisional Mobile Support Unit	
14.00	Leave Armagh by helicopter for Army Base at Aughnacloy	(RUC cars stand by)
14.10	<u>Arrive AUGHNACLOY ARMY BASE</u> H2 lands followed by H1 Met by Brig Colin Mattingley Commander 8 Brigade, Lt Col Robin Draper 8UDR and Supt David Hall Tour of base to meet troops	(Wellingtons require at base meet MP for Fermanagh and S Tyrone Mr K Maginnis and Chairman Dungannon DC Mr W R Brown
14.30	Travel to RUC/Army border check point by car	RUC cars Car Plan B
14.35	<u>Arrive check point</u> and meet personnel on duty	
14.40	Return from check point by car Remainder of party assemble in forecourt of base	

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14.45 Leave Aughnacloy by helicopter
H1 followed by H2

15.05 Arrive ALDERGROVE
H2 lands followed by H1
Met by RAF Station Commander
Group Capt Salter
Meet RAF staff in Operations Room (about 50 yds walk) (RUC cars stand by Car Plan A)

15.15 Move to HQ Offices Tea RUC cars
Car Plan A
plus: PUS with
RAF Gp Captn
(RAF cars) GOC and
Chief Constable
(CC car)

Not necessary - see Bernard's note
~~Preparation for any final press appearance~~

15.30 Leave VIP lounge for runway RUC cars
Car Plan A
plus: PUS with
RAF Gp Capt (RAF cars) GOC and
Chief Constable
(CC car)

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HELICOPTER SUPPORT

H1

Main party (2):

Private Secretary

2 Metropolitan Police protection officers

Supt Donaldson (RUC Head of Security Branch)

Press Secretary

Mr Merifield

H2

Secretary of State

~~Asst Private Secretary~~

Mr Gilliland

Mr Lyon

Secretary of State's escorts (2)

NIO Secretary

Major Trigger (army liaison)

H3

Doctor and medical team

H4

Army protection unit

~~TOP SECRET~~

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CAR PLAN A

- No 1 RUC Pilot car. Metropolitan Protection Officer
- No 2 Main Party (2)
+ Supt Donaldson
- No 3 Sec of State and Mr Lyon
2 escorts
- No 4 Private Secretary
Mr Merifield
2nd Metropolitan Protection Officer
- No 5 ~~A/Private Sec~~
Press Sec
Mr Gilliland
- No 6 Major Trigger
NIO Secretary
Miss J Owens
- No 7 RUC Rear Escort

CAR PLAN A1

As above plus

- No 8 Mr J Taylor
+ 2 escorts
- No 9 Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Ards Borough

~~TOP SECRET~~

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CAR PLAN B

- No 1 RUC Pilot Car
 + 1 Met Protection Officer
- No 1A Brig Mattingley, Lt Col Draper
 and Major Trigger
- No 2 Main Party (2) and Supt Donaldson
- No 3 Sec of State and Mr Lyon
 2 Escorts
- No 4 Press Secretary *provision for Private*
 Mr Merifield *Secretary needed*
 Mr Maginnis
- No 5 RUC Rear Escort
 + 1 Met Protection Officer

[Car: Mr Gilliland with special press group to travel
from base to check point in advance of main party]

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~~TOP SECRET~~

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NON FLYING TIMETABLE

If helicopters are grounded the final serial (Aughnacloy) will be deleted, and the main programme will be re-timed as follows:

10.00	Arrive Aldergrove	
10.05	Depart by car for Newtownards	Car Plan A
10.55	Arr Newtownards Regent St (Car parking area facing Queens Hall)	
	Tour shops in Conway Square calling in Browns (General drapery store) in High Street	
11.30	Leave town centre by car	Car Plan A1
11.35	Arr RUC Station Newtownards	
11.55	Leave RUC station by car	Car Plan A
13.05	Arr Drumadd Barracks, Armagh	
13.05 -	Break	
13.15		
13.15 -	Buffet lunch	
14.00		
14.00 -	Tour of barracks	
14.15		
14.15	Leave Drumadd by car [15 minutes later than in main programme]	Car Plan A
15.05	Arr Aldergrove [as in main programme]	

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~~TOP SECRET~~
Restricted

BRIEFING ON EACH STAGE

SERIAL 1: ARRIVAL ALDERGROVE RAF

1. SECRETARY OF STATE
 2. PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY NIO
Sir Philip Woodfield, KCB, CBE
 3. 2ND PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY AND HEAD OF NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE
Sir Ewart Bell KCB 2nd PUS NIO 1981: Head of NICS 1979 (Northern Ireland Civil Service since 1948).
 4. GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING
Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson, KCB, CVO, CBE. : GOC NI June 82; Commander 39 Brigade NI 1974-75. (Latterly GOC British Sector Berlin 1978-80 and Vice Adjutant General/ Director of Manning Army 1980-81. Colonel of Royal Scots. (350th Anniversary this year)
 5. CHIEF CONSTABLE
Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable RUC 1980. Educated Larne Grammar School. RUC since 1950.
 6. STATION COMMANDER
Group Captain Tony Salter (assumed command early 1983).
- To accompany visiting party
7. UNDER SECRETARY (POLITICAL) NIO
Mr Anthony Merifield. NIO October 1982; DHSS London 1965-82
 8. DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION NIO
Mr David Gilliland. Under Secretary NIO Information Department. NI Civil Service now working in Stormont Castle. Accompanied Secretary of State on his recent visit to USA.
 9. PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SECRETARY OF STATE
Mr John Lyon. Assistant Secretary. Private Secretary 1982, on secondment from Home Office.
 10. SUPERINTENDENT WILLIAM DONALDSON - RUC PROTECTION OFFICER
Superintendent Donaldson joined RUC 1961, wide range of posts; Superintendent 1980; Protection Officer 1982 (and saw PM last year). His brother, Constable Samuel Donaldson, was murdered in Crossmaglen, Co Armagh in 1970 in the first booby trap car bomb.

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SERIAL 2 VISIT TO NEWTOWNARDS

Newtownards a Plantation town now a Belfast dormitory and market centre serving North Down agricultural area: 20,000 pop, largely Protestant and relatively unscathed by sectarian troubles. Has some light industry, and a new shopping centre (the largest in Ireland) which has taken trade from town centre shops.

Programme

Walk to town centre (Conway Square) bounded on 3 sides by a selection of small shops. Visit Woolworths (a small branch) and Browns of High Street an old established family draper business which has recently been extended. This shop stocks a large selection of Ulster made shirts (made in Londonderry).

Note

If the weather in Newtownards is so poor as to preclude a visit to the main streets and square, cars will move direct to the WOOLCO shopping centre, to arrive at the main entrance. Mr Hewitt NIO will be in attendance with Mr Cecil Hull, and with the Head of Operations and Security at the centre who will guide the party on a tour of the centre visiting interesting shops such as Easons, large newsagents with a fine display of recently published books on NI.

Personalities

Rt Hon John D Taylor MP MEP Official Unionist MP for Strangford 1983- Member of Northern Ireland Assembly. Former Stormont Minister for Home Affairs. Mr Taylor survived an IRA murder bid in 1972 in which he was severely injured.

Mr Thomas J McBriar Mayor of Ards Borough Council. Alliance Party. Deputy Mayor Ards Borough 1981-83, Member 1978- Area Chairman of the Round Table 1982-83. Formerly member of the Young Farmers Association. Age 40, married with young family.

Mr Oliver W Johnston Deputy Mayor of Ards Borough Council. Democratic Unionist Party (but formerly Officier Unionist). Has business interests, including concrete products firm. Age 60, married 1 son, 1 daughter.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Restricted

Mr Cecil Hull President of the Newtownards Chamber of Trade. Has held this office for less than 1 year. Owns two jewellers shops (one in High Street and in the Ards shopping centre).

~~TOP SECRET~~

Restricted.

SERIAL 3 NEWTOWNARDS POLICE STATION

Background This station is Headquarters G Division (covering the Eastern portion of County Down, including Newtownards, Downpatrick and Newcastle) and sub divisional headquarters for Newtownards. Building fully completed in 1981 and serves a population of 118,700.

The total strength of the force based at Newtownards is 535 men and women: of these 350 are full time and the remainder part time.

Programme will include a visit to the Operations Room followed by coffee in the station canteen with serving officers, their wives and 3 widows whose husbands were killed on duty this year.

Personalities

Assistant Chief Constable David Cushley

Regional Assistant Chief Constable David Cushley has operational responsibility for all NI except Belfast. He will be supervising local Police operations in Newtownards. Has been in the RUC since June 1955. Assistant Chief Constable since May 1983.

*made
prosecutor* Chief Superintendent Michael Forde, Divisional Commander, G Division, is based at Divisional Headquarters, Newtownards. Joined RUC in 1944. Promoted to Chief Superintendent in May 1974. Was Divisional Commander at Springfield Road, Belfast, during a period of much unrest and terrorist activity.

Superintendent Austin Anderson, Deputy Divisional Commander has been at Newtownards for past 2 years. Previously served in Newry as Border Superintendent.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

TOP SECRET

SERIAL 4 DRUMADD BARRACKS (ARMAGH CITY)

Background

Armagh. Cathedral city (RC and Prot). One of the cultural centres of Northern Ireland. Centre of religion and learning. Situated on one of old routes between Belfast and Dublin.

Drumadd Barracks. Modern barracks. Currently occupied by:

- a. Battalion HQ, and one company 1 Grenadier Guards;
- b. One company 1st Devon and Dorsets. One company of 1st Queen's Own Highlanders under operational control of 1st Grenadiers;
- c. Battalion HQ and three companies of 2 UDR;
- d. RUC Divisonal Mobile Support Unit (DMSU), a quick reaction RUC unit.

PROGRAMME

Brief meeting with military patrol immediately after landing.

Buffet lunch for Officers, WOs and SNCOs of 1 Grenadier Guards, 1 Devon and Dorset, 1 Queen's Own Highlanders, 2 UDR. Guests will include RUC Div Commander, Mr Nicholson MP, and Chairman, Armagh District Council.

Short tour of barracks to meet other ranks and DMSU.

PERSONALITIES

1. Comd 39 Inf Bde. Brig H M (Mike) Rose OBE QGM. Assumed comd 39 Inf Bde this month. Last job was Col GS in ASD, MOD.

2. CO 1 GREN GDS. Lt Col Alexander Beroys, who assumed command Sept. 82. Been moved to NI from Hounslow October 1983 for a "roulement" tour which ends in February 1984.

3. CO 2 UDR. Lt Col M (Mike) J Nicholson MBE RA. Assumed command May 1982.

~~TOP SECRET~~ 3 -

Restricted

4. Mr James Nicholson MP. Official Unionist. MP for Newry and Armagh 1983. Assembly Member for Armagh. Council Member since 1975. A quiet man, who just defeated Mr Mallon (SDLP) when the Catholic vote split SDLP 17,000: 10,000 (Sinn Fein), and the Unionists fielded only 1 candidate. Farmer.

5. Mr Douglas Hutchinson. Chairman of Armagh District Council. Democratic Unionist Party. Became Chairman following the murder by terrorists of Mr Charles Armstrong in November. Councillor since 1953. Former Assembly and Convention member. Strong line on security. (Was expelled from Orange and Black Orders in mid 60's for opposing their leader's "appeasement", and later received short sentences for anti-civil rights disturbances). Owns large fruit farm. Met PM in December 1982 when Deputy Chairman.

~~TOP SECRET~~

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SERIAL 5 AUGHNACLOY ARMY BASE (COUNTY TYRONE)

Background

1. Aughnacloy. Border village in an agricultural community. Has always been close to a principal border crossing point and has therefore always been a focus of security force attention. Army base in village since early days of campaign. RUC station is located elsewhere in village.
2. Army Base. Currently occupied by:
 - a. Company of 1 CHESHIRE detached from barracks at Ballykelly.
 - b. Part-time company of 8 UDR.
3. Vehicle Check Point (PVCP). This check point operates between the village and the border to cover an approved road crossing point. Permanently manned by Army and RUC. Border at its closest is 200m away across fields.
4. Programme.
 - a. Tour of base to meet officers and other ranks.
 - b. Brief visit by principal visitors to PVCP to meet soldiers and policeman on duty.

PERSONALITIES

1. Comd. 8 Inf Bde. Brig C (Colin) Mattingley OBE. Brigade Commander since Nov. 82; commanded 1 KOSB 78-81.
2. CO 8 UDR. Lt Col R (Robin) A Draper. Assumed command in September 1983.
3. Mr Ken Maginnis MP. MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone 1983. Official Unionist Member of the NI Assembly and until his party's walkout, Chairman of its Security Committee and Deputy Chairman of its Finance and Personnel Committee. Member of the Dungannon District Council. Formerly principal of a primary school and UDR Major. Age 45.

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4. Mr W Ralph Brown. Chairman Dungannon District Council. Official Unionist. Sixth term as Council Chairman; Council member since 1973. Owner of Dungannon Electrical Store. Late 40's.

5. Supt David Hall. Deputy Div Commander. Based at Cookstown, has responsibility for Aughnacloy. Previously served in Bessbrook, Newry and Dungannon. .

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17

NORTHERN IRELAND: CURRENT POSITION

1. Politics in Northern Ireland are currently unsettled, ostensibly deadlocked. (The constitutional parties see little immediate room for manoeuvre and are under no pressures from their supporters to take risks). There are some signs of serious thinking in most of the parties, but no sign of movement at present. The murder of Edgar Graham makes it difficult for the UUP to resile from their withdrawal from the Assembly even if their pro-integrationist leadership favoured renewed participation. Mr Paisley's DUP have had little reward for their relatively positive approach in the Assembly and may contemplate reverting to a more populist and harder line. Alliance have as usual been moderate and constructive but the electoral breakthrough they seek seems as elusive as ever. On the nationalist side the SDLP's grip on community politics (particularly in Belfast) has been loosened by Sinn Fein. The party has staked its future on the New Ireland Forum (as to a lesser extent has Dr FitzGerald's government) and the European election in June 1984 will be a severe test of its capacity to resist the Sinn Fein challenge.

2. There is no possibility of the SDLP taking their Assembly seats before the Forum reports, and without their participation and that of the UUP the Assembly is unable to submit proposals for devolution. While Mr Kilfedder occupies a potentially crucial role as Speaker (technically presiding officer) of the Assembly, he can do little at the moment to enhance the prospects for political development (and he perhaps also lacks the weight to act with full effectiveness as an honest broker between the parties). Mr Molyneaux hopes to develop proposals for administrative devolution, but whilst he might be able to devise arrangements acceptable to the DUP and perhaps Alliance, there is little prospect of the UUP securing SDLP support.

3. There have been a number of very serious security incidents recently. In addition to the murder of Mr Graham, there have been a number of attacks against the security forces. But the

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overall level of violence has continued to decline since the mid-1970s. For instance, as of 20 December this year there had been 74 deaths attributable to terrorist activity compared with 97 in the whole of 1982 and 101 in 1981. Similarly, the number of injuries due to terrorism has continued to decline. On the other hand, the number of people charged with serious crimes continues to increase: 63 people have been charged with murder so far this year and 59 with attempted murder.

4. The Chief Constable and the GOC have made a number of fresh dispositions following recent incidents both to protect individuals and to provide some reassurance in the border areas. The Secretary of State has given public assurance of his support for the security forces and his readiness to consider any requests for additional resources. At the same time has confirmed his commitment to the existing broad policy of police primacy, with the army in support, and of actions within the normal conventions of the law, and has stated his continuing belief that this is the most effective long term means of securing the kind of community support which is essential to the long term defeat of terrorism. The RUC remains committed to effective cooperation with the Garda and there is no reason to believe that at operational level collaboration is unsatisfactory. But relations between the two Chief Officers remain uneasy because of the McGovern affair. Mr Prior hopes to discuss these matters with the Republic's Justice Minister next month.

5. Political instability and violence have discouraged potential investors and currently, through the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit, every effort is being made to promote local jobs and attract new inward investment. Fresh investment incentives were announced in March 1983. In November this year the number of unemployed was 119,748 or 21.5% of the workforce. The Government has allocated a proportionately higher share of resources to Northern Ireland and a comprehensive youth training programme was introduced a year ahead of the GB scheme.

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PRIME MINISTER

OPERATION ABERCORN

I would like your guidance on the handling of the media on this event.

The media has always been a problem in Northern Ireland because of their aggressiveness, refusal to pool resources and propensity for abusing help.

Because of this we tried to restrict access on the occasion of your last visit to sound and pictures. This almost worked, at the price of a lot of grumbling, apart from a snatched interview by ITN. You also gave a straight-to-camera statement at the end of your visit in place of the interviews which would be normal elsewhere.

Your interests are largely served if you are seen moving among and talking to the security forces and the public. There is therefore a great deal to be said for restricting access and for resolutely refusing to be doorstepped.

Such an approach to the media would not be popular and there would be complaints, but you do not go to Northern Ireland for the media's benefit.

Content therefore for me to arrange with the Northern Ireland Office a media programme which:

- rules out interviews, including doorstepping?
- bans the presence of microphones except where laid down by us - i.e. excludes them from ordinary conversations with members of the public or forces put permits them on those occasions where you are saying something you want to be heard more widely?
- to achieve this we so arrange the programme that the media are admitted - e.g. to a barracks or a meeting room - for when you say a few words to the assembled company?
- you dispense with the statement to camera at the end (which I do not think you regarded as a success last time) and simply issue a written statement, having said what you want to say to the media at pre-determined points?

B Ingham
B Ingham
16.12.83

David mb

TOP SECRET

MS

15

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND
(CODEWORD - 'OPERATION ABERCORN')

I have been discussing an outline programme with
Sir Philip Woodfield. It follows a similar pattern to last
year's which seemed to everyone to have the right ingredients
in the right order. Current thoughts are:-

Leave No. 10 or Chequers about 0745

0830 Fly from Northolt in HS 125

0940 Arrive Aldergrove

Helicopter to Newtownards

Walkabout in market square and visit shops
(There is also a covered shopping centre if wost)

Helicopter to Musgrave Park

Visit barracks (Royal Regiment of Wales) and
military hospital if there are any wounded soldiers
in over Christmas. You did this last year but it
is thought to be worth doing again, and this is the hospital
where any injured soldiers in hospital at Christmas will be.

Helicopter to Armagh for Christmas lunch with
the Grenadiers (39 brigade)

Helicopter to Anghnachoy - a town right ~~of~~ on the border
in the Dungannon salient - and visit Cheshire (8 brigade),
RUC and UDR

About 1530

Return to Aldergrove for any TV/press arrangements — Bernard Ingham will put in a note to you.

If the weather prevents helicopters from flying, we would be able to do most of this programme by car, with the exception of Mesgrave Park and possibly Aghnacloy.

On the assumption that DT comes, the party will be:

You

DT

FERB

Bernard Ingham

Two protection officers

The Secretary of State and Sir Philip Woodfield will accompany us in Northern Ireland.

Two questions:

Yes

i. May I assume that DT will come?

ii. Are you content with the general shape of these proposals? If so, I will show you a detailed programme next week.

Yes

F.R.B.



file ✓
14

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 March 1983

Visits to Northern Ireland by the
Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 15 March enclosing a revised version of the standard operating procedure for visits to Northern Ireland by the Prime Minister. I agree with the changes and have no further amendments to suggest.

A. J. COLES

John Lyon, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.



Our ref; ADM 18/47/04

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON SW1P 3AJ

SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

John Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

M. Coles

I agree

FEB 16.3

Copy no 1 of 3

M. Butler
of the ... is all right.

Agree?

A.S.C. 16.3

15 March 1983

Dear John,

VISITS TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Our current Standard Operating Procedure for visits to Northern Ireland by the Prime Minister (document SOP NIO 1/81, issued on 21 July 1981) needs revision to reflect the following changes:

- (a) the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is no longer accompanied by Metropolitan Police Special Branch officers when he is in Northern Ireland but by officers from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and
- (b) responsibility for the Prime Minister's travel by RAF aircraft lies with the Head of Mov Ops (RAF) rather than the Personal Air Secretary to US of S(DP).

I enclose a copy of the proposed amendments to the SOP. The relevant paragraphs are sidelined. Those concerning the RUC have been agreed in principle with the Chief Constable, RUC. I should be pleased to know if you also agree the changes and for any detailed drafting amendments you might wish to offer. I am writing in similar terms to Deputy Commissioner Hewett, New Scotland Yard, with a copy to the Chief Constable, RUC.

Yours ever,

John Glyn

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Dissemination of Information Concerning the Visit

3. The Prime Minister's decision to visit Northern Ireland will be agreed with the Secretary of State and the PUS. All those who are subsequently informed will receive the information on a strictly personal basis.
4. At the outset the PUS will sound out those most directly affected including the Chief Constable and the GOC on the timing and content of the programme so that he can advise PS/Prime Minister accordingly. Initially, only the following will be informed within the NIO:-
- (a) The Secretary of State
 - (b) PS/Secretary of State
 - (c) The PUS
 - (d) PS/PUS
 - (e) The Head of the NICS
 - (f) The Deputy Secretary (London)
 - (g) The Deputy Secretary (Belfast)
 - (h) Under Secretary (Political Affairs and Information Policy) (Belfast)

The Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister will be responsible for informing the Head of the Prime Minister's Special Branch Protection Team of the planned visit and asking him to consult the Chief Constable about security arrangements.

5. Detailed consultations with the Prime Minister's Private Secretary concerning the programme and the theme of any major speeches should be started by PUS at least 10 working days before the visit.
6. Seven working days before the visit the Press Secretary at No 10 and the Director NI Information Services should be informed and should meet to discuss speeches and press coverage before the programme is finalised. Others who should be informed at this stage are:-
- (a) The Assistant Secretary, Political Affairs Division
 - (b) The Principal Establishment and Finance Officer (PEFO)
 - (c) NI Permanent Secretaries concerned with the visit
 - (d) The APS/Secretary of State (Belfast)
 - (e) The APS/Secretary of State (London)

Revise

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7. Not more than 24 hours before the visit, PS/Prime Minister will inform the Head of Branch Mov Ops (RAF) (Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Tel 01-218-6073) who should notify directly the Station Commander, RAF Northolt, by-passing all normal chains of command. No other officers in the MOD or the RAF need to know about the visit before the Prime Minister's departure.
8. During the 24 hours prior to the visit the areas which the Prime Minister will visit will be checked in accordance with arrangements made between the Chief Constable and the Head of the PM's Special Branch Protection group.
9. PUS, or AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy) (B) on his behalf, will consult with the Chief Constable and GOC to determine at what point before the visit they can inform those of their subordinates who need to know and to make dispositions that a visit is in prospect. However, unless the PUS authorises otherwise, the Chief Constable and GOC may only issue orders for arrangements to be made for a "proxy" visit.
10. One hour before the estimated time of arrival of the Prime Minister's aircraft the Assistant Private Secretary (Belfast) to the Secretary of State will notify the Station Commander, RAF Aldergrove, by passing the codeword and timing to him personally by telephone.
11. When the Prime Minister's aircraft has landed at RAF Aldergrove, the Senior RUC Officer on the Stormont Estate will be informed by the Assistant Private Secretary (Belfast).

Co-ordination of the Visit.

12. Although overall responsibility for co-ordination of the visit and for preliminary arrangements will rest with the group at paragraph 4, working through PS/Secretary of State to PS/Prime Minister, there is a requirement for a small co-ordination team to take over the detailed planning of the visit not more than seven days before it takes place. This team will be chaired by the AUS (Political Affairs and Information Policy) who will be supported by the Director of NI Information Services, the Assistant Secretary, Political Affairs Division and APS/Secretary of State (Belfast).
13. The Assistant Secretary, Political Affairs Division will act as PUS's special assistant during the period of the visit, to be available to deal on the spot with the various unforeseen problems which are likely to arise. His task is to ensure that the visit goes as smoothly as possible. He will also be available, in the absence of the PUS or the Private Secretary, to effect any necessary immediate co-ordination with the PS/Prime Minister.

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Annex A

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PM'S VISIT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Serial	Date	Activity	Person Responsible	Comments
1	V - ?	SOS, PUS and No 10 agree on a visit taking place	SOS PUS PM	(Prior information about the visit will be classified TOP SECRET up to 24 hours before the visit.)
2	V - ?	PUS informs GOC, Chief Constable and all those at (A) not yet informed and discusses timing and content of visit	PUS	(A) SOS, PS/SOS, PUS PS/PUS, Hd of NICS, DUS(L), DUS(B). (This group will have responsibility for overall co-ordination working through. PS/SOS to PS/PM).
3	V - ?	Draft outline programme and outlines of speech (es) prepared (to include flying and non-flying arrangements) including decisions on whether any meetings and receptions will take place, and if so of what nature.	PUS	
4.	V - ?	Chief Constable asked by PUS to consider Security and arrangements for additional RUC cars	Chief Constable	Contingency plan required without disclosing true identity of visitor.
5.	V - 10	Draft programme and speech(es) discussed and cleared with PS/Prime Minister (including plans for any meetings or for receptions). AUS (Political Affairs) to ensure that objectives of visit are clearly defined in advance.	PUS AUS (Pol Affairs)	

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Serial	Date	Activity	Person Responsible	Comments
6	V - 10	DUS(L) will commission briefing for the visit	DUS(L)	Briefing should contain a statement of the agreed principal objectives of the visit, a background note on the general situation in the Province and further notes on other relevant topics
6A	V - 10	PS/PM informs Head of PM's Special Branch Protection Group of draft programme. Head of PM's Protection Group and Chief Constable make all arrangements before and during the visit, to check the areas the Prime Minister will visit.	PS/PM Chief Constable Head of PM's Special Branch Protection Group	
7	V - 7	Director of Information Services and Press Secretary at No 10 meet and discuss speeches and press coverage subject to guidance from PUS, PS/PM and AUS (Pol Affairs).	Director of Info Services	No action to be taken with the media in advance of the visit without PUS's authority.
8	V - 7	Co-ordination team established to be chaired by AUS (Pol Affairs) and composed of Head of Info Services, AS(PAB), and APS(B).	AUS (Pol Affairs)	The Co-Ordination Team will be responsible for precise details of programme, liaison as necessary with other Whitehall Depts, fleshing out outline speech(es), ensuring all transport arrangements are made and all proper arrangements made for meetings and receptions (see below)
9	V - 7	The following informed of the visit - PEFO, NI Perm Secs involved in the visit, APS(L).	PS/PUS	

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Serial	Date	Activity	Person Responsible	Comments
10	V - 7	Once proposed meetings are agreed with No 10, the Co-ordination Team will discreetly ascertain the availability of the appropriate groups, individuals and organisations subject to PUS's approval	Co-ordination Team	
11	V - 7	Co-ordination Team begins detailed arrangements for reception(s).	Co-Ordination Teams	
12	V - 5	Final speech(es) and programme sent to No 10	PS/PUS	
13	V - 5	Briefing submitted to PUS.	DUS (L)	
14	V - 4	Briefing forwarded to No 10	PS/PUS	
15	V - 3	Draft press release agreed between Hd of Info Services and Press Sec at No 10 (Cleared by PUS and PS/PM).	Head of Information Services	Amendments in the light of developments should be made. Procedure and timing of release will be agreed between Hd of Info Services and Press Sec at No 10 and cleared as appropriate.
16	V - 2	APS(B) - with PUS's authorisation - issues invitations, normally by telephone to a reception with the "proxy" visitor - guests will be told that car parking is available and RUC will arrange secure car parking.	APS (B)	RUC will produce addresses and telephone numbers of guests about whom such information is not known.
17	V - 1	PS/Prime Minister informs Head of Branch, MOV OPS (RAF) 01-218-6073 of visit who will notify directly the Station Commander, RAF Northolt (by-passing all normal chains of command.	PS/PM Head of Branch MOV OPS (RAF)	No other officers in the MOD or the RAF need to know about the visit before the PM's departure.

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Serial	Date	Activity	Person Responsible	Comments
18	V - 1	Check of areas which the PM will visit.	Chief Constable Head of PM's Special Branch Protection Group	
19	V - 1	APS(B) arranges with FATOC (Forward Air Traffic Operations Centre) at HQ NI for helicopters of the required capacity to be provided for the "proxy" and his/her party.	APS(B)	
20	V day - 1 hour	APS(B) informs Station Commander, RAF Aldergrove by-passing codeword and timing to him personally.	APS(B)	
21	V day	When PM's aircraft lands at Aldergrove, APS(B) informs the Senior RUC officer on the Stormont Estate	APS(B)	PM met by SOS and AUS (Pol Affairs). AUS (Pol Affairs) to accompany PM throughout visit.
22	V day (1 or 2)	APS(B) provides a guest list for reception to the Senior RUC officer at Stormont Castle or Hillsborough at 9.00 am on day of <u>reception</u> .	APS(B)	
23	V day	AS(PAB) will act as PUS's special assistant during visit.	AS(PAB)	
24	V day	APS(B) will ensure that PM's staff have full day and night office support, and that the Co-ordination Team, PS/SOS and PS/PUS are fully briefed on the arrangements.	APS(B)	

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Key Official	V - 1	V - 1 hour	V Day
S of S			Meets PM at Aldergrove
AUS (Political Affairs)			Meets PM at Aldergrove and accompanies PM throughout visit.
AS (PAB)			AS (PAB) will act as PUS' special assistant during the visit.
APS(B)	APS(B) arranges with FATOC at HQNI for helicopters to be provided for the "proxy" and his/her party.	APS(B) informs Station Commander RAF Aldergrove by passing codeword and timing personally.	When PM's aircraft lands, APS(B) informs senior RUC officer at Stormont Castle.
PS/PM	PS/PM will inform the Head of Mov Ops (RAF) of the visit.		
Head of Mov Ops (RAF)	Head of Mov Ops (RAF) will notify directly the Station....		

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Key Official

V - 1

V - 1 hour

V Day

Commander, RAF Northolt by-passing all normal chains of command.

Chief Constable &
Head of PM's
Special Branch
Protection Team

Head of SBPT will check areas which PM will visit.

Revise

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Discussed with the
Prime Minister.
P.L. file

PRIME MINISTER

Overboots for the Army

May we have a word?
The statement needed by
this incident is
appealing, not.

I attach the latest letter from the MOD on the vexed question of overboots.

This reply justifies your comments on the previous letter. If the MOD had done a thorough job earlier, they should have discovered the information now contained in this letter about the extra boots issued to the Bessbrook barracks.

However, they have at least now provided answers to the three main points raised:-

(1) Why is a pair of boots not issued to each soldier?

?
"Items with a limited use related to a specific job or particular weather conditions are supplied as needed. This makes for a more manageable load and more limited personal responsibility for the individual soldier. It is also more economical."

(2) Did the Coldstreams have insufficient boots?

They were the first unit which had not found itself able to manage within the standard scale of issue, but the issue was increased at their request, and they have been supplied with a further 248 pairs of other types of boot.

(3) Do the boots last?

The Coldstreams end-of-tour report said:

"The overboot proved its worth and was excellent for keeping feet dry and warm. It was not considered good for walking long distances".

The MOD add that it was not designed for the latter purpose. I have enquired what is meant by the statement that the purpose of these overboots is for "close observation platoons". I gather that close observation platoons are deposited in an area, often by helicopter and make their way to a place where they go into hiding for two or three days to observe activity. The overboots are designed to keep feet dry and warm on such exercises, not for long marches.

Content to leave it there?

F.R.B.

16 February 1983



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-~~8307822~~ 218 2111/3

MO 19/3

15th February 1983

Dear RSM, ,

OVERBOOTS FOR THE ARMY

I am replying to your letter of 7th February asking for further information. I am sorry that the Prime Minister was not reassured by our earlier letter. It may be helpful if I go into more detail.

This overboot was originally procured for the ACE Mobile Force (Land) in around 1971, expressly for use by non-tactical personnel, for example aircraft marshallers, aircraft and vehicle maintainers and so on. No doubt because they were used to these overboots in their AMF(L) role, when 40 Commando RM were sent to Northern Ireland in 1979 they requested a trial issue of these overboots for use by their Marines in close observation platoons (COP). This was a conspicuous success - it enabled the COP men to make their way through very wet terrain and still arrive at their observation post with dry feet. It was therefore decided in 1980 to invest in a quantity of these overboots for use by troops employed in that role in Northern Ireland. As a general rule items of kit on personal issue to soldiers are limited to those necessities which they can and will take with them wherever they are sent. Other items with a limited use related to a specific job or particular weather conditions are supplied as needed. This makes for a more manageable load and more limited personal responsibility for the individual soldier. It is also more economical. These overboots were considered to fall into the latter category of kit.

I turn now to the question of the Coldstream Guards request for additional issues of overboots. As explained in our earlier letter the normal issue is 144 pairs per battalion. I believe that the Coldstream Guards are the first unit which has not found itself able to manage within this scaling but at their request the unit holding was raised to 182. We have now established that in response to further requests to HQ 8 Infantry Brigade they were supplied with a total of a further 248 pairs of other types of boot.



Finally there is the question of serviceability. I understand that the Battalion's End-of-tour Report states that the overboot proved its worth and was excellent for keeping feet dry and warm. It was not considered good for walking long distances - but it is not designed for that use.

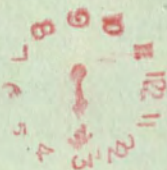
We would of course be happy to provide any further information on this subject which the Prime Minister might request.

Yours etc,

Richard Mottram

(R C MOTTRAM)
Private Secretary

Ireland
PM's visit '83



15 JAN 1983

COMMUNICATIONS

UNITED KINGDOM



FILE

607

Ireland

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

7 February, 1983

B/F

OVERBOOTS FOR THE ARMY

Thank you for your letter of 4 February which I have shown to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister does not find the explanations in it satisfactory. The fact is that members of the 1st Coldstreams, whom she met during her visit to Bessbrook, took the trouble to produce these overboots and to complain to her that an insufficient number were available and that they wore out quickly. Mrs. Thatcher would have expected that this specific complaint would be investigated. The Prime Minister does not understand why the fact that these overboots are slipped on over an individual's own footwear leads to the conclusion that they should not be issued as part of his personal kit; but, since it is open to the battalion to apply for an increase in their supply, she would like to know whether this point had been conveyed to the Bessbrook garrison, whether they had so applied and whether an increase has been granted.

Nor does the Prime Minister find the answer to the point about serviceability adequate. Again, the fact is that a complaint was made to her. Your letter does not say by whom you have been assured that the boots are satisfactory, but she wonders whether this point was specifically checked with the 1st Coldstreams who took the trouble to put the point to her.

Finally, Mrs. Thatcher was surprised that it had taken so long to produce a reply on this point, especially since it is not evident that enquiries have been made of 1st Coldstream by whom the complaint was raised.

Could you please let me have a further letter quickly.

E. E. R. BUTLER

Miss Jane Ridley,
Ministry of Defence



MO 19/3

Prime Minister

2

This answers the point raised with you by the Coldstream during your visit to Bessbrook barracks.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-9300000 218 2111/3

4th February 1983

Seldom have I received a more unscrupulous letter A mean-spirited of course. I will show it to Downing St.

FERR 4.2. Send the letter back The answer would do me

Dear Robin,

mb

M O I of course

OVERBOOTS FOR THE ARMY

I am sorry not to have replied earlier to your letter of 23 December about overboots for the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards at Bessbrook but we have been looking into this question in some detail. There are really three aspects to this problem: availability, durability and country of manufacture.

The normal requirement for patrol overboots in Northern Ireland is set at a total of 1500 pairs. This is the quantity judged necessary to maintain an actual "dependency" in the field of 144 pairs per battalion. That of course is not sufficient to give each man a pair of overboots, nor is there any need to do so. The overboots are, as the name suggests, simply slipped on over an individual's own footwear as he goes out on patrol; and they are not therefore issued as part of a soldier's personal kit. The unit holding of 144 pairs is not immutable and it is always open to a battalion to apply for their supply to be increased. In fact some 38 extra pairs of the standard overboot have been supplied on request to Northern Ireland as well as some 155 pairs of obsolescent rubber overboots.

Why not?

We find the complaints about the serviceability of the overboots rather surprising. They are standard issue to the Canadian Armed Forces and before the Prime Minister's visit there had not been a single report of poor durability. We believe that if this were a real problem reports to this effect would have emerged before now; but, to be doubly sure, we have checked through the command chain in Northern Ireland and we have been assured that the boots are quite satisfactory. *By whom?*

[Handwritten scribble]

Northern Ireland is not the only place where this kind of overboot is required. They are also issued to our Commando/Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) units, and there is some demand for them in the Falklands. Nevertheless, as a whole we only need to purchase annually some 1500 pairs. I am afraid that British manufacturers are simply not interested in going to the expense of setting up a production line to meet the limited MOD demand for a very specialized product. Nonetheless it is normal practice for our staff to consider,

R Butler Esq



each time a purchase needs to be made, whether or not it is cost effective to procure them from the UK industry. It is, of course, just possible that additional demand for them in the Falklands may raise the overall requirement to a level where UK industry can offer a competitive quote; but, for the time being, it is more economic to purchase the small quantities required off-the-shelf from our Canadian allies.

I am copying this to Jonathan Spencer (D of I), with particular reference to the overseas procurement point.

Yours ever,

Gene Riddey

Ireland : PM's visits to N Ireland

Pt 3



12 JAN 1983
BELFAST
N IRELAND

COMPTON



huz

RW
Ireland

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 January, 1983

I am sorry that you have not received an earlier reply to your letter of 4 January. We have been much involved in preparing for, and carrying out, a visit to the Falkland Islands. But I write now to say that we have noted the kind suggestion of the Speaker of the Assembly that the next time the Prime Minister visits Northern Ireland she might have a meal with him and a few guests at Parliament Buildings.

I enclose, as requested, a photograph signed by the Prime Minister for Mr E. Adair.

A. J. COOPER

B. Smith, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Assembly

(sent via NIO)

R

RESTRICTED



PUS/L/ 59 /MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

Lt Col A G Ross
Military Assistant to
Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson KCB CVO CBE
HQNI LISBURN
BFPO 825

A.S.C. 7

f.a.

6 January 1983

Dear Kevin,

OPERATION PISTON

Although I am sure that you have done so already, I thought it worth reminding you (and copy recipients) that all the papers relating the OPERATION PISTON can, with two exceptions, be down-graded to RESTRICTED.

The two exceptions are the papers entitled "Northern Ireland Political Affairs : Background Note" and "Security Situation : Background Note" which should remain CONFIDENTIAL.

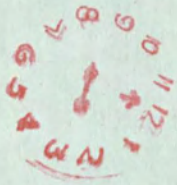
All good wishes for the New Year

*Yours ever,
David*

DAVID BROOKER
Private Secretary

- cc
1. F E R Butler Esq ✓
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street
 2. PS/Secretary of State, London and Belfast
 3. PS/Sir Philip Woodfield, Belfast
 4. PS/Sir Ewart Bell
 5. Mr Brennan, Deputy Secretary NIO(L)
 6. Mr Bourn, Deputy Secretary NIO(B).
 7. Mr Merifield, Under Secretary (Political Affairs and
Information Policy) NIO(B)
 8. Chief Constable
 9. Mr Gilliland, Director of Information Services NIO(B)
 10. Mr Blatherwick, NIO(B)
 11. Miss Owens, Stormont Castle

Ireland, PM's visits to N.Ireland.
P43



-7 JAN 1965



Mr. Coles

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
STORMONT,
BELFAST BT4 3SY

4 January 1983

Miss C M Stephens
Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Miss Stephens,

The Speaker of the Assembly wishes to thank the Prime Minister most warmly for her recent visit to Northern Ireland. He believes that it was a marvellous success and a tremendous boost for the morale, not only of the security forces, but also of the vast majority of law abiding citizens here.

The Speaker would very much like the Prime Minister to have a meal with him and a few guests at Parliament Buildings the next time she is in Northern Ireland. I appreciate that you cannot make any firm commitment at this stage, but I should be grateful if you would bear this invitation in mind at the appropriate time.

A young man who was disappointed at missing the Prime Minister during her visit to Bangor would like to have her autograph. His name is E Adair, and he lives at 11 Grange Crescent, Bangor, County Down. If it is not too much trouble, I am sure it would make him very happy if you would send me one that I can pass on to him.

Thank you and best wishes for the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

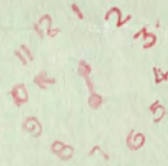
Bill Smith

BILL SMITH
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE SPEAKER

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
STORMONT
BELFAST BT4 3SY



-6 JAN 1983



COOPER

11

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 December, 1982

Dear Colonel O'Donovan,

I was particularly glad to be able to visit the military wing of Musgrave Park Hospital during my visit to Northern Ireland and to pass on in person my Christmas wishes to those who are still patients there. It is wonderful news that so many of those injured at Ballykelly have made sufficient progress to be able to leave hospital in time for Christmas, and it is a tribute to the skill and devotion of your staff that they have been able to do so. I am writing separately to the Deputy Matron to thank the nursing staff for the wonderful work they do, and I should be grateful if you would similarly pass on my thanks and admiration to your staff, with my husband's and my best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Lt. Col. J.P.J. O'Donovan,

RM



Five

RW

10 DOWNING STREET

29 December, 1982

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Group Captain Whittaker,

I am writing to thank you for the arrangements which you and your staff made for me both at Aldergrove and in providing the helicopter transport which enabled me to carry out my programme in Northern Ireland on Wednesday. I know that the weather caused problems particularly for our arrival at Aldergrove: I am very grateful for the efforts made to clear the runway and for the professionalism with which the helicopters were flown. My husband joins me in sending you and all at Aldergrove our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Group Captain David Whittaker,

LM



FILE

RM

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 December, 1982

Dear Mr. Hunter,

I am writing to thank you for your prompt and very kind thought in presenting me with the beautiful record of carols during my visit to Bangor on Wednesday. It contains many which are my favourites and I look forward to listening to them at Chequers over Christmas.

I was also glad to meet one or two individual members of the choir during my walk in the Main Street. I send to you and the choir my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Ian Hunter, Esq.,

RM



file

RM

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 December, 1982

Dear Mr. Good,

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed my brief visit to Bangor and the opportunity to walk in the main street and meet some of those shopping there. I was particularly glad to visit Boots, Hoggs and Wellworths: please will you pass on my warm thanks to Mr Boardman, Mr Taylor and Mrs Cummings and their staff for making me so welcome. My family and I will enjoy over Christmas the box of chocolates which I was given in Wellworths, and I will treasure the beautiful crystal bell as a memento of a happy visit to Bangor, and the lovely walk.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

J.T. Good, Esq.,

RM



10 DOWNING STREET

29 December, 1982

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr. Johnstone,

I am writing to thank you most warmly for receiving me at Gough Barracks during my visit to Armagh on Wednesday, and to express my gratitude to you and Superintendent Hodgett for the arrangements made for my visit.

To meet so many members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary who have themselves been involved in terrorist incidents, and the wives of those who have been its victims, brings vividly home the reality of the pain and damage inflicted on the community by a few evil men. The wonderful work which the Royal Ulster Constabulary do in the essential task of countering the men of violence has my unstinted admiration. Perhaps through you I may also thank all the other members of the RUC who were involved in the security arrangements for the visit.

My husband's and my thoughts are with you all, and we send you our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

M. Johnstone, Esq., M.B.E.,

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

RW



file

CU

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 December, 1982

Dear Reverend Auld,

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoyed my brief visit to Bangor on Wednesday and to thank you for making me so welcome. I was very glad to have the opportunity of walking in the main street, and of visiting some of the shops. I was particularly glad to be able to meet and talk to people doing their Christmas shopping and to find them in such good heart; I will treasure the Bangor bell as a memento of my visit.

My husband and I send to you and to the people of Bangor our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Mayor of North Down Borough Council,

CU



hLK
CW
10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 December, 1982

Dear Brigadier Mattingley,

I am writing separately to Colonel Barttelot to thank him for the arrangements for my visit to Bessbrook Barracks during my Christmas tour in Northern Ireland. But I wanted you to know how encouraged I was by my visit. The approach of all those whom I met was thoroughly professional and I was delighted to find them in such excellent spirits and high morale. I send my husband's and my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you and all members of 8 Brigade.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Brigadier G.C. Mattingley, O.B.E.,

CW



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 December, 1982

Dear Major Anderson,

I am writing to thank you for receiving me on my visit to the military wing of Musgrave Park Hospital on Wednesday. I was very glad to be able to give my best wishes to the patients still under your care, and also to meet some of your nursing staff. Please will you pass on to them my thanks and admiration for the wonderful work they do, together with my husband's and my best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Major Alison Anderson,

RM



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 December, 1982

Dear Chief Inspector McDowell.

I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself to thank you for the beautiful Wedgwood plate which you gave me during my visit to Bessbrook on Wednesday. I will treasure it both for itself and as a symbol of the Royal Ulster Constabulary who do such wonderful work for law and order in the Province. My husband joins me in sending you and your colleagues our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Chief Inspector E. McDowell QPM

RM



FILE

RM

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 December, 1982

My dear Colonel,

I am writing to thank you for the arrangements which you made for my visit to Bessbrook during my Christmas tour in Northern Ireland. I was delighted to be able to meet so many of the officers and men of 1 Coldstream Guards and I was greatly impressed by the professionalism and morale of all with whom I talked. I was also delighted to take part in one of the Christmas draws.

Please will you thank all who helped in making such excellent arrangements including the Sergeant Major for extending to me the hospitality of the Sergeants Mess for lunch.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Delton

Lt. Col. Sir Brian Barttelot, Bt.,

RM



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1982

Dear Sir

I have written separately to the local Mayor and RUC Commanders whom I met during my visit to Northern Ireland on Wednesday, but I also wanted to thank you and those in the Northern Ireland Office who helped to make the arrangements. From my point of view, the visit went splendidly. We managed to make good use of the available time and I was greatly encouraged by the welcome I received and the high morale of everyone I met.

I am particularly grateful to you for sparing the day to come round with me.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Yours

Raymond

The Rt. Hon. J. Prior, M.P.,

JP



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 December, 1982

Dear Tim

I was very glad to see you yesterday during my visit to Bangor. I greatly enjoyed my tour of the shopping centre and it was heartening to receive such a warm welcome from those whom I met in the main street. I wanted particularly to thank you for sparing the time to receive me on a busy day when you also had a debate in the Assembly.

Yours sincerely
Margaret

J. Kilfedder, Esq., M.P.,

JK

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PUS/L/2468/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

23 December 1982

Dear Robin,

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND - 22 DECEMBER 1982

I attach the details of names and addresses that I promised this morning.

You asked for the name of the appropriate person to thank for the helicopter flights. For this visit RAF helicopters were used so the correct person would be Group Captain David Whittaker, whom I imagine is a successor to Group Captain Olding.

The Bangor bell was presented by the Rev Auld, Mayor of North Down Borough Council, seemingly on behalf of the borough.

I have as yet no line on who you might write to about the record by Bangor Parish Church Choir but will ring this over when I get one.

*Yours ever,
David*

DAVID BROOKER
Private Secretary

Encls

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BANGOR

1. Mr James Kilfedder, BA, BL, MP
Eastonville
93 Donaghadee Road
Mill Isle
Co Down

Thanks for being present, especially on a day when the Assembly was sitting.

2. Rev John McConnell Auld
Mayor of North Down Borough Council
Bangor Castle
Bangor
Co Down

Escorted the Prime Minister during her tour of Bangor, accompanied by the Deputy Mayor, Mr W Baillie.

3. Mr J T Good
Chairman of the Bangor Chamber of Trade
Winston Hotel
19 Queens Parade
Bangor
Co Down

Mr Good might in turn be asked to pass on thanks to Mr Taylor, the territorial and General Manager, was present at Boots,

Mrs Gault, the Pharmacist at Boots who I gather was particularly helpful over the visit,

Mrs Cummings the Senior Assistant from Hoggs and

Mr Boardman, the Manager from Wellworths.

MUSGRAVE PARK MILITARY HOSPITAL

1. Lt Col J P J O'Donovan, RAMC
Consultant Surgeon
Musgrave Park Hospital Military Wing
BFPO 801

In passing thanks to all the staff a special mention might be made of Major Alison Anderson, QARANC, the Deputy Matron

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BESSBROOK

1. Brigadier G Colin Mattingley, OBE
Commander 8 Infantry Brigade
BFPO 807
2. Lt Col Sir Brian Barttelot Bt
Commanding Officer 1 Coldstream Guards
Bessbrook
BFPO 811
3. Chief Inspector Errol McDowell, QPM
RUC
Bessbrook
Co Armagh

Mr McDowell presented the Prime Minister with a commemorative plate at Bessbrook

ARMAGH

1. Assistant Chief Constable Maurice Johnstone, MBE
RUC Headquarters
Brooklyn
Knock Road
Belfast BT5 6LE

GENERAL

1. Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson, KCB CVO CBE
General Officer Commanding
Headquarters Northern Ireland
Lisburn
BFPO 825

He might be asked to convey special thanks to Major Stephen Paul who accompanied the party on the visit and who was also involved in the planning of it.

2. Sir John Herman, OBE
Chief Constable
RUC Headquarters
Brooklyn
Knock Road
Belfast BT5 6LE

Thanks to all those who were on duty during the day, some of whom were met by the Prime Minister, but many of whom were working behind the scenes to secure the safety of the visit and to ensure that it ran smoothly. A special mention might be given to ACC Steenson who was responsible for organising the RUC operations connected with the visit and Superintendent William Donaldson who was the Prime Minister's personal RUC escort. This was the first time that he had been engaged in a VIP visit of this sort.

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GENERAL (cont)

3. Group Captain David Whittaker
RAF
Aldergrove
BFPO 808

Perhaps to include a note to wish him well in his new post in Canada.

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RESTRICTED

2 DEC 1982



RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

23 December 1982

A point which came up during the Prime Minister's visit to 1 Coldstream at Bessbrook yesterday, during her Christmas visit to Northern Ireland, was that there is a shortage of overboots for troops operating on patrols in the border areas. The Prime Minister was told that there was not as many as one pair of overboots for each man, and also that the overboots wore out very quickly.

Mrs. Thatcher wondered whether anything could be done about this. She gathers that the present overboots are manufactured in Canada. With unemployment at its present level, she felt that it ought to be possible to arrange for overboots of the type required to be manufactured in the United Kingdom, perhaps in Northern Ireland itself.

Could you please arrange for me to have a note on this.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jonathan Spencer (Department of Industry).

B. E. R. BUTLER

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

RWJ

m
Box

Borough of North Down



R31
MAYOR'S PARLOUR
TOWN HALL,
BANGOR,
Co. Down.

Bangor Castle, 2nd Dec. 52.
Dear Mrs Thatcher.

Thank you and Mr Thatcher for your welcome Christmas visit to the Province this morning. We are deeply appreciative that you included the Borough of North Down and that you found time to walk around and meet so many of our people. Please come again soon and call at the Castle to see some of the treasures of our fourteen hundred years of recorded history.

You will be glad to know that in North Down people of all political parties and religious denominations live together in peace and our prosperity means that more than nine out of every ten is employed. Personally I should like to thank you for the excellent work you are doing for the whole Kingdom and for the valued place this part holds in your thoughts.

Yours and best wishes

Yours sincerely
Mc Connell Auld
Mayor.

*ce Press Office
Ireland*

THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE FOLLOWING HER VISIT TO
NORTHERN IRELAND TODAY:

TODAY I HAVE JUST BEEN VISITING NORTHERN IRELAND FOR MY
CUSTOMARY CHRISTMASTIDE VISIT. WE STARTED IN BANGOR
WITH A WALKABOUT IN THE SHOPPING CENTRE, VERY SOON WE
WERE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE. I WONDER WHETHER, IN THE
WAKE OF BALLYKELLY, AND THE DAILY TRAGEDIES THAT OCCUR
TO OUR ARMED FORCES, TO THE RUC AND TO THE ULSTER
DEFENCE REGIMENT, WHETHER IT WOULD BE REALLY QUITE RIGHT
TO SAY HAPPY CHRISTMAS. VERY SOON THE DECISION WAS
TAKEN OUT OF MY HANDS AS PEOPLE CAME UP TO ME AND WISHED
ME A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND SAID PLEASE DON'T FORGET US.
THAT WAS REALLY WHY I CAME TODAY AS MOST CHRISTMASSES,
JUST TO SAY NORTHERN IRELAND IS ALWAYS IN OUR THOUGHTS
AND IS NEVER FORGOTTEN. WE HAD A WONDERFUL WELCOME IN
BANGOR. FROM THERE WE WENT TO THE MUSGRAVE PARK
MILITARY HOSPITAL, VERY CONSCIOUS THAT WE WERE IN THE
WAKE OF BALLYKELLY. WE FOUND A FEW PEOPLE THERE WHO
HAD EXPERIENCED THAT TERRIBLE TRAGEDY. WE FOUND ALSO
SOME OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO HAD SUFFERED WHILE ON PATROL
IN CROSSMAGLEN AND OTHERS IN BELFAST. WE WERE VERY
MUCH REMINDED HOW VERY MUCH WE OWE TO THE COURAGE AND
BRAVERY OF ALL OF THOSE IN THE SECURITY FORCES WHO ARE
TRYING TO ERADICATE TERRORISM FROM OUR LIVES. THEY
WERE ALL WONDERFUL PEOPLE. THEY HAD ALL BEEN THROUGH
GREAT TROUBLE, THEY HAD ALL EXPERIENCED BALLYKELLY, ALL
BEEN UNDER FIRE OR HAD BEEN AMBUSHED OR HAD THINGS
THROWN AT THEM. THEIR MORALE WAS SUPERB. THEY ALL
SAID, WE HAVE A JOB TO DO, AND OUR GREAT DESIRE IS TO
GET BACK AND DO IT. THE DEVOTION OF THOSE PEOPLE AND
THE STAFF LOOKING AFTER THEM WAS WONDERFUL TO BEHOLD.
FROM THERE WE WENT TO BESSBROOK TO SEE HOW THE ARMED
SERVICES ARE DOING THE WORK OF DAILY PATROLLING TO GET
THE SECURITY THAT THEY NEED IN ORDER TO TRY TO STOP
TERRORISM AND ERADICATE IT FROM THIS PROVINCE. THEIR
SPIRIT, TOO, WAS MARVELLOUS. THEY HAVE A JOB TO DO
AND THEY DO IT MAGNIFICENTLY AND WE WERE SO VERY VERY
PLEASED TO SEE THEM IN SUCH GOOD HEART. AND THEN AGAIN
ON TO ARMAGH WHERE WE VISITED THE RUC. EVERY PERSON I
SPOKE TO HAS HAD SOME TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE HAPPENED TO
HIM OR HIS FAMILY, AND I ALSO SAW THREE WIDOWS. THEIR
DETERMINATION TO FIGHT TERRORISM IS ABSOLUTE.

IT IS OF COURSE THE SEASON OF PEACE AND GOODWILL.
THE ARMED FORCES, THE SECURITY SERVICES, WILL DO THEIR
BEST TO FIGHT THOSE FORCES OF DARKNESS. ONLY WE
IN THIS SEASON CAN ONCE AGAIN TRY TO LEARN TO LIVE
TOGETHER BECAUSE FIGHTING FOR PEACE, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE
MEANS THAT WE ARE FREE TO LIVE TOGETHER IN THE WAY WE
CHOOSE.

MAY I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS, AND WISH
US ALL A GOOD NEW YEAR IN WHICH WE MAY ONCE AGAIN
STRIVE FOR THE THINGS THAT MATTER SO MUCH TO THE FUTURE
OF OUR FAMILIES AND OUR COUNTRY.

++++++ENDS++++++

22.12.82



Ireland
J. D.C. 8/82

10 DOWNING STREET

PROCEDURE FOR A N.IRELAND VISIT BY PM.

1. obtain briefs from PPS and copy to all members of the party. (only 1 brief is received).
2. contact Movement Operations in MOD (currently w/c. Ben Ball) and ask him to put "operation..." (using the current codeword - will be on the briefs) into immediate action - contact is to be 24 hours in advance of the visit (definitely no longer)
3. Organise a car plan to get the party to and from the airport / 10 Downing St - do not get it typed - only hand written personally for each member of the party.

D. St. Collins 21/2/82

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Copy No 11 of file



PUS/L/2367/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

20 December 1982

Dear Robin,

OPERATION PISTON

1. As promised in my note to you of 17 December, I now attach a background note on the security situation together with a list of wounded service personnel whom you can expect to see at Musgrave Park Hospital.
2. Philip Woodfield has already mentioned to John Coles over the telephone this afternoon that the list is somewhat shorter than we might have expected and that it might therefore give you cause to wonder whether a visit would still be worthwhile. Mr Woodfield pointed out to John Coles that the medical staff who attended the injured from Ballykelly will, of course, be there and he was inclined to think that the small number of casualties remaining should not deter you from a visit.
3. When you spoke to Mr Woodfield you asked him about communications during the visit. Secure telephone facilities will be available at Aldergrove, Bessbrook, Gough Barracks and HQNI Lisburn but not at Bangor, Newtownards or Musgrave Park Hospital Military Wing (although there are secure telephones in the Echelon Camp). While the party is in transit, either by helicopter or by car, contact can be maintained by radio although not on secure equipment. It seems safe to say therefore that

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

you will be able to keep your lines of contact open and that if secure facilities are not immediately to hand they will not be far away.

4. Finally there is one tiny amendment to be made to the first entry to the non-flying alternative programme. For the sake of clarity, you might like to note that where at present it says '0830 - leave London' it should say '0830 - leave Northolt'.

Yours sincerely,
David Brooker

DAVID BROOKER
Private Secretary

Encls

TOP SECRET

1/Ste for Jte

20.12.22

2056 e 510,

incident in Coosmaglan

A Rhewu Pon.

∴ add 2 to list

guardman CURLESS.

- shrapnel wound to left side
- lost left eye, wrong ill

guardman WATTS.

- shrapnel wound. suffering from shrapnel

both from 1 Goldstream front.

a matter of routine - services stand by.



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Amud mb

From the last sheet below you will see that the number of injured from Ballykelly still in Musgrave Park turns out to be small, but this will enable you to spend a little time with them and, of course, with the medical staff. So I think that this should not change the plan to include Musgrave Park.

F.E.R.B.

20.12.

Secret and Personal

10



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

Mr. Ingham

Thank. I am content but hope that we can get some TV of the PM in the shopping centre and at the hospital.

Mr. Butler

FERS

20.12.

NORTHERN IRELAND

I have agreed with Mr. Silliland, NIO, the following points:

- 1) Press Association's reporter (who is invited by NIO) will travel with the party but in a separate helicopter. He will have privileged access, since the NI media simply will not go. He will not be told anything in advance and will simply be asked to see Mr. Silliland at Stormont Castle at an appointed time
- 2) No doorstepping, no interviews, no press conference
- 3) NIO will ensure the statement is put on a tape. The message will be recorded before the camera, with the Prime Minister delivering the message seated at a desk on which there will be a copy of words

Secret and Personal

Secret and Personal



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

and a bunch of powers

- the Prime Minister will be filmed with the soldiers at lunchtime for early evening news bulletins
- the media will be excluded from the troops (as the last visit in Belfast they cost Plassey & Spence £10,000 in damages etc, according to D. Gilliland); PA will however have access
- as and when we think fit I shall let a TV and still cameraman into specific situations on the understanding they post; otherwise there will be no facilities.
- We shall have to play it by ear; but we shall incline to be more rather than less rigorous in our approach to the media.

Spencer

20/12

Secret and Personal



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND

In the folder below you will find

i. A note from Bernard Ingham on media handling;

There is a
map at
the back

{ ii. A fairweather programme, with briefing;

{ iii. A foul weather programme, with briefing;

iv. A draft of your television message (I have worked over the original draft provided by NIO and the revision has been agreed with them).

The questions to be settled are:-

i. Are you content with the two programmes?

(The foul weather one in particular has changed a bit for reasons explained in the covering letter).

ii. Do you agree with Bernard's advice on media handling?

iii. Are you content with the TV message?

F.R.B. 17.12.



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

Convey to SECRET

Personal

Dear Robin,

I have mentioned in my letter that the
draft may be a bit long. This is just a
personal note to say that my staff will be
upset if something like pages 8 & 9 are left out
not included: but of course he recognises that
it is to be his Mr's personal message.

Yours,
Phillip



PUS/L/2321/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ*Permanent Under Secretary*

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

17 December 1982

*Sean Lohan,*OPERATION PISTON

1. I attach the final version of the proposed programmes, one for use in flying weather and an alternative for bad weather. A short background note on political affairs has also been included.
2. I shall be grateful if you will let me know as soon as possible how many Special Branch men will be in the party. We have been working on the basis of there being one, but presumably there could be more. At the moment as you will see we have put John Coles in the second helicopter. Perhaps you would let me know if he would prefer to be in the first one.
3. We will let you have on Monday a note on the security situation as well as the names of the injured security forces personnel whom you can expect to meet at Musgrave Park Hospital.

Yours sincerely
David Brooker

DAVID BROOKER
Private Secretary

Encls

OPERATION PISTON - Flying Programme

- 0830 Depart Northolt
Main party: Private Secretary; Special Branch;
Supt Donaldson RUC; Press Secretary
- 0940 Arrive ALDERGROVE
Met by Secretary of State; PUS (Mr Woodfield), 2nd PUS
(Sir Ewart Bell), GOC (Sir R Richardson); Chief
Constable (Sir John Herman). RAF Station Commander
(Gp Cptn Whittaker)
In attendance: Asst Under Sec NIO (Mr Merifield);
Director of Information NIO (Mr Gilliland); Private
Secretary to Secretary of State (Mr Lyon); Secretary
of State's escort (Mr Bamford); Army Liaison Officer
(Maj Paul)
- 0950 Depart by helicopter for Bangor
H1 (Main Party, Private Secretary; Special Branch;
Supt Donaldson RUC; Press Secretary; Mr Merifield
H2 (Secretary of State, Mr Gilliland, Mr Lyon, Mr Bamford,
Maj Paul)
- 1010 Arrive BANGOR (Open area near Bangor Castle)
Met by Mayor and Deputy Mayor North Down (Rev John
McConnell Auld and Mr W Baillie); MP for North Down
(Mr James Kilfedder, also Speaker to the NI Assembly)
In attendance Miss Joan Owens NIO
- 1020 Travel by car to Bangor town centre (see plan A; 7 cars)
- 1025 Arrive BANGOR MAIN STREET, Boots Chemists entrance
Met by Chamber of Commerce representative
Tour shops on foot: calling at Boots; Hoggs (local
crystal glass) and Wellworths (general department
store on way down 100 yard high street)
- 1100 Leave Main Street (near harbour) by car (Plan B) for
helicopters

TOP SECRET

- 1105 Depart Bangor by helicopter
H1 (as before)
H2 (as before)
- 1115- Arrive MUSGRAVE PARK ARMY ECHELON BASE
1120
H2 lands followed by H1
Met by Lt Col Garry C Barnett, 1st Bn Black Watch
Walk to Musgrave Park Military Wing (200 yards)
(5 cars stand by in case of rain)
- 1125 Arrive MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL MILITARY WING
Met by Medical Officer in Charge (Col S Pat Thoresby RAMC)
Matron (Major Margaret Hudson QARANC)
Tour of Military wing to meet Army and RUC patients
(names of patients in wing to be forwarded on 17/12)
and staff who handled injured from Ballykelly etc.
- 1200 Depart Musgrave Park echelon by helicopter
(Cars stand by at hospital)
H1 and H2 as before
- 1220 Arrive BESSBROOK BARRACKS
H2 lands followed by H1 (Short walk to mess; 5 cars
stand by)
Met by Commander 8 Brigade (Brigadier Colin Mattingley OBE)
CO 1 Coldstream Guards (Sir Brian Barttelot), and
CO 2 UDR (Lt Col M J Nicholson MBE, RA)
10 minute break for tidy up (hairdresser etc required)
Buffet lunch for 30-35 officers, WO's and Sergeants
of 1 Coldstream Guards (about 20) 2 UDR (about 12)
Tour of barracks to meet other ranks
- 1400 Leave Bessbrook by helicopter
- 1410 Arrive GOUGH RUC BARRACKS ARMAGH
H2 lands followed by H1
Met by Regional RUC Commander (Asst Chief Constable
Maurice Johnstone) and Commander K Division RUC (Supt
Harrison)
Tour of RUC operations area including Special Branch HQ

TOP SECRET 2-3

TOP SECRET

Meeting with RUC wives, RUC widows and RUC officers incapacitated by wounds received during anti-terrorist duties. MP for Armagh (Mr Harold McCusker) and Chairman and Deputy Chairman Armagh DC (Mr F Charles Armstrong, and Mr D Hutchinson) to be present.

- 1510 Depart ARMAGH by helicopter (5 cars stand by)
- 1530 Arrive ALDERGROVE
- Met by RAF Station Commander (Group Capt Whittaker)
- Meet RAF staff in operations room (about 50 yards walk) (cars stand by)
- 1545 Move to VIP DEPARTURE LOUNGE to prepare for TV 'direct to camera' spot
- PUS, GOC and Deputy Chief Constable (Mr M McAtamney) in attendance
- 1600 TV talk 'direct-to-camera'
- 1615[±] Depart from Aldergrove.

TOP SECRET

CAR LIST A

Bangor Helipad to Bangor Shops

1. RUC Pilot Car and RUC VIP Escort Mr Donaldson
2. SOS and PS/SofS and Mr Bamford
3. VIP + 1 + Security (Met)
4. PS/VIP, Press Sec and Mr D Gilliland
5. Mayor of Bangor and Deputy Mayor and Mr Kilfedder MP
6. Mr Merifield and Miss J Owens
7. Spare car for hairdresser/secretarial support staff
8. RUC Rear Escort Car

CAR LIST B

Musgrave Park and later

1. RUC Pilot car - RUC VIP Escort (Mr Donaldson)
2. SofS and PS/SofS and RUC Escort Mr Bamford
3. VIP + 1 + Security (Met)
4. PS/VIP + Press Secretary and Mr D Gilliland
5. Mr Merifield and secretarial support staff
6. RUC Rear Escort

TOP SECRETOPERATION PISTON (Non-flying Alternative Programme)

- 0830 Depart Northolt
Main party; Private Secretary; Special Branch; Supt Donaldson RUC; Press Secretary.
- 0940 Arrive ALDERGROVE
Met by Secretary of State; PUS (Mr Woodfield), 2nd PUS (Sir Ewart Bell), GOC (Sir R Richardson); Chief Constable (Sir John Herman). RAF Station Commander (Gp Capt Whittaker)
In attendance: Asst Under Sec NIO (Mr Merifield) Director of Information NIO (Mr Gilliland); Private Secretary to Secretary of State (Mr Lyon); Secretary of State's escort (Mr Bamford); Army Liaison Officer (Maj Paul)
- 0950 Depart by car for Newtownards
- 1045 Arrive NEWTOWNARDS RUC STATION
Met by Asst Chief Constable Charles Rogers OBE and RUC Divisional Commander Chief Supt Michael Ford
- 1100 Depart Police Station
- 1105 Arrive WOOLCO SHOPPING CENTRE, NEWTOWNARDS
Met by the Mayor of Ards Borough Council (Alderman R E Gaw) and the Deputy Mayor (Mr J McBriar). Also the MP for North Down (Mr J Kilfedder, also Speaker to the NI Assembly).
- 1130 Depart NEWTOWNARDS for Musgrave Park Hospital, Military Wing.
- 1215 Arrive MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL MILITARY WING
Met by Medical Officer in Charge (Col Pat Thorsby) Matron (Major A Anderson)
Tour of Military Wing to meet Army and RUC patients (names to be forwarded 17/12) and staff who handle injured from Ballykelly and other incidents.
- 1250 Depart Musgrave Park for Lisburn
- 1310 Arrive LISBURN ARMY HQ

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

- 1310 Arrive LISBURN ARMY HQ
- Met by Commander Land Forces (Maj Gen Peter Chiswell):
Commander 39 Brigade (Brig Michael Hobbs) and Commander
UDR (Brig Peter Graham)
- Break
- Buffet Lunch with Officers, WO's and Sergeants from
HQNI and HQUDR
- Visit other ranks
- 1425 Leave Lisburn by road for Aldergrove
Car List B
- 1455 Arrive ALDERGROVE
- Met by Station Commander (Group Captain Whittaker)
- Meet RAF staff and families, station mess
- 1545 By car to VIP DEPARTURE LOUNGE to prepare for TV
"direct to camera" spot.
- PUS and GOC and Deputy Chief Constable (Mr H McAtamney)
in attendance
- 1600 TV interview; direct to camera 3 mins
Probably in Main Departure Lounge
- 1615 Depart Aldergrove

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

7



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

PRIME MINISTER

NORTHERN IRELAND

In the folder below you will find:-

- i. A note from Bernard Ingham on media handling;
- ✓ ii. A fairweather programme, with briefing;
- ✓ iii. A foulweather programme, with briefing;
- iv. A draft television message (I have worked over the NIO's original draft and the revised version has been agreed with them)
- v. A map showing the routes

The questions to be settled are:-

- ✓ a. Are you content with the ^{Yes} programmes? (The foulweather one in particular has changed for reasons explained in the covering letter);
- ✓ b. Do you agree with Bernard's advice on media handling? ^{Yes}
- ✓ c. Are you content with the TV message?

Donev
less

FERB

17.12.

PERSONAL

TOP SECRET

6

TOP SECRET



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

Dear Robert,

OPERATION PISTON

I should be grateful if you would assimilate the attached draft 'address to camera' with Philip Woodfield's letter to you of last evening. It should have been attached to the original letter but I am afraid was inadvertently left off.

*Yours sincerely,
David Brooker*

DAVID BROOKER

Private Secretary

TOP SECRET

16 December 1982

PUS/L/2175/MLR

DRAFT TEXT FOR FINAL TV TALK

1. I wanted to come here this Christmas to visit the security forces, who will be on duty, as they always are, over the holiday season. I also wanted to see for myself something of the day-to-day life of people in Northern Ireland.

2. I much enjoyed my brief visit to Bangor. I was glad to be able to meet ordinary people going about their business in the same way as others in the rest of the United Kingdom. I know that many people who have never been to Northern Ireland have no idea that in most of Northern Ireland, most of the time, daily life is as normal as in the rest of the United Kingdom.

3. But we never forget the appalling burden of fear and violence which all sections of the community in the Province have to bear. This hardship and hurt has fallen on civilian and service families alike. I went to Musgrave Park Hospital to see some of the survivors of the murderous attack at Ballykelly and the doctors and nurses who are caring for them, as they and their colleagues in other hospitals have cared for so many others cruelly wounded.

4. I want my visit here today to be a demonstration of the concern which the Government feels for Northern Ireland, and of our determination to secure for the people of the Province the chance to live normal, decent, prosperous lives free from the blight of terrorism.

5. Let me repeat once again that I stand foreshore with the security forces - with the RUC who are now in the forefront of the fight against terrorism, and with the Army and the UDR.

6. Terrorism is not the only problem from which Northern Ireland suffers. I am only too aware of the economic problems of the Province and of the need to reduce the high rate of unemployment.

7. The restoration of our national economy is a task to which this Government has committed itself. We accept that the economic problems of Northern Ireland are especially difficult and especially deep-seated. We are therefore doing all we can within our national policy to provide support and incentives for industry here. These measures, which are rightly generous, must and will continue.

8. But both the struggle against terrorism, and our efforts to attract investment and get the economy of the Province back to work are made more difficult by continued political instability. Parliament has provided a framework for the healthy revival of political life in the Province. It is for you to determine the ways in which that revival can be achieved.

9. It is the Government's hope, and its expectation, that this opportunity will now be seized. We shall give you all the help and encouragement we can.

PUS/L/2175/MLR

10. What I have seen today confirms my firm belief in the decency, the resilience, the steadfastness and the courage of the people of Northern Ireland. I cannot promise you an easy solution. But I give you wholeheartedly my pledge that the Government will continue to work tirelessly for the defeat of the gunmen, and the creation of a peaceful, just and fulfilling life for all sections of the community.

11. To you all, I send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

TOP SECRET

1 of 4 5



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Ref: PUS/L/3000

Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

Dear Robin,

OPERATION PISTON

Further to Philip Woodfield's letter to you of last night, I enclose the alternative programme for use in non-flying weather.

*attached
to Woodfield
to FERB
15/12/82*

*Yours sincerely,
David Brooker*

DAVID BROOKER
Private Secretary

16 December 1982

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Copy No 1 of 4

TOP SECRET



PUS/L/2184/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

15 December 1982

Len Lakin,

OPERATION PISTON

- 1. I enclose -
 - a. A programme for Operation Piston assuming flying weather
 - b. Car plan for the programme
 - c. A draft text of a talk 'direct to camera' to be made at the end of the visit.

now attached

I will send you shortly an alternative programme for non-flying weather.

- 2. The Secretary of State intends to accompany the Prime Minister throughout the visit.
- 3. The GOC and the Chief Constable will be among the small party at Aldergrove for the arrival and the GOC for the departure. The Chief Constable will leave Aldergrove immediately after the arrival to take a passing out parade at the RUC Training Centre in Enniskillen and will not be back in time for the departure, but the Deputy Chief Constable will be there.
- 4. The local MPs and civic representatives are shown as being present at appropriate points. There are however security problems about firming this up until very near the time of the visit. There is a danger that proxy names will be rumbled and civilian guests will therefore not be approached until at most 24 hours before the arrival and may not be able to attend. (We shall, of course, even at that late stage use proxy names).

TOP SECRET

5. Bangor has been chosen for the shopping area visit. We concluded that an open street was better than an enclosed centre both for crowd control and to enable the Prime Minister to be seen. A great deal of bomb damage was done to shops in Bangor but most of this, if not all, has been made good. If we have to use the non-flying programme it is likely to be very wet and a covered-in shopping centre would be preferable.

6. I am afraid that it is not practicable to visit the Army and the Police on the border if flying is out. The roads are slow and, more important, there are security risks on the return journey which would have to be more or less by the same route as that by which the party went in. But the alternative programme (to follow) based on Army HQ at Lisburn will be made as lively as possible.

7. The draft text for the talk 'direct to camera' is perhaps a bit on the long side.

8. David Gilliland is preparing a note on press cover which I have asked him to send direct to Bernard Ingham.

9. Personality notes and a short general brief on the security situation will follow. If you agree I suggest that the brief should reach you on December 20, so as to be as up-to-date as possible.

10. I am, of course, available if you want to discuss. On present plans I shall be in London for the rest of the week and on Monday 20 December.

*Yours ever,
P. J. Woodfield*

P J WOODFIELD

Encls

CRET

CRET

OPERATION PISTON

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CRET

(Green tabs)

FLYING PROGRAMME

Item

1. Programme and Car List
2. Arrival Party at Aldergrove
3. Bangor
4. Musgrave Park Hospital Military Wing
5. Bessbrook Army Camp
6. Armagh RUC Barracks
7. Aldergrove - TV Talk
8. Northern Ireland Political Affairs :
Background Note
9. Security Situation : Background Note

(Yellow tabs)

NON-FLYING PROGRAMME

Item

1. Programme and Car List
2. Newtownards
3. Musgrave Park Hospital Military Wing
4. Lisburn
5. Aldergrove - TV Talk

CAR LIST A

BANGOR HELIPAD to BANGOR SHOPS

1. RUC Pilot Car, RUC VIP Escort (Supt Donaldson) and Secretary of State's 2nd Escort
2. S of S and PS/S of S and Mr Bamford
3. VIP + 1 + Security (Met)
4. PS/VIP, Press Sec and Mr D Gilliland
5. Mayor of Bangor and Deputy Mayor and Mr Kilfedder MP
6. A/PS to VIP, Mr Merifield and Miss J Owens
7. Spare car and secretarial support staff
8. RUC Rear Escort car

CAR LIST B

MUSGRAVE PARK and later

All stages on Alternative Programme

1. RUC Pilot car - RUC VIP Escort (Supt Donaldson) and Secretary of State's 2nd Escort
2. S of S and PS/S of S and RUC Escort Mr Bamford
3. VIP + 1 + Security (Met)
4. PS/VIP + Press Secretary and Mr D Gilliland
5. A/PS to VIP, Mr Merifield and secretary
6. RUC Rear Escort

OPERATION PISTON - Flying Programme

0830 Depart Northolt

Main Party (2): 2 Private Secretaries:
Special Branch: Press Secretary

0940 Arrive ALDERGROVE

- Met by Secretary of State
PUS (Mr Woodfield)
2nd PUS (Sir Ewart Bell)
GOC (Sir R Richardson)
Chief Constable (Sir John Hermon)
RAF Station Commander (Gp Capt
Whittaker)

- In attendance

Asst Under Sec NIO (Mr Merifield)
Director of Information NIO
(Mr Gilliland)
Private Secretary to Secretary of
State (Mr Lyon)
Secretary of State's escorts
(Mr Bamford + 1)
Army Liaison Officer (Maj Paul)
Supt Donaldson RUC

0950 Depart by helicopter for Bangor

- H1 (Main Party, Private Secretary: Special
Branch: Supt Donaldson RUC: Press
Secretary: Mr Merifield) (7)

- H2 (Secretary of State, A/Private Secretary,
Mr Gilliland, Mr Lyon, Mr Bamford,
2nd RUC escort, Maj Paul, NIO Secretary)
(8)

1010 Arrive BANGOR (Open area near Bangor Castle)

- H2 arrives followed by H1

- Met by MP for North Down (Mr James Kilfedder,
Speaker to NI Assembly) and Mayor and
Deputy Mayor North Down Borough Council
(Rev John McConnell Auld and Mr W Baillie)

In attendance
Miss Joan
Owens NIO

1020 Travel by car to Bangor town centre

Car Plan A

1025 Arrive BANGOR MAIN STREET, Boots Chemists
entrance

- Met by Chamber of Commerce representative.
RUC commanded by ACC Charles Rogers, with
Chief Supt M Ford and Supt Tom Brown

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tour shops on <u>foot</u>: calling at <u>Boots</u>; <u>Hoggs</u> (local <u>crystal glass</u>) and if desired <u>Wellworths</u> (general department store on way down 100 yard high street)	
1100	Leave Main Street (near harbour) by car for helicopters	Car Plan A
1105	Depart Bangor by helicopter <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H1 (as before)- H2 (as before)	
1115	Arrive MUSGRAVE PARK ARMY ECHELON BASE <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H2 lands and takes off followed by H1- Met by CLF (Major Gen Peter Chiswell) Lt Col Garry C Barnett, 1st Bn Black Watch- Walk to Musgrave Park Military Wing (200 yds)	Landing space restricted 7 cars stand by
1125	Arrive MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL MILITARY WING <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Met by Consultant Surgeon (Lt Col O'Donovan (RAMC) and Deputy Matron (Major Alison Anderson (QARANC))- Tour of Military wing to meet Army and RUC patients (names of patients in wing to be forwarded on 17/12) and staff who handled injured from Ballykelly etc.	
1200	Depart Musgrave Park Echelon by helicopter <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H1 and H2 as before	CLF and CO Black Watch in attendance Cars stand by
1220	Arrive BESSBROOK BARRACKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H2 lands followed by H1 (short walk to mess)- Met by Commander 8 Brigade (Brig Colin Mattingley OBE) CO 1 <u>Coldstream Guards</u> (Lt Col Sir Brian Barttelot)- 10 minute break- Buffet lunch for 30-35 officers, WO's and Sergeants of 1 Coldstream Guards (about 20) and 10 UDR (about 12)- Tour of barracks to meet other ranks	7 cars stand by
1400	Leave Bessbrook by helicopter	

TOP²SECRET

- 1410 Arrive GOUGH RUC BARRACKS ARMAGH
- H2 lands followed by H1
 - Met by Regional RUC Commander (Asst Chief Constable Maurice Johnstone) and Deputy Div Commander K Division RUC (Supt Hodgett)
 - Tour of RUC operations area including Special Branch HQ
 - Meeting with RUC wives, RUC widows and RUC officers incapacitated by wounds received during anti-terrorist duties
 - MP for Armagh (Mr Harold McCusker) and Chairman and Deputy Chairman Armagh DC (Mr Charles Armstrong, and Mr D Hutchinson) to be present.
- 1510 Depart ARMAGH by helicopter
- 1530 Arrive ALDERGROVE
- Met by RAF Station Commander (Group Capt Whittaker)
 - Meet RAF staff in operations room (about 50 yards walk)
- 1545 Move to VIP DEPARTURE LOUNGE to prepare for TV 'direct to camera' spot
- PUS, GOC and Deputy Chief Constable (McAtamney) to be present
- 1600 TV talk 'direct to camera'
- 1615 Depart from Aldergrove

Tea will be available

7 cars stand by

6 cars stand by

TOP SECRET

BRIEFING ON EACH STAGE

ARRIVAL ALDERGROVE

1. SECRETARY OF STATE
2. PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY NIO
Mr Philip Woodfield, CB, CBE. PUS 1981. Deputy Secretary NIO 1972-74. (Parent Department - Home Office; Private Secretary to Prime Minister 1961-65; Secretary to Mountbatten Prison Security Enquiry 1966)
3. 2ND PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY AND HEAD OF NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVICE
Sir Ewart Bell KCB. 2nd PUS NIO 1981; Head of NICS 1979 (Northern Ireland Civil Service since 1948 incl Perm Secretary Department of Finance 1976-79)
4. GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING
Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson, KCB, CVO, CBE. GOC NI June 82; Commander 39 Brigade NI 1974-75. (Latterly GOC British Sector Berlin 1978-80 and Vice Adjutant General/Director of Manning Army 1980-81). Has also commanded Royal Scots in NI.
5. CHIEF CONSTABLE
Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable RUC 1980. Educated Larne Grammar School. RUC since 1950.
6. STATION COMMANDER
Group Captain David Whittaker (leaves NI shortly for Canada on promotion to Air Commodore)
To accompany visiting party
7. UNDER SECRETARY (POLITICAL) NIO
Mr Anthony Merifield. NIO October 1982; DHSS London 1965-82 (latterly Director of Establishments HQ)
8. DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION NIO
Mr David Gilliland. Under Secretary NIO Information Department. NI Civil Service now working in Stormont Castle. Accompanied Secretary of State on his recent visit to USA.
9. PRIVATE SECRETARY TO SECRETARY OF STATE
Mr John Lyon. Assistant Secretary. Private Secretary 1982, on secondment from Home Office.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET *mf*BANGOR

1. Provincial seaside town and headquarters North Down Borough Council in strongly Unionist area of about 60,000 population.
2. Formerly thriving yachting and holiday centre but this trade (much of it from Scotland) has declined in face of the troubles and rival holiday attractions in Europe. Light industry being developed on outskirts.
3. Many shops at lower end of Main Street (including Wellworths and the Co-op) were damaged by a car bomb in the mid-70's and have been rebuilt. Bangor is now a popular residential area, having expanded rapidly as people moved out from Belfast because of the troubles. Its shopping streets, and shopping arcades attract shoppers from Belfast.
4. Arrival by helicopter will be on an open space about 1/2 mile from the Main Street.
5. The programme includes a walk down the Main Street on what is Bangor's market day.
 - call at Boots: Manager Mr P G White. Recently opened after move from smaller premises (a move made for normal business reasons not because of bombing).
 - call at Hoggs: owner Mr Alan White (son of founder). Family business with Belfast and other provincial branches stocking high class china, glass and crystal including some from the Republic. Ulster products include TYRONE crystal from Dungannon, and BELLEEK china from Co Fermanagh.

If desired calls could be made at lower end of street to other shops including:

 - Wellworths: Manager Mr Boardman. A local "Woolworth-style" store completely rebuilt after car bomb destroyed original shop.
6. Should the weather turn exceptionally wet on arrival at the helicopter landing place, it would be possible to visit the enclosed shopping centre arcade on the outskirts of Bangor at Clandeboye. The centre houses a largish supermarket (STEWARTS), together with 15 or so other shops round a central open space. The Clandeboye Centre Management's local manager is Mr Desmond Gilpen.

PERSONALITIES

ON HELICOPTER ARRIVAL

1. MP for North Down (Speaker to NI Assembly)
Mr James Kilfedder BA, BL, MP. Educated Portora Royal and Trinity College Dublin. MP for West Belfast 1964-66 (defeated by Gerry Fitt); MP for North Down (currently 24,000 majority) since 1970. Topped the poll in North Down in 1962 Northern Ireland Assembly election and was elected (as compromise candidate) as Speaker with the support of DUP and Alliance. Firm devolutionist who opposes direct rule:

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

Takes a firm line on security and wants more troops operating on the ground. Highly individualistic politician. In Jan 1980 he set up Ulster Progressive (later 'Popular') Unionist Party, with its blueprint for devolution which mixes British, Irish and American constitutions.

2. Mayor of North Down Borough Council

Rev John McConnell Auld (OUP). Elected to the Council in 1973, Deputy Mayor 1981-82, Mayor 1982-83. Presbyterian Minister, teaches at Royal Belfast Academical Institution. Mid 50s, bachelor, flamboyant in dress, outspoken and slightly eccentric.

3. Deputy Mayor of North Down Borough Council

William Bailie (OUP). Elected to the Council 1977 (for the Unionist Party of Northern Ireland). Chairs the Finance and Policy Committee. Keen Rotarian and actively involved in organising the Save the Children Fund in Northern Ireland. Local estate agent.

AT SHOPPING AREA

4. If practicable within timescale, a Chamber of Commerce representative.

5. Regional Asst Chief Constable Charles Rodgers OBE who will be supervising local police operations unless Ballykelly work intervenes. RUC since 1942, ACC since 1981. His region includes Ballykelly and he is currently handling the bombing investigations.

6. RUC Divisional Commander Chief Supt Michael Ford of Newtownards and Bangor Sub Division Supt Tom Brown are also expected to be on duty. Chief Supt Ford has 38 years service in RUC including command of Springfield Road Division, Belfast; and Supt Tom Brown served in Belfast and Londonderry before moving to Bangor in October 1980.

TOP SECRET

MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL MILITARY WING

MILITARY WING

1. Military wing, adjacent to civilian Musgrave Park Hospital, handles army and police service personnel injured in terrorist incidents.
2. The wing also has a secure unit for treating terrorist prisoners or suspects on remand.
3. The army unit is based in what is called "the Echelon" adjacent to the hospital. Helicopters will land in the Echelon compound.
4. Programme after landing at echelon will involve short walk (or car journey if inclement weather) to the Military wing, followed by visits to military and RUC patients and hospital staff. Every effort is being made to discharge patients before Christmas, but a visit to those who are likely to remain, and to the staff who handle the emergency surgery and its follow-up, will be greatly appreciated. A list of patients will be prepared this weekend when the prognosis of each is better established.

PERSONALITIES AT ECHELON

5. Major General Peter Chiswell, CBE, Commander Land Forces since Jan 82. (Formerly Parachute Regiment).
6. Lt Col Garry C Barnett, 1st Black Watch. This is the second day in Belfast for the Black Watch who have moved from Germany. Col Barnett hands over command at the end of this "roulement" tour.

AT HOSPITAL

7. Consultant Surgeon [MO in charge, Col Thoresby, is on leave] Lt Col J P J O'Donovan, RAMC. Belfast and St Barts graduate. Served in Province before. Third month of current tour. Married, but unaccompanied by doctor wife.
8. Deputy Matron [Matron Major Margaret Hudson, is on leave] Major Alison M Anderson QARANC. Joined AQRANC on special regular commission. Hopes to obtain regular commission. Served Musgrave Park since May 1982.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Injured at Ballykelly

- 24557129 L/Cpl DUNNETT S 12 Intelligence and Security Company
Fractured Right tibia and ruptured right eardrum
Was seriously ill - now removed from all lists
- 24221117 Cpl TAYLOR WC 2 Royal Anglia
Burns to both legs and multiple shrapnel wounds
Was very seriously ill - now removed from all lists
- 24332599 L/Cpl WABY P A 1 Cheshire
Back injury - recovering

Others

- 23953878 Sergeant DILLON S D 1 Queens
Suspected infective hepatitis
- 24398812 Sergeant LAUNCHBERRY S 1 Royal Scots
Cellulitis right leg
- 491841 Captain RICHARDSON R 8 UDR
Fractured right femur
- 24558598 Fusilier ELSE 3 RRF
Tonsillitis
- 24548794 Guardsman NEW 1 Coldstream Guards
Hepatitis

INJURED IN BOOBY TRAP INCIDENT IN CROSSMAGLEN ON 20 DECEMBER

Guardsman CULLESS - 1 Coldstream Guards
shrapnel wound to left side. Lost left eye. Seriously ill.

Guardsman WATTS - 1 Coldstream Guards
shrapnel wound. Suffering from shock.

CONFIDENTIAL

BESSBROOK

BESSBROOK ARMY CAMP (County Armagh)

1. Old mill taken over early in troubles. Situated in small (2500 pop) country town.
2. HQ of a roulement battalion (4½ month tours, no accompanying families).
3. Currently occupied by 1 Coldstream Guards, and an RUC unit detached from RUC H Division Newry. 10 UDR are on duty in border area.
4. Programme includes
 - Buffet lunch for 30-35 officers, WO's and sergeants from 1 Coldstream Guards and from 10 UDR.
 - short tour of barracks to meet other ranks.

PERSONALITIES

1. Commander 8 Brigade
Brigadier C Colin Mattingley OBE. 4th tour in Province. Brigade Commander since November 82; commanded 1 Kings Own Scottish Borderers 1978-81.
2. CO 1 Coldstream Guards
Lt Col Sir Brian Barttelot BT. Involved in MOD planning of South Atlantic campaign. Assumed command July 82 and after Bn trooped colour on 1982 Queen's Birthday moved to Northern Ireland from Caterham.

C. ARMAGHGOUGH BARRACKS, ARMAGH

1. Old 18th century barracks taken over mid 70's by RUC.
2. Situated in town of Armagh (pop 12,500): country town and seat of the All Ireland primates of both the Church of Ireland and the Roman Catholic Church.
3. Currently HQ of Assistant Chief Constable (South), whose RUC region covers the whole Southern border of the Province including Armagh and Fermanagh.

Base for some Divisional Mobile Support staff
(the RUC's main anti-terrorist and public order arm)

includes anti-terrorist - search training area; special branch information unit; and one of the RUC's two main interrogation wings (the other is at Castlereagh).

4. Programme includes -

tour of operational areas

meeting with group of RUC wives and RUC widows, as well as some RUC officers disabled by service injuries. The local MP and the Chairman/Vice Chairman of the District Council would be invited to join that meeting.

PERSONALITIES

1. RUC

Assistant Chief Constable Maurice Johnstone MBE; ACC since 1981; met PM when Divisional Commander, Londonderry; married with 2 daughters.

Supt Les Hodgett, Deputy Divisional Commander (deputising for DC Chief Supt George Harrison who may be away after undergoing minor hospital treatment).

2. MP

Mr Harold McCusker. Age 42; Ulster Unionist MP for Armagh since 1974; Member of NI Assembly 1982. Former teacher and personnel officer. Takes a hard line on security issues and has pressed for more resources for security forces and reintroduction of death penalty, stop and search, ^{and} internment.

TOP SECRET

3. Armagh District Council Chairman

F CHARLES ARMSTRONG JP (OUP)

Long standing Councillor. Moderate Unionist; quiet, diplomatic but firm. Close friend of Harold McCusker. Manager of the local gas company. Prominent officer holder in the Orange, Black and Masonic Orders. Part-time Major in 2 UDR, but relieved of his 2 I/C position and assigned to the unposted list because Commander UDR was unhappy with his performance. (Mr Armstrong alleged that this was a politically-motivated decision).

4. District Council Vice Chairman

DOUGLAS HUTCHINSON (DUP)

First elected to old Armagh Rural District Council 1953/ Vice Chairman since 1978. Former Assembly and Convention Member. Unsuccessful in 1982 Assembly election. Straightforward, firmly held loyalist views, and particularly strong line on security. (Was expelled from Orange and Black Orders in mid '60s for opposing their leaders "appeasement", and in 1968 and 1969 was sentenced to short imprisonment after anti-civil rights disturbances). Owns large fruit farm.

KEYNOTE (see also security brief)

There will be strong feeling about the security situation, with recently the 26 October culvert explosion at Lurgan (about 20 miles away) when three policemen died; the death of a UDR member shot in the Customs Yard, Armagh on 10 November; and the deaths of two RUC officers shot on 16 November at Markethill, Armagh.

TOP SECRET

ALDERGROVE

1. Shortly before the preparation for the TV 'direct to camera' interview there will be an opportunity to visit some staff on duty in the RAF operations.
2. The RAF Station Commander, Group Captain David Whittaker, will have met the party on arrival. He is coming to the end of his tour and will shortly be moving, on promotion to Air Commodore, to a post in Canada.
3. Aldergrove provides servicing and staging facilities for flying troops to and from the Province, together with heavy helicopter support for the Army. It currently houses a full-time Wessex helicopter squadron, a squadron of the RAF regiment and an air movements squadron; and provides lodgement for Army Air Corps Fixed Wing crews.

~~TOP SECRET~~

I have been delighted to be able to come here to Northern Ireland this Christmas. I went briefly to Bangor ^[Newtownards] this morning and then to Musgrave Park Hospital; and I have been able to visit some of the security forces who will be on duty, as they always are, over the holiday season.

^[Newtownards]
In Bangor I was glad to meet some of those who were doing their Christmas shopping. My brief visit there underlined the fact that in most of Northern Ireland, most of the time, daily life is as normal as in the rest of the United Kingdom.

But that fact does not diminish the burden of suffering and anxiety which the actions of a few inflict on civilian and service families alike. In Musgrave Park Hospital I visited some of those injured in the terrible and cowardly attack at Ballykelly and in other acts of terrorism. For them and their families, and the families of those who have died, this Christmas has been made a cruelly sad season. Our thoughts are with them and with the doctors and nurses who are doing such wonderful work in the hospitals.

That sadness and suffering can have only one effect, and that is to set all decent people foursquare with the security forces who work to prevent terrorism - with the RUC who are in the forefront, and with the Army and the UDR.

Terrorism is not the only enemy we face. We also fight to overcome unemployment and the deepseated economic problems of

/Northern.....

TOP SECRET

Northern Ireland. The lasting solution to those problems can only come in Northern Ireland as in the rest of the United Kingdom by producing goods which compete in price, quality and design with the best in the world. That depends in the last resort on the qualities and efforts of those engaged in industry as management or work force. Government cannot do the job for them. ~~But~~ We will continue to give all the support we can through the special programmes of help which we provide to Northern Ireland.

The struggle against terrorism, and our efforts to attract investment and increase employment, need a third factor if they are to be successful - and that is a stable political ^{background.} ~~life~~. The Northern Ireland Assembly has now been established and is providing a forum for political debate in the Province. There are problems and hesitations but there are also grounds for hope in the start which the Assembly has made. It is important that the opportunity which it presents should be seized and built upon.

All I have seen today confirms my belief in the resilience, steadfastness and courage of the people of Northern Ireland and of the forces which work for law and order here. I cannot give you the Christmas present of ^{an} easy solution to the problems we face: I wish I could. But I give you whole-heartedly my pledge ^{that} /I, the Secretary of State and his Ministers and the whole Government will continue to work for the defeat of violence, and the building of a peaceful, just and fulfilling life for all sections of the Northern Ireland community.

/To you.....

E.R.

TOP SECRET

3.

To you all in Northern Ireland I send my best wishes for
Christmas and the New year.

TOP SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL AFFAIRS : BACKGROUND

1. The continuation of violence, deterioration in relations between the UK and the Irish Republic over the spring and summer, and the SDLP boycott so far of the Assembly, have emphasised the rifts in the community in Northern Ireland. The main political issues remain security, unemployment and (to a larger extent) housing.
2. On the unionist side the Official Unionist Party, led by Mr Molyneaux, continue in some disarray. Mr Molyneaux and a number of his colleagues regard the Assembly as a potential threat to the Union and a denial of majority (especially OUP) rule in Northern Ireland. The majority of the OUP members in the Assembly (and of the party as a whole), while they would like to see majority rule returned, are much less ready to see the Assembly written off. There is some discontent with Mr Molyneaux's leadership, though no obvious challenge has emerged.
3. The Democratic Unionist Party, led by Rev Ian Paisley are, by contrast, united and committed to making the Assembly work. While they too would welcome the return of majority rule, they seem persuaded that Parliament will not countenance it; and that the Assembly gives good opportunities for local representatives to exercise influence over Northern Ireland affairs. They also see the Assembly as a possible brake on Anglo-Irish relations; like the OUP, they distrust the Government's motives and fear movement towards Irish unity.
4. In the Assembly the OUP (26 members) have found themselves constantly outmanoeuvred by the DUP (21 members), together with the small Alliance Party (10 members). Moreover, they are increasingly at logger-heads with the Assembly Speaker, Mr Kilfedder, who a few years ago was a member of the OUP and is regarded as a defector. The OUP have taken issue (on the whole unreasonably) over Mr Kilfedder's allocation of Chairmanships of the six Statutory Committees of the Assembly, claiming that he has given the two best jobs to his friends the DUP. Mr Molyneaux is advocating a boycott of the Assembly, though most of his colleagues are resisting such a move. The row is likely to simmer on until the Assembly resumes on 25 January.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

5. On the nationalist side, the SDLP are in considerable difficulty. They decided to boycott the Assembly on the grounds that the Northern Ireland Act 1982 did not prescribe powersharing and the Government provided no strong Anglo-Irish dimension to accompany the legislation. They feel threatened by the electoral performance of Sinn Fein (who are trying to make inroads into the SDLP's constituency) and see no easy way to play a role on the political stage. Mr Hume will try hard to establish relations quickly with the new Irish Government (he got on badly with Mr Haughey) but there is no prospect of early participation by the SDLP in the Assembly, which they see as a body for unionists. The restoration of good Anglo-Irish relations would ease their position considerably (and in particular make it easier for them to repel the Sinn Fein threat). Thus Anglo-Irish relations will be very important to keeping the moderate nationalist constitutional party afloat.

6. Despite these not unexpected problems, the Assembly has begun to provide a useful forum for debate. It has also forced OUP, DUP and Alliance politicians to negotiate with one another, a process they have not had to undertake for some years. The attractions of the Assembly are likely to persuade the OUP to come to terms over the Chairmanships issue, and there is a chance that in time the SDLP will come to see the advantage of participation. No dramatic early moves are however likely.

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PUS/L/2367/MLR

OPERATION PISTON

SECURITY SITUATION : BACKGROUND NOTE

Current Situation

1. The last quarter of 1982 has shown a resurgence of terrorist activity, following a relatively quiet period. Tensions have been raised, especially in the Protestant community, and the new political outlet for anger given by the Northern Ireland Assembly has contributed to that. But in cold figures there has been no marked deterioration over recent years, even including the disaster of the Ballykelly bombing. This is shown in the comparative statistics for the last two years (both up to 19 December):

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
<u>Deaths</u>		
Army	10	21
UDR	13	7
RUC	13	8
RUC'R'	8	4
Civilians	57	56
	<u>101</u>	<u>96</u>
<u>Injuries</u>	1,327	515
Shooting incidents	794	379
Explosions	388	207

There is a marked falling off in all types of incidents, except in deaths, which have been at much the same level.

2. The most significant factor underlying these figures is the high incidence of successful assassinations by comparison with less dramatic terrorist activity. This reflects more skilled targetting and execution by the terrorists. From the community's point of view, it is seen as the ruthless picking off of individual

members of the RUC and UDR, usually part-time, and sometimes even retired; as they go about their daily business, they are very much at risk. The Provisional IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) have both been active in this direction, the former raising their profile after Provisional Sinn Fein's participation in the elections to the Assembly. There have been a couple of flurries of counter-action by Loyalist terrorists, with several uninvolved Catholics killed, but these have not persisted.

The Security Forces

3. The police and army have been operating at a high level since early October, when the Assembly election campaign began. They have successfully aborted a number of attempted terrorist actions, and have found a quantity of arms and ammunition. They have been particularly active in County Armagh, especially in the northern part, around Craigavon and Armagh City itself. The police have three times been engaged with terrorists in this area, resulting in the shooting dead of four members of the Provisional IRA and two of INLA. This area, together with East Tyrone (to the North-West), has also seen the bulk of individual terrorist attacks on members of the security forces.

4. South Armagh and the border have been rather quieter, since the kidnapping and assassination of a UDR Corporal in October, but the presence of experienced gangs demands continual vigilance. There has also been little activity in Fermanagh to the West, but the local Unionist population remains edgy and needs firm reassurance.

5. The cities of both Belfast and Londonderry have been relatively free of violence. In part this reflects the dislocation to terrorist forces caused by the success of the police in obtaining information against them, significantly through evidence given by terrorists turned informers. A major case depending on such evidence, against three dozen Belfast Provisionals is being heard in Court at present.

CONFIDENTIAL

Co-operation with the Garda

6. Valuable co-operation has continued between the RUC and the Garda in the Republic. The latter have made some large finds of explosive, destined for use in the North. Political developments in the Republic have had no perceptible effect. The meeting between the Heads of the RUC and the Garda on 18 December was one in a regular series. Contrary to press reports no matters arising from the change of Government were discussed. The Supreme Court in the Republic has confirmed an Extradition Order against a leading Provisional (now active with INLA on the border); while the ruling may not have effect at all generally, it is a significant breach in the hitherto rigid application of the 'political offence' principle.

Outlook

7. There may well be a short lull over Christmas, as is common, but the Republican terrorists will continue to look for targets, especially in the rural areas and among members of the security forces. They are motivated by the recent deaths of several colleagues. Members of the 'establishment' are also at risk, particularly from INLA.

CONFIDENTIAL

TOP SECRET

- 1215 Arrive Musgrave Park Hospital
- Met by Consulting Surgeon (Lt Col O'Donavan)
RAMC)
Deputy Matron (Major Alison Anderson
QARANC)
 - Tour of Military wing to meet Army and RUC
patients (names to be forwarded 17/12)
and staff who handle injured from Ballykelly
and other incidents
- 1250 Depart Musgrave Park for Lisburn
- 1310 Arrive LISBURN ARMY HQ
- Met by Commander Land Forces (Maj Gen
Peter Chiswell)
Commander 39 Brigade (Brig Michael
Hobbs)
Commander UDR (Brig Peter Graham)
 - Short break
 - Buffet lunch with officers, WO's and
Sergeants from HQNI and HQUDR
 - Visit other ranks and specialised Units
- 1435 Leave Lisburn by road for Aldergrove
- 1505 Arrive ALDERGROVE
- Met By Station Commander (Group Captain
Whittaker)
 - Meet RAF staff and families, station mess
- 1545 By car to VIP DEPARTURE LOUNGE to prepare
for TV 'direct to camera' spot
- PUS and GOC and Deputy Chief Constable
(Mr H McAtamney) in attendance
- 1600 TV interview: direct to camera 3 mins
Probably in Main Departure Lounge
- 1615 Depart Aldergrove

Car List B

TOP SECRET

CAR LIST A

BANGOR HELIPAD to BANGOR SHOPS

1. RUC Pilot Car, RUC VIP Escort (Supt Donaldson) and Secretary of State's 2nd Escort
2. S of S and PS/S of S and Mr Bamford
3. VIP + 1 + Security (Met)
4. PS/VIP, Press Sec and Mr D Gilliland
5. Mayor of Bangor and Deputy Mayor and Mr Kilfedder MP
6. A/PS to VIP, Mr Merifield and Miss J Owens
7. Spare car and secretarial support staff
8. RUC Rear Escort car

CAR LIST B

MUSGRAVE PARK and later

All stages on Alternative Programme

1. RUC Pilot car - RUC VIP Escort (Supt Donaldson) and Secretary of State's 2nd Escort
2. S of S and PS/S of S and RUC Escort Mr Bamford
3. VIP + 1 + Security (Met)
4. PS/VIP + Press Secretary and Mr D Gilliland
5. A/PS to VIP, Mr Merifield and secretary
6. RUC Rear Escort

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

- NEWTOWNARDS

1. Newtownards (10 miles from Belfast) gained a Borough Charter in 1937 and now has about 25,000 population. It is a busy agricultural centre with light engineering, hosiery and knitwear factories. It has been largely unaffected by bombing.
2. The visit will include the Divisional Police Station, recently completed.
3. There will also be a visit to the large and busy "WOOLCO" shopping centre. Its principal shops are Stewarts and Woolco (both food, clothing and hardware), with 15-20 smaller shops. It is owned by a London-based consortium.

PERSONALITIES

AT POLICE STATION

4. Regional ACC Charles Rogers OBE. RUC since 1942, ACC since 1981. His region includes Ballykelly and he is currently handling the bombing investigation.
5. Divisional Commander Chief Supt Michael Ford. 38 years RUC service, including command of Springfield Road Division Belfast till Feb 82, and service at Newry and Castlereagh.
6. Supt Austin Anderson - Newtownards since April 82, previously in RUC HQ.

AT CENTRE (If they can be contacted in time)

1. MP for North Down (and Speaker NI Assembly)
Mr J Kilfedder BA, BL, MP. Educated Portora Royal and Trinity College Dublin. MP for West Belfast 1964-66 (till defeated by Gerry Fitt); MP for North Down (currently 24,000 majority) since 1970. Topped the poll in North Down in 1982 Northern Ireland Assembly election and was elected (as compromise candidate) as Speaker with the support of DUP and Alliance. Firm devolutionist who opposes direct rule; with firm line on security and wants more troops operating on the ground. Highly individualistic politician. In Jan 1980 he set up Ulster Progressive (later 'Popular') Unionist Party, with its blueprint for devolution which mixes British, Irish and American constitutions.

TOP SECRET

AT CENTRE cont2. Mayor of Ards Borough Council

Alderman R E Gaw. Councillor for nearly 30 years: only Labour Party councillor in Northern Ireland. Deputy Mayor 1979-80, 1980-81; Mayor 1981-82 and 1982-83. Active and popular. An Inspector with Ulsterbus.

3. Deputy Mayor Ards Borough Council

Mr T J McBriar (Alliance Party) Councillor since 1973, Deputy Mayor 1981-82, 1982-83. A farmer in his early 40s, married with a young family. Area Chairman of the Round Table 1982-83, and formerly prominent in UFU Young Farmers' Association.

4. Managing Director Woolco Centre or the Head of the Service Unit will be called if possible.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL MILITARY WING

MILITARY WING

1. Military wing, adjacent to civilian Musgrave Park Hospital, which handles army and police service personnel injured in terrorist incidents.
2. The wing also has a secure unit for treating terrorist prisoners or suspects on remand.
3. An army unit is based in what is called "the Echelon" adjacent to the hospital.
4. Programme includes visit to injured army and RUC Officers, and hospital staff. Every effort is being made to discharge patients before Christmas, but a visit to those who are likely to remain and to the staff who handle the emergency surgery and its follow-up, will be greatly appreciated. A list of patients will be prepared this weekend when the prognosis of each is better established.

PERSONALITIES

1. Consultant Surgeon [MO in charge, Col Thoresby, is on leave]
Lt Col J P H O'Donovan, RAMC. Belfast and St Barts graduate. Served in Province before. Third month of current tour. Married, but unaccompanied by doctor wife.
2. Deputy Matron [Matron Major Margaret Hudson, is on leave]
Major Alison M Anderson QARANC. Joined QARANC on special regular commission. Hopes to obtain regular commission. Served Musgrave Park since May 1982.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

LISBURN

1. Lisburn is the Army HQ for Northern Ireland, and the senior Army and UDR commanders are based there together with bomb disposal teams, Royal Signals and other support staff.
2. After a short break the programme will proceed with
 - buffet lunch with Officers, WO's and sergeants from HQNI and HQUDR
 - visit to other ranks and specialist units.

PERSONALITIES

1. Commander Land Forces
Major General Peter Chiswell CBE. CLF since 1982.
Takes over as Commander Wales Aug 83 (Formerly Parachute Regiment)
2. Commander 39 Infantry Brigade
Brigadier Michael Hobbs CBE (1982). Assumed command March 82, formerly Grenadier Guards.
3. Commander Ulster Defence Regiment
Brigadier Peter Graham CBE (1981). Assumed command May 82.
Formerly Gordon Highlander.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME

ALDERGROVE

1. RAF Aldergrove provide servicing and staging facilities for troops flying in and out of the Province, and heavy helicopter support for the Army.
2. The base houses a full-time Wessex squadron, a squadron of the RAF regiment and an air movement squadron; and provides lodgement for Army Air Corps "Fixed Wing" crews.
3. Programme includes tea with representative gathering of all ranks, and families, before preparation for TV talk 'direct to camera'.

PERSONALITIES

1. Station Commander

Group Captain David Whittaker (leaves shortly for Canada on promotion to Air Commodore)



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

PAINE MINISTER

Agreed
ms

NORTHERN IRELAND - MEDIA

I would like a clear steer from you for future planning on the handling of the media during any visit.

You have agreed to speak before the Camera, rather as you did in Stormont on the last occasion, instead of holding a press conference. In fact you have not given a press conference in Northern Ireland, but you have allowed yourself to be door-stepped and to be interviewed by radio and television.

The effect of this has been to give maximum

offence to the writing press and to provide
a platform for some pretty suspect people
like Malley of Downtown Radio, who gets
close to choking you with his microphone.

I would be much happier if you
confined the visit to:

- camera shots: aftw all. your objective
is to be seen there;
- no doortep interviews or
radio and tv interviews;
- a straight to camera statement
at the end of the visit.

Content?

Yes
no

Burman 13/12

Conversation with Philip Woodfield a.m. 13 December

1. Speculation growing about a visit - so tell no-one.

2. Order of events now to be :-

Aldergrove

Bangor (instead of Newtownards) shopping centre

Musgrave Park

Bessbrook Barracks - lunch in officers' mess but
arrangement to be made to meet O.R.'s.

RUC Armagh (instead of Newry)

Aldergrove.

3. He agreed to provide draft message by Wednesday night - I said
count on not more than 3 to 4 minutes for whole appearance before
camera.

TOP SECRET

PRIME MINISTER

Suggestion 'do'
Mussgrave Park so that we 2
can stick to the programme
even if weather is bad
No press conference
- less words to
camera pub

VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

May I get your reaction to the outline programme which I have been discussing with Philip Woodfield. It is still highly provisional and in particular the order of things can be changed. The suggestions are:-

- 7.45 a.m. Leave No. 10
 - 8.30 Take off Northolt
 - 9.30 Arrive Aldergrove - visit R.A.F. + Greenjackets briefly
 - 9.50 ~~4~~ Leave Aldergrove for Newtownards by helicopter
 - 10.15 Arrive Newtownards shopping centre
Meet the Mayor, Mr. Kilfedder M.P.
 - 11.00 Leave Newtownards by helicopter
 - 11.30 Arrive Newry - visit RUC
 - 12.00 Leave Newry by helicopter
 - 12.15 Arrive Bessbrook - visit roulement battalion (Goldstream) for buffet lunch
 - 1.30 Leave Bessbrook by helicopter
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Either</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.15 Arrive Ballykelly - visit Cheshires' social center to meet soldiers and some civilians 3.00 Return Leave for Aldergrove and | <p><u>Or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.00 Arrive Mussgrave Park Hospital to visit wounded Cheshires and other civilian and military wounded. press conference (see below) |
|---|--|

Press

Bernard Ingham will give you a fuller note but his initial advice is that you do not give a press conference (but give a straight talk to camera without any interviewer, ^{3 to 4 min} about your visit and general impressions, with a Christmas message.
 agreed }

Secretary of State

He would want to welcome you and be at Newtownards to welcome you there and to see you off, but would propose to leave you to do the army by yourself.

Unhelicopterable weather

We are working this out but, subject to advice, you could probably do most of this programme by car except, of course, Ballykelly.

Conclusion

It would be helpful to have any general comment and in particular a reaction to the suggestion that you give a straight-to-camera message. If you like that idea, we will put in hand preparation of a text.

F.R.B.

10.12.



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

Government Buildings Great George Street London SW1P 3AJ

Telephone Direct Dialling 01-233 4060
Exchange 01-233 3000

*Mr T J Flesher
Principal Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister*

Your reference

Our reference ADM 18/47/03

Date *2* December 1982

Dear Mr Flesher,

VISITS TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY THE PRIME MINISTER - CODEWORD

.... I attach for your personal information copy No *1* of a memorandum explaining the use of a codeword in connection with any visits to Northern Ireland by the Prime Minister. Will you please note its contents and acknowledge receipt by signing and returning to me the enclosed receipt form.

The memorandum dated 11 March 1981 explaining the use of the previous codeword is to be destroyed.

In the event of an impending visit to Northern Ireland by the Prime Minister the necessary operational guidance will be passed to you at the appropriate time, under reference of the codeword.

*Yours sincerely,
Sam Newman.*

MRS. P. NEWMAN
Establishment Division

ADM 18/47/03

VISITS TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY THE PRIME MINISTER -
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF CODEWORD

1. It has been agreed with No.10 Downing Street that any visit by the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland should be the subject of an operational codeword. This will make it easier to inform officers who need to know of the visit beforehand, and will facilitate communication about the visit in writing or by telephone.
2. The codeword to be used is PISTON. It should normally be used in the form "OPERATION PISTON". The formal meaning of the codeword is "Visit of the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland". The codeword itself is classified CONFIDENTIAL; its meaning is classified SECRET.
3. Knowledge of the codeword and its meaning is to be controlled on the strictest possible "need to know" basis. This memorandum is accordingly issued on the authority of the PUS of NIO for the personal information of the addressee. It should not be shown, nor should the codeword or its meaning be revealed orally or in any other document, to any other officer without prior consultation with me.
4. The codeword is changed after each visit. It may also need to be changed if it is compromised by incorrect use, unauthorised communication of its meaning, or through a security breach. Any known or suspected compromise of the codeword should be reported immediately by telephone in guarded terms, and then in writing to me (telephone: 01-233 4060).

MRS. P.M. NEWMAN
Establishment Division
2 December 1982

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE,
GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON, SW1P 3AJ

PERSONAL SECRET

SECRET

PART 2 ends:-

PART 3 begins:-

nl/o to TF ADM 18/4x/03 | 2.12.52
+att Operation nl/o

