

PRIME MINISTER

Lord Mountbatten's Funeral

The senior Ministers for whom seats are to be reserved have been informed and I have been in touch with the Labour and Liberal parties about their seats.

You minuted that seats should be offered to the leader of the Ulster Unionists and the Scottish National Party. The Deputy Chief Whip spoke to me today about arrangements for the funeral, and he wondered about seating the SNP (2 members only) in preference to the other small minority parties.

Would you be content, please, to confine the minority parties to a seat for Mr Molyneaux?

A Wreath from the Government?

The Lord Chamberlain's Office say that Wreaths are to be sent to Romsey Abbey. Would you wish to send one for the Government?

The file shows that the Government has not always sent flowers for the funerals of members of the Royal Family, but did so for the funerals of Queen Mary and the Duke of Windsor.

If you do wish a Wreath to be sent, it might be a substantial one (cream and white flowers?) accompanied by a card signed by you, with a suitable inscription. That for the Duke of Windsor in 1972 read

admiration and affection
"With ~~profound respect~~, and in grateful remembrance of His Royal Highness's services to His Country and to the British Empire, from Her Majesty's Ministers."

We would submit a draft

29 August 1979

Agreed ~~that~~ SNP for Molyneaux will be there

Yes please - a very beautiful one if possible all in white

yes please do - not quite right. the above one is CVP