



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 December 1979

Rees Humphrey

I have of course written to the local RUC and Army commanders who met me at the various places I went to in Northern Ireland on Christmas Eve, but I just wanted to thank you and all the others concerned for all the arrangements that were made for my visit. We managed to meet a large number of people in a few hours, and I for one found the occasion both valuable and encouraging. I was particularly glad not only to have an opportunity to discuss the security situation with you, the Chief Constable (designate) and the GOC but also to meet the Prison Governors, other members of the prison service in Northern Ireland and the Chairman and Secretary of the Northern Ireland Prison Officers' Association. I found it most helpful to hear about their problems at first hand.

*Yours**Atkins*

The Rt. Hon. Humphrey Atkins, M.P.