

THE POPE TO NORTHERN IRELAND

The FCO are saying that the British Government has received no indication, formal or informal, that the Pope wishes to visit Northern Ireland during the course of his visit to the Republic of Ireland in September.

The Daily Star this morning says that the Foreign Office has sent a message to the Vatican: this is not true.

If we are asked whether we are seeking clarification of the Pope's intentions to visit Northern Ireland we should try not to be drawn. Unattributably we can say that we are obviously keeping in touch with the situation through our representative to the Holy See.

Would the Pope be welcome to visit Northern Ireland in principle?

You are asking a hypothetical question. Let's wait and see when we know the Pope's intentions.

CVA