

MR JAMES

Lord Mountbatten's Funeral

Two points:-


Wreaths of flowers are being sent to Romsey Abbey, and you may like to know that the Prime Minister is sending a wreath of white flowers, with this inscription:-

With admiration and affection,
and in proud memory of a great
servant of his country in peace
and in war from Her Majesty's
Ministers.

I imagine that we would be reticent about "pushing" this in any way, but there might be enquiries.

The Prime Minister and a number of senior Ministers are, of course, attending. One notable absentee will be the Lord Chancellor. Lord Hailsham will in fact be in Northern Ireland on the morning of 5 September, to swear in a new Northern Ireland judge (the first time a Lord Chancellor has been to Northern Ireland for this purpose). Lord Hailsham felt that this was a commitment which he should, in the circumstances, carry out; and his office are indeed anxious that it should get publicity if possible.

The coverage of the funeral will be so thorough that I do not know if there will be comment on those who do not attend; but the Lord Chancellor will be a rather surprising absentee, and if you can manage to get the facts across in some way at the right time I am sure his office would be very grateful.

 PETERSON

3 September 1979