

MR. CARTLEDGE

BH
30/8

Mr. Alexander

Top Copy: Pm, Aug 79 :-
Guidelines for determining
the recipients of
PM's letters to the
next of kin of members
of the security forces
killed as a result of
terrorist action in NI

The Prime Minister has now written to the next of kin of the 18 soldiers listed on the attached MOD note.

MOD confirmed to me this morning that the two listed as missing have been treated as dead from 1530 hours yesterday.

The Prime Minister raised this again last night. I mentioned to her that it would be difficult to make any distinction between these soldiers and future victims. She agreed, and said that it was her intention to write in the future.

I have told Defence and Northern Ireland that she has written these letters, and have asked Defence to notify us if, as is expected, more of Monday's casualties die. I have also asked that we should be informed of future security force deaths to enable the Prime Minister to write.

Decisions will have to be taken about the types of incident which will lead the Prime Minister to write to next of kin. Defence (David Omand) would like a letter from us giving guidance on this point.

MJP

Letter sent to David Omand.

For -
Pm
- 30/8

29 August, 1979.