

PRIME MINISTER

Cardinal Hume has now met Sir Michael Palliser to discuss the proposed Papal visit in 1982. The attached letter provides a little more information. In particular, it is clear that there is no question of the Pope travelling to Northern Ireland on this visit.

Cardinal Hume proposes to make the announcement on Sunday next, 31 August. We will co-ordinate a press line with his office and the Foreign Office. The line at present suggested refers to the Government having been consulted. Although Lord Carrington has been in touch with what is proposed, I think it better for us to say that the Government has been kept informed, and has placed no obstacle in the way of the Catholic Bishops' intention to invite the Pope.

*Done not*

*MAP*

27 August 1980

*We shall be asked whether  
I shall see him. We must  
surely plan a reception audience  
if whatever he would find acceptable  
not.*