

From The Rt. Hon. Baroness Elles



House of Lords · Westminster

1. Mr. Flesler (we shall need
briefing for Questions on
Tuesday).

2. Prime Minister

To be aware.

A.S.C. 9.
12

8th December, 1983

Dear Prime Minister

Haagerup Report on Northern Ireland

This Report will be presented by Haagerup to a special meeting of the Political Affairs Committee at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the evening of Monday 12th December. The status of the document is as follows :

- i) It will not be official because it will only be in English and not in the other languages of the Community.
- ii) a) The "Explanatory Memorandum" will contain the personal view of the Rapporteur (Haagerup) and is not in any sense the expression of the view of either the Committee or the Parliament.
b) The "Motion for a Resolution" which will be attached to the Report will only be a draft, which may be modified or amended in the Committee stages (January and February 1984) and finally in the plenary session of March 1984 (if there is no slippage).
c) The Motion for a Resolution remains a draft until it is adopted by the Parliament in plenary session.

In the compilation of this Report, Haagerup has been solely responsible. There has been no public hearing or visit of the Political Affairs Committee to Northern Ireland, as had been suggested when he was appointed Rapporteur.

Although the document has not yet been circulated, I think we can assume there will be no proposal of any kind concerning a change in the constitution of Northern Ireland which, in any case, even the Parliament has accepted is not within its competence.

You will, of course, be kept fully informed of developments in the European Parliament.

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continued . . .

Because of this meeting in Strasbourg it will not be possible to attend the Dinner in your honour in the House of Lords on Monday 12th. I am extremely sorry not to be able to come but you will understand that as Group Spokesman for the time being on Northern Ireland, I feel I must be in Strasbourg that evening.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jim Prior and to Henry Plumb.

All best wishes, as always

[Handwritten signature]
Baroness Elles

BARONESS ELLES

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
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London S.W.1.