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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 July, 1983

When your Secretary of State called on the Prime Minister this morning there was some discussion of the arrangements which should be made for official contact with Mr. Haagerup, the Rapporteur of the European Assembly, who is to produce a report on Northern Ireland.

Mr. Prior explained that Haagerup would be visiting Dublin where he would certainly be warmly received. Haagerup had informed Mr. Prior that he wished to visit Belfast. Mr. Prior had no intention of seeing him himself, but thought it important that Haagerup should understand our side of the story. In general, he seemed to be behaving responsibly. He would have no contact with Sinn Fein or Mr. Gerry Adams.

Following discussion, it was agreed that while officials could receive Mr. Haagerup in Belfast, Ministers should not do so. No Cabinet Minister should see Haagerup, but Mr. Scott would invite him to lunch, together with one or two members of the European Assembly, in London. The names of Lady Elles and Lord Harmor-Nicholls were mentioned as possibilities.

In agreeing to these arrangements, the Prime Minister said that we should not put ourselves in a position where we could not criticise the Rapporteur's report if we wished to.

I am sending copies of this letter to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

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