

MAIN PROGRAMME

~~TOP SECRET~~

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N. Ireland
Xmas 1983

OPERATION PISTON - Flying Programme

0830 Depart Northolt

Main Party (2): 2 Private Secretaries:
Special Branch: Press Secretary

0940 Arrive ALDERGROVE

- Met by Secretary of State
PUS (Mr Woodfield)
2nd PUS (Sir Ewart Bell)
GOC (Sir R Richardson)
Chief Constable (Sir John Hermon)
RAF Station Commander (Gp Capt
Whittaker)

- In attendance

Asst Under Sec NIO (Mr Merifield)
Director of Information NIO
(Mr Gilliland)
Private Secretary to Secretary of
State (Mr Lyon)
Secretary of State's escorts
(Mr Bamford + 1)
Army Liaison Officer (Maj Paul)
Supt Donaldson RUC

0950 Depart by helicopter for Bangor

- H1 (Main Party, Private Secretary: Special
Branch: Supt Donaldson RUC: Press
Secretary: Mr Merifield) (7)

- H2 (Secretary of State, A/Private Secretary,
Mr Gilliland, Mr Lyon, Mr Bamford,
2nd RUC escort, Maj Paul, NIO Secretary)
(8)

1010 Arrive BANGOR (Open area near Bangor Castle)

- H2 arrives followed by H1

- Met by MP for North Down (Mr James Kilfedder,
Speaker to NI Assembly) and Mayor and
Deputy Mayor North Down Borough Council
(Rev John McConnell Auld and Mr W Baillie)

In attendance
Miss Joan
Owens NIO

1020 Travel by car to Bangor town centre

Car Plan A

1025 Arrive BANGOR MAIN STREET, Boots Chemists
entrance

- Met by Chamber of Commerce representative.
RUC commanded by ACC Charles Rogers, with
Chief Supt M Ford and Supt Tom Brown

1-3
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- Tour shops on foot: calling at Boots; Hoggs (local crystal glass) and if desired Wellworths (general department store on way down 100 yard high street)
- 1100 Leave Main Street (near harbour) by car for helicopters Car Plan A
- 1105 Depart Bangor by helicopter
- H1 (as before)
 - H2 (as before)
- 1115 Arrive MUSGRAVE PARK ARMY ECHELON BASE
- H2 lands and takes off followed by H1
 - Met by CLF (Major Gen Peter Chiswell)
Lt Col Garry C Barnett, 1st Bn
Black Watch
 - Walk to Musgrave Park Military Wing (200 yds)
- 1125 Arrive MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL MILITARY WING
- Met by Consultant Surgeon (Lt Col O'Donovan (RAMC) and Deputy Matron (Major Alison Anderson (QARANC))
 - Tour of Military wing to meet Army and RUC patients (names of patients in wing to be forwarded on 17/12) and staff who handled injured from Ballykelly etc.
- 1200 Depart Musgrave Park Echelon by helicopter
- H1 and H2 as before
- 1220 Arrive BESSBROOK BARRACKS
- H2 lands followed by H1 (short walk to mess)
 - Met by Commander 8 Brigade (Brig Colin Mattingley OBE)
CO 1 Coldstream Guards (Lt Col Sir Brian Barttelot)
 - 10 minute break
 - Buffet lunch for 30-35 officers, WO's and Sergeants of 1 Coldstream Guards (about 20) and 10 UDR (about 12)
 - Tour of barracks to meet other ranks
- 1400 Leave Bessbrook by helicopter

Car Plan A

Landing space restricted

7 cars stand by

CLF and CO Black Watch in attendance
Cars stand by

7 cars stand by

1410	<p>Arrive <u>GOUGH RUC BARRACKS ARMAGH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H2 lands followed by H1 - Met by Regional RUC Commander (Asst Chief Constable Maurice Johnstone) and Deputy Div Commander K Division RUC (Supt Hodgett) - Tour of RUC operations area including Special Branch HQ - Meeting with RUC wives, RUC widows and RUC officers incapacitated by wounds received during anti-terrorist duties - MP for Armagh (Mr Harold McCusker) and Chairman and Deputy Chairman Armagh DC (Mr Charles Armstrong, and Mr D Hutchinson) to be present. 	Tea will be available
1510	Depart ARMAGH by helicopter	7 cars stand by
1530	<p>Arrive ALDERGROVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met by RAF Station Commander (Group Capt Whittaker) - Meet RAF staff in operations room (about 50 yards walk) 	6 cars stand by
1545	<p>Move to VIP DEPARTURE LOUNGE to prepare for TV 'direct to camera' spot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PUS, GOC and Deputy Chief Constable (McAtamney) to be present 	
1600	TV talk 'direct to camera'	
1615	Depart from Aldergrove	