



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

23 December 1982

A point which came up during the Prime Minister's visit to 1 Coldstream at Bessbrook yesterday, during her Christmas visit to Northern Ireland, was that there is a shortage of overboots for troops operating on patrols in the border areas. The Prime Minister was told that there was not as many as one pair of overboots for each man, and also that the overboots wore out very quickly.

Mrs. Thatcher wondered whether anything could be done about this. She gathers that the present overboots are manufactured in Canada. With unemployment at its present level, she felt that it ought to be possible to arrange for overboots of the type required to be manufactured in the United Kingdom, perhaps in Northern Ireland itself.

Could you please arrange for me to have a note on this.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jonathan Spencer (Department of Industry).

E. E. R. BUTLER

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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