

TOP SECRET

W

15

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND
(CODEWORD - 'OPERATION ABERCORN')

I have been discussing an outline programme with
Sir Philip Woodfield. It follows a similar pattern to last
year's which seemed to everyone to have the right ingredients

in the right order. Current thoughts are:-

Leave No. 10 or Chequers about 0745

0830 Fly from Northolt in HS 125

0940 Arrive Aldergrove

Helicopter to Newtownards

Walkabout in market square and visit shops
(There is also a covered shopping centre if wet)

Helicopter to Musgrave Park

Visit barracks (Royal Regiment of Wales) and
military hospital if there are any wounded soldiers
in over Christmas. You did this last year but it
is thought to be worth doing again, and this is the hospital
where any injured soldiers in hospital at Christmas will be.

Helicopter to Armagh for Christmas lunch with
the Grenadiers (39 brigade)

Helicopter to Anghnachoy - a town right ~~of~~ on the border
in the Dungannon salient - and visit Cheshire (8 brigade),
RUC and UDR

About 1530

Return to Aldergrove for any TV/press arrangements — Bernard Ingham will put in a note to you.

If the weather prevents helicopters from flying, we would be able to do most of this programme by car, with the exception of Musgrave Park and possibly Aughnacloy.

On the assumption that DT comes, the party will be:

You

DT

FERB

Bernard Ingham

Two protection officers

The Secretary of State and Sir Philip Woodfield will accompany us in Northern Ireland.

Two questions:

Yes

i. May I assume that DT will come?

ii. Are you content with the general shape of these proposals? If so, I will show you a detailed programme next week.

Yes

FERB.