

PRIME MINISTER

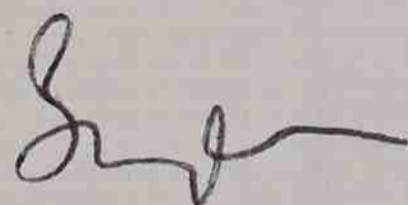
OPERATION ABERCORN

I attach at Annex I a draft statement which you might issue at the end of your visit, as you agreed.

Could I also remind you that, subject to advice on the spot, you will have three opportunities to address a wider public through the media (cameras, microphone and press) at:

- Newtownards police station: a few words to the officers would get over your message through the evening papers and early broadcasts
- Armagh Barracks: I suggest you treat this as your main platform
- the border post: anything you say here is likely to be used because of the dramatic situation.

We can of course work on the message for issue on departure on the way out, if you wish.



B Ingham
22.12.83

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON DEPARTURE

At the end of my visit I would like to address a few words to the people of Northern Ireland as they prepare to celebrate Christmas.

We have had a hard day in N.I.

First, I have been greatly heartened by the warmth of my reception by ~~the~~ *great* people ~~and those who~~ *of the main union who*, with great courage and fortitude, are working for peace and reconciliation in the community.

Second, ~~the~~ British Government is firmly committed to improving the daily life of the people of Northern Ireland.

Third, the inhuman, contemptuous and contemptible work of the terrorists is, ~~and will remain, utterly~~ *and will remain, utterly* counter-productive: we do not give in to bullets or bombs.

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Fourth, while we grieve for those who lost their lives or were maimed and injured in London a week ago, we remember all those who throughout the years have suffered death or injury at the hands of terrorists, both in Northern Ireland and on the mainland.

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To all who yearn for peace with freedom I wish you a happy and joyful Christmas. And a happier and more joyful New Year.

HOME MINISTER

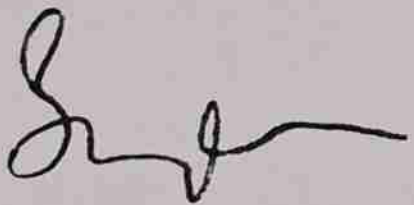
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B Ingham
22.12.83

TOP SECRET

DRAFT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON DEPARTURE

I have had a heartwarming day among

~~At the end of my visit I would like to address a few words to the people of Northern Ireland as they prepare to celebrate Christmas.~~

~~First, I have been greatly heartened by the warmth of my reception by the people and those who, with great courage and fortitude, are working for peace and reconciliation in the community.~~

Second, the British Government is firmly committed to improving the daily life of the people of Northern Ireland.

Third, the inhuman, contemptuous - and contemptible - work of the terrorists is, and will remain, utterly counter-productive: we do not give in to bullets or bombs.

Fourth, while we grieve for those who lost their lives or were maimed and injured in London a week ago, we remember all those who throughout the years have suffered death or injury at the hands of terrorists, both in Northern Ireland and on the mainland.

To all who yearn for peace with freedom I wish you a happy and joyful Christmas. And a happier and more joyful New Year.

TOP SECRET