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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

*Restricted**25*

Permanent Under Secretary
Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

B Ingham Esq
Chief Press Secretary
to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street

22 December 1983

Dear Mr. Ingham,

OPERATION ABERCORN

I understand that you have been in touch with David Gilliland about press facilities.

We have made the following arrangements, which I believe will meet your requirements:

- a. no press/TV on arrival
- b. open press attendance at Newtownards, but no close microphones
- c. rota party of 6 only will be allowed at Newtownards police station; they will be called in at the end of the coffee reception to record the final farewells
- d. open press facility on arrival at entrance of Drumadd Barracks. A selected rota party to be allowed to film farewell statement at end of lunch. No other press involvement
- e. selected rota party to travel from Drumadd to final [undisclosed] engagement. They will be carried to the Aughnacloy base in a military vehicle by a route which minimises risk of their being followed by other pressmen. Two minutes before move to check point Mr Gilliland will escort the rota party to the check point itself
- f. no press presence on departure but facilities will be available to type a farewell message which will be communicated by David Gilliland to Stormont Castle for distribution. Because there will be no TV interview, departure will be 15.30 if the main flying programme is followed.

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No doubt you will get in touch with David if necessary. I am copying this to Robin Butler.

*Yours sincerely,
Simon Marsh*

S A MARSH
Private Secretary

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