



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 December 1983

*My dear General.*

I was enormously impressed and encouraged, on this visit to Northern Ireland as previously, by the professionalism and morale of the Armed Forces I saw there. They are in Northern Ireland in the just cause of promoting peace and reconciliation, and of enabling the people of Northern Ireland to lead their daily lives in peace and safety. We owe an enormous debt to those who undertake this task, often in conditions of risk and danger to themselves.

Please will you pass on my thanks to Brigadier Rose and Brigadier Mattingley for receiving me at Drumadd Barracks and Aughnacloy. To them, to you, and to all who serve under you, I send my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*Yours sincerely*

*Robert Richardson*

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Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson, KCB, CVO, CBE.