



PUS/L/229/MLR

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Permanent Under Secretary
R J Andrew CB

F E R Butler Esq
Principal Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

5 July 1985

Dear Robin,

EQUITY

Earlier this year we discussed the possibility of a visit by the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland. We agreed that there was advantage in her staying overnight, which would permit a more extended visit than has previously been possible and would be seen as evidence of the greater normality of conditions in the Province compared with a few years ago. Dates have been noted in diaries, but for security reasons I will not mention them in this letter. I know that my Secretary of State discussed with the Prime Minister on 3 July his view that the visit should follow rather than precede any agreement with the Irish Government. As the next step I promised to let you have an outline of a possible programme.

2. On the first day we would propose that the Prime Minister should arrive at RAF Aldergrove at about 1015 and then travel by helicopter to Larne to open a new Ferry Terminal building. There would be a short speech followed by a walkabout. From Larne she would travel to Magherafelt to visit a school there, before going on to Loughry Agricultural College near Cookstown, where there would be a buffet lunch for about 30 guests from the local community. In the afternoon the Prime Minister would visit the British Army battalion stationed at Lisanelly Barracks, Omagh, where local RUC and UDR detachments could also be present. This would be followed by a visit to a small award-winning electronics firm at Portadown. In the evening that would be a reception at Hillsborough Castle for about one hundred guests, followed by a dinner for about 24 guests including party political leaders and others prominent in public life. This would provide an opportunity for a major speech, which could be televised.

3. After spending the night at Hillsborough, the Prime Minister would, on the second morning, visit the Army Headquarters at Lisburn and a Police Training establishment at Garnerville (on the outskirts

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of Belfast) before going to the Harland & Wolff yard to name a ship. This ceremony would be followed by a lunch attended by up to 200 guests, with another speech. After lunch the Prime Minister would return to RAF Aldergrove and visit the special Army unit there before flying back to London at about 3.30 pm.

4. We have tried to create a balanced programme which would take in the Western as well as the Eastern part of the Province and include occasions of a social and economic character as well as visits to the Security Forces. The Prime Minister would meet a variety of people from both the majority and minority communities, and there would be an opportunity for at least one major speech. You will see that we have incorporated both the Ferry Terminal opening and the ship-naming ceremony about which approaches have already been made to the Prime Minister. This makes a fairly heavy programme, but I think it is just about manageable.

5. I have discussed this programme with Mr Hurd but at this stage have not approached the Chief Constable and the GOC, although at the time of our earlier discussion I established with the Chief Constable that an extended visit of this sort would not present any insuperable security problems (subject of course to review nearer the time in the light of developments).

6. I would welcome your views on the programme outlined above. You may like to discuss it with me - in which case it would be helpful if we could meet before 18 July when I plan to go on leave.

Your own,



R J ANDREW

Encl

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DRAFT NO 1 Day 1

<u>Flying</u>	<u>Non-Flying</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1015	1015	1. Arrive RAF ALDERGROVE	
1020		Depart ALDERGROVE by helicopter	
1035		2. Arrive helipad at LARNE, transfer to car for short journey to Ferry terminal	
1040	1045	3. Arrive Ferry terminal building	See note below
1045	1050	4. OPENING OF NEW TERMINAL Walkabout meeting travelling public, transport workers and harbour workers	Speech on tourism and transport
1120	1120	Depart LARNE by helicopter	(SEALINK Ferry sails 11.30)
1130	1130	Arrive CARRICKFERGUS, visit FLAXALL PRODUCTS LTD, a subsidiary of (and showcase for) Kirkpatrick, Linron of Ballyclare, winners of 1985 Queen's Award for Exports	In term time a visit to Rainey Endowed School could be substituted at this point but allowing a minimum of 45 minutes. Serials 5-16 will be 15-20 mins later
1200	1200	5. Depart CARRICKFERGUS by helicopter	
1225	1255	6. Arrive LOUGHRY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, COOKSTOWN	
1230- 1245	1300- 1315	7. Break	

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<u>Flying</u>	<u>Non-Flying</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1245 for 1300	1330 for 1345	8. Pre-lunch drinks 9. LUNCH (Buffet) for approx 30 guests from local community	
1400- 1410	1445- 1500	10. Break	
1415		11. Depart LOUGHRY COLLEGE by helicopter	
1430	Omit	12. Arrive LISANELLY BARRACKS OMAGH to visit 3 Light Infantry (550-600)	Omagh District Council area, (Chairman not to be invited). Local RUC, and UDR detachment to be present
1530		13. Depart OMAGH	
1555	1540	14. Arrive PORTADOWN helipad, transfer to cars for drive to BLOOMER ELECTRONICS in Carn Industrial Estate	21 employees; winner of 1985 Export Award for Smaller Businesses
1630	1615	15. Depart PORTADOWN by helicopter	
1645	1630	16. Arrive HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE	
1645- 1745	1630- 1730	17. Break	
1745- 1845	1745- 1845	18. RECEPTION (at 1730) Hillsborough Castle for 100 guests	
1845- 1930	1845- 1930	19. Break; final speech preparation	

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<u>Flying</u>	<u>Non-flying</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1930 for 2000	1930 for 2000	20. DINNER at Hillsborough Castle (Max 26)	Suggested guest list attached. Opportunities for political speech with TV

NOTE: Serials 1-4:if more time is needed it is suggested that departure from London be 15 minutes earlier to enable arrival at Ferry Terminal at 1025 (1030 non-flying)

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DRAFT NO 1

Day 2

<u>Flying</u>	<u>Non-Flying</u>	<u>Serial</u>	<u>Notes</u>
	0845	1. Depart Hillsborough Castle by car	
	0900	2. Arrive HQNI LISBURN	Meet GOC, Cmdr
	1000	Depart HQNI	UDR; briefing, and meet troops
	1030	3. Arrive RUC GARNERVILLE (or Knock)	
	1130	Depart RUC GARNERVILLE	
	1145	4. Arrive HARLAND & WOLFF	
	1200	5. Naming Ceremony	
	1230 for 1300	6. LUNCH	Approx 200 guests can be accommodated
	1400- 1410	7. Break	
1415	1415	8. Depart HARLAND & WOLFF by helicopter	
1430	1445	9. Arrive ALDERGROVE	
1430- 1530	1445- 1545	10. Visit Army at Aldergrove	
1535	1550	11. Depart Aldergrove	

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TOP SECRETSUGGESTED GUEST LIST FOR DINNER AT HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE

Host	1	Secretary of State (Mrs Hurd)
	2	PS/SofS
Visiting Party	3	P
	4	2nd P
	5/6	2 Private Secretaries
	7	1 Press Secretary
NIO	8	PUS
	9	Mr Bloomfield
	10	Mr Merifield (Visit administration)
	11	Mr Gilliland (Information)
Guests	12/15	4 NI Party Political Leaders
	16	Speaker of NI Assembly
	17	Lord Mayor of Belfast
	18	Mayor of Derry City Council
	19	Chairman of SACHR - Mr J O'Hara
	20	Chairman of FEA - Mr Robert Cooper
	21	Chairman of EOC - Mrs M Clark-Glass
	22	Chairman of Police Authority - Sir Myles Humphreys
	23	Chairman of NIHE - Mr Norman Ferguson
	24	Chairman of IDB - Sir Desmond Lorimer
	25	Vice Chancellor of QUB - Sir Peter Froggatt
	26	Vice Chancellor UU - Mr Derek Birley
Reserves	27	National Governor of BBC - Lady Faulkner (or?)
	28	NI representative on IBA - Mrs Jill McIvor
	29	Chairman Police Complaints Board - Mr Damien Green
	30	Chairman Probation Board - Mr James Grew

Alternatively Mr Merifield (10), Mr Gilliland (11), one of the 2 Private Secretaries (6) and possibly PS/SofS (2) could dine separately at Hillsborough and be available for the after dinner speeches. That would enable reserves to be included on the main dinner list.

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NEW PASSENGER TERMINAL AT LARNE HARBOUR

Larne Harbour which is owned by Larne Harbour Ltd, a subsidiary of the European Ferries Group, is the only one of Northern Ireland's main commercial ports in private ownership. It currently handles 35% of all trade passing through NI ports and specialises in drive on/drive off services to Stranraer, Cairnryan, Fleetwood and Liverpool.

In 1984 1.26 million passengers, almost 500,000 vehicles and 3.4 million tons of goods passed through the port.

Larne Harbour Board employs some 140 people. The new passenger terminal is a £1.9 m construction, granted aid by the Department of Economic Development and the European Regional Development Fund. It will provide direct under cover passenger access to ships' gangways, baggage handling facilities, a shop, restaurant facilities booking offices for the various travel companies and administrative offices.

The arrival and departure times of the BR Larne - Stranraer and the Townsend Thorenson ferries are frequent and there will therefore always be a number of people in transit through the terminal building.

TOWNSEND THORESEN - LARNE/CAIRNRYAN

Dept Larne	Arrive Cairnryan	Dept Cairnryan	Arrive Larne
04.00	06.15 (Except Sun/Mon)	00.30	02.45 (Except Sun/Mon)
08.00	10.00	04.30	06.30 (Except Sun/Mon)
11.30	13.45	07.45	10.00
16.00	18.00	12.00	14.00
20.00	22.15	15.30	17.45
23.00	01.00 (Except Sat/Sun)	19.30	21.30

SEA LINK - LARNE/STRANRAER

Dept Larne	Arrive Stranraer	Dept Stranraer	Arrive Larne
03.30	06.00)	03.00	06.00)
08.00	10.15)	05.30	08.00)
12.30	15.00)	07.00	10.00)
15.30	17.45) Mon/Sat	16.00	18.30) Mon/Sat
18.30	20.45)	19.00	21.15)
20.00	22.35)	23.59	02.30)
22.30	00.45)		

FLAXALL PRODUCTS LTD, CARRICKFERGUS

(130 employees)

This is the holding company of which Kirkpatrick Linron of Ballyclare (100 employees) winners of the 1985 Queen's Award for Expert Achievement is a subsidiary. The premises at Ballyclare where flax is processed are not suitable for visitors but the management are pleased to receive visitors at Carrickfergus where household goods mainly curtains and bedspreads are made.

The group have contracts with a number of farmers in South Down and South Armagh for the growing of 1,000 acres of flax this year. Flax growing is being revived in Northern Ireland and linen products are increasing in popularity.

LISANELLY BARRACKS, OMAGH

3 Light Infantry (550 - 600 men) have recently moved to Omagh and will be there for 2 years.

A separate barracks in Omagh, St Lucia, is the base for 6 UDR. Representatives from the UDR could be invited to Lisanelly Barracks.

SHORT BACKGROUND NOTE ON LOUGHRY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Loughry Agricultural College in Cookstown is one of the three residential Agricultural Colleges in Northern Ireland.

The College accommodates approximately 215 students.

Out⁴ term time when students are on holiday in order to reimburse expenses the college rents accommodation to various outside groups for meetings etc eg Federation of Women's Institutes for Northern Ireland hold their annual meeting in the College last week in July.

BLOOMER ELECTRONICS LTD - CARR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PORTADOWN

1. 21 employees at present - likely to double by the end of the year.
2. Winners of an 1985 Export Award for Smaller Businesses.
3. The Export Award for Smaller Businesses is the only Government backed export award specifically tailored for the UK smaller business exporter and it is presented through the British Overseas Trade Board who co-sponsor with British Caledonian Airways Limited, Midland Bank and Thomas Cook. Further support is given by the Department of Trade and Industry (Small Firms Division) the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, the British Invisible Exports Council the CBI and the TUC. This Award has no connection with the Queen's Award for Industry.
4. Bloomer Electronics Limited was started by Mr Jim Bloomer in 1975 and it has subsequently developed and expanded. It has gained the franchise for many of the world's leading electronics manufacturing companies, servicing the new technology industry throughout Ireland, and an associated company has been set up in Ennis, Co Clare, which makes it easier to obtain orders from Republic based companies. At first Bloomer Electronics simply supplied firms like Wang, Apple and Digital with components for their companies-designed electronics systems but it was later decided to help in the design of manufacturing. Such has been the success of the firm, it is now planned to double the 21 strong workforce later this year.

RECEPTION AT HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE

One hundred guests is the maximum number that can be accommodated comfortably in the Throne Room at Hillsborough Castle for a reception at which a distinguished visitor would circulate to meet guests.

Lists are available of persons nominated by NI Departments as deserving for an invitation to a function at Hillsborough.

These lists include workers in the health and social security service, housing, local government, transport, fire, roads and water services, agriculture, youth training, education.