

CONFIDENTIAL



26 AA

Defence  
min

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

28 April 1982

Dear Colonel Durrant,

PROTECTION OF  
BRITISH VIPS ON VISITS ABROAD

Thank you for sending me a copy of your minute of 19 April 1982 about the protection of British VIPS on visits abroad.

As far as No 10 is concerned, the arrangements set out in Sir Antony Acland's minute of 1 December 1981 are working satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Whinnery.

Colonel P A W G Durrant,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

AA



TXS 442/9

See Distribution

## PROTECTION OF BRITISH VIPS ON VISITS ABROAD.

1. May I draw your attention to Sir Antony Acland's minute ZSS 2/340/1 dated 1 December 1981. The review of the arrangements referred to in the minute is due to be completed about 1 June 1982.

2. I would be grateful for any comments you may have by 14 May 1982. These will be embodied in a draft and re-circulated for your agreement before submission to Mr Patrick Wright.

19 April 1982

*[Signature]*  
Colonel P A W G Durrant  
Head of Security Section  
Protocol and Conference Department

Distribution:-

Private Secretary

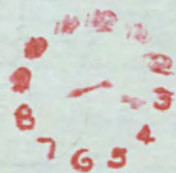
PS/PUS  
All DUSS  
All AUSS  
Mr Broadley, Security Department  
Mr Gray, MAED  
Mr Galdstone, WED  
Mr Evers, RID  
Mr Fenn, News Department  
Mr Moss, PUSD (CN)  
Mr Flower, PUSD (DSE)  
Mr Pilling, F4 Div Home Office (2)  
Mr Ranson, Box 500  
Mr Saunders, GC HQ  
Mr O'Neill, Cabinet Office  
Mr Whitmore, No 10 Downing Street.

*[Red arrow]* Mr Whitmore.  
I talked this over with Gordon Sawthorn and the arrangements are completely in order as far as the PM's overseas trips go. Regarding Mark, I had a word with the chief protection officer and he always informs both Durrant of intended overseas trips.

*[Signature]*  
27/4/82



20 APR 1982



ba/rna



CF for filing.

Diplomatic Missions

1. Mr. Ruffles.

Paragraph 6 will

CONFIDENTIAL

yes.

primarily take care of the problem of Mark Thacker

Jointly forward.

which is discussed recently, once his secretary has typed as

W.

2. Supt. Castagnone copy to GC, to see.

fall 2xii

(ZSS 2/340/1)

Mr. du Boulay,  
P. and C. Dept.

PROTECTION OF BRITISH VIPs ON VISITS ABROAD

1. In the light of recent experience, I have reviewed with your Department and others concerned the procedures for handling the security aspects of overseas visits by British VIPs. The results are set out below.

General

2. Responsibility for the protection of British VIPs is shared among a number of bodies (list attached) and there is no single co-ordinating point. Thus, the Security Service is responsible for the overall assessments of any evidence of specific threats. The Metropolitan Police Special Branch (MPSB) provides protection for those judged on general grounds to be in need of it in the UK; and, in connection with overseas visits, decide whether the threat is such that an MPSB protection officer should accompany the VIP for liaison purposes. The actual provision of protection overseas is the responsibility of the local police, following information provided by and consultation with MPSB and the FCO post concerned. The FCO and posts abroad are automatically involved in official visits by Ministers, but not necessarily those of other VIPs, particularly when travelling privately.

3. A number of recent incidents have shown that confusion and consequent error could arise from this division of responsibility. In particular, the head of Security Section in your Department (Colonel Durrant) has had responsibility only for visits overseas arranged by FCD (i.e. those by FCO Ministers). In addition he is Security Adviser to the UK delegation to major conferences overseas and has been available to advise other departments on their Ministerial visits. Partly for this reason, the FCO was not always told about some visits, as should have been the case. A further problem was that information about threats was not passed to all those who needed to be able to link it to plans for visits.

4. The rest of this minute summarises the corrective action which will now be taken in these and related areas.

FCO co-ordinating point for VIP visits overseas

5. Given Colonel Durrant's existing responsibilities, it is obviously right that he should act as the co-ordinating point in the FCO for all matters concerning VIP visits overseas. His terms of reference are therefore being amended to cover "liaison with

/geographical

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

geographical desks, other Departments, and posts about visits overseas by those who are given protection by Special Branch".

Notification of VIP visits.

6. The MPSB have agreed to tell the FCO of any visits overseas by VIPs who receive protection in the UK, whether or not MPSB foresee any threat during such visits. It will be for Colonel Durrant (in consultation as necessary with Security Department, FUSD and geographical departments) to notify the post(s) concerned and, having obtained a threat assessment from the Security Service, to send any appropriate instructions to posts.

Information about threats.

7. Police authorities (MPSB and RUC) have also been reminded of the need to pass to the Security Service all information about terrorist threats against VIPs who are given protection. The Security Service are responsible for disseminating information of this type, and their assessment of it, to other Western European countries within the TREVI machinery, and to other countries through their bilateral liaisons.

Visits by MPSB protection officers overseas.

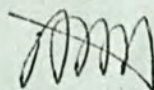
8. Colonel Durrant will be told whenever MPSB officers travel overseas in connection with the protection of British VIPs; he will be responsible for informing others concerned.

Royal Visits.

9. Royal protection is dealt with separately. Primary responsibility rests with the Royalty Protection Group, which is part of the Metropolitan Police. You have already written to the Palace about the need to keep the FCO informed of all Royal visits overseas (including private ones) so that we and posts abroad can ensure that proper security measures are considered.

Review.

10. I should be grateful if you or Colonel Durrant would review these arrangements, in conjunction with FUSD and Security Department, in mid-1982, and at 6 monthly intervals thereafter, reminding those concerned, as necessary, of the procedures.



(Antony Acland)  
1 December, 1981.

cc Private Secretary  
PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
All DUSS  
All AUSS  
Mr. Winchester, Security Dept.  
Mr. Burton, MAED  
Mr. Gladstone, WED  
Mr. Eyers, RID

Mr. Fenn, News Dept.  
Mr. Moss, FUSD (CN)  
Mr. Flower, FUSD (DSE)  
Mr. Pilling, Home Office (2)  
Mr. Ranson, Box 500  
Mr. Saunders, GCHQ  
Mr. O'Neill, Cabinet Office  
Mr. Whitmore, Number 10. ✓

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

VIP PROTECTION OVERSEAS

DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED

1. FCO
  - (a) Private Offices (including PS/FUS) and Under-Secretaries
  - (b) FCD
    - (i) Head of Security Section
    - (ii) Conference Section
    - (iii) Royal Matters Section
  - (c) FUSD
  - (d) Security Department (Counter Terrorist Section)
  - (e) Geographical Department
  - (f) MAED (anti-terrorist matters)
  - (g) Overseas posts
2. Intelligence Agencies via FUSD
3. Home Office (F.4 Division)
4. MPSB/RUC
5. Royal Protection Group (Metropolitan Police)
6. Private Offices of Ministers concerned (and Number 10)
7. Cabinet Office (Assessments Staff)

CONFIDENTIAL



-2 DEC 1981

