



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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7th August 1984

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Dear Lelia

ROYAL MILITARY POLICE: CONFERENCE AND VISITS AT HOME
AND OVERSEAS

attached Thank you for your letter of 26th July concerning the provision of Royal Military Policemen at conferences at home and overseas, and for overseas visits by senior Ministers. I have also seen Charles Powell's letter of 30th July, recording the Prime Minister's great concern at the possibility of any reduction.

Exercise 'LEAN LOOK' covers a range of studies being conducted by the Army with the aim of transferring 4000 posts from support areas to the front line, to enhance the effectiveness of our fighting units. All of the Army's support corps are being examined as part of this exercise and we do not feel that the Royal Military Police can be exempt. The study into the RMP is, however, still at an early stage, and no decisions have been reached.

We shall certainly ensure that you are given early warning of any definite proposal emerging from 'LEAN LOOK' which would affect the level of RMP support for conferences and visits. Ministers would obviously need to be satisfied that there was a fully satisfactory alternative way of carrying out the task before agreeing to any such change.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Charles Powell at No 10 Downing Street.

Yours ever,

Richard Mottram

(R C MOTTRAM)

9 AUG 1984

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