

? Sat 2 Feb a.m.

GR PPS

Mr. Barclay

Ref. A084/3346

MR BUTLER

I think we must concede and arrange a date for the PM to unveil the memorial in the New Year. Pl. negotiate a date with Mr. Winner.

The Yvonne Fletcher MemorialFERB
14.12.

Your minute of 26 November sought advice on the security aspects of the Prime Minister accepting the invitation to unveil the Yvonne Fletcher memorial.

2. The advice from the Home Office, who have consulted the Security Service and the Metropolitan Police Special Branch, is that there are no strong security objections to the Prime Minister performing this ceremony, and that the event would in fact be easier to police than some of the Prime Minister's other public engagements.

3. The assessable threat would be from either Irish Republican terrorists or Libyans, but it is thought that both would be deterred by the practical difficulties presented by the maximum police security which would be in operation.

4. If the Prime Minister were to attend, it would be desirable for advance publicity to be kept to the absolute minimum. The Metropolitan Police Special Branch have also said that it would impose less strain on the police if the event took place on a Saturday morning, though mid-week would not be impossible. I understand that, if there was any extra cost of the Prime Minister attending rather than the Home Secretary, it would be negligible.



ROBERT ARMSTRONG

13 December 1984

Michael WANNER



The Police Memorial
Trust

VC2ABP

3/12

10 DOWNING STREET

① 10/12

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

I enclose a letter from the Home Office, together with one from the Police Memorial Trust inviting the Prime Minister to unveil a memorial to WPC Fletcher. As you will see the Home Secretary was equivocal about the advice to the Prime Minister on accepting this invitation.

The Prime Minister has commented that she feels that she should not refuse to unveil this memorial. Before we convey this reply to the Police Memorial Trust, I should be very grateful if TOP have any observations on the security aspects. Apart from the Libyan connection, this would be a public engagement which would no doubt put some strain on the police for the Prime Minister to undertake, especially if it is in the period just before Christmas (but there are indications that the Police Memorial Trust would be willing to put off the ceremony until after Christmas in order to have the Prime Minister perform the unveiling).

FRB

26 November 1984