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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE WHITEHALL LONDON SWIA 2AZ

Permanent Under Secretary Sir Philip Woodfield KCB CBE

F E R Butler Esq Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister 10 Downing Street

21 November 1983

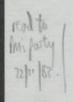
Den Robin

ROYAL VISIT

I am afraid that this letter will not reach you before your departure for Delhi, but the Prime Minister will wish to know that the Secretary of State has agreed to Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester making a secret, unannounced visit to Northern Ireland from 1045 to 1635 on Thursday 24 November 1983.

The Duke will be visiting a number of Army barracks housing soldiers of the Royal Pioneer Corps of which he is Colonel in Chief. The Duchess will be the Guest of Honour at three functions: the official opening of the new wing of a school for physically handicapped children in a safe area on the outskirts of Belfast; a lunch for the workers of Women Caring Trust at Hillsborough Castle; and a visit to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

All locations will be protected by the security forces and the Royal Visitors will travel separately to the respective locations by helicopter.



SECRET PERSONAL

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At present our security advisers see no reason why the visit should not go ahead as planned. However, as usual with Royal Visits, the security situation will be kept under continuous review and, if necessary, the visit could be cancelled at any time.

I am copying this letter to Philip Moore at Buckingham Palace.

Your win,