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NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 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

Dear 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.

*read to
Mrs. Pasty
22/11/83*

SECRET

PERSONAL

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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.

Yours truly,

Philip

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