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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister
Content with these
arrangements?

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FEB

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

12 May 1983

Dear Robin,

POLICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The Home Secretary would be grateful to know that the Prime Minister is content with the dispositions which the Metropolitan Police are making for the election campaign.

The Metropolitan Police Special Branch have allocated a liaison officer to the headquarters of each party. His job will be to help with any matter which arises, including arranging for an adequate police presence at daily press conferences and at major public engagements around the country. From Monday, 16 May, there will be an election office in Special Branch open from 8 a.m. to midnight each day to provide a channel of communication between the liaison officers in the party headquarters and police forces around the country. Provincial Chief Constables are being informed of the arrangements. A copy of the Metropolitan Police's booklet of advice on personal security measures will be distributed to each candidate through the party headquarters this week. In addition a senior member of Special Branch is arranging to have a personal interview this week with a number of MPs who do not receive personal protection but who have some association with Northern Ireland. This will include Mr. Conncannon.

Apart from MPs from Northern Ireland, personal protection is now provided for the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Attorney General, Mr. Callaghan, Mr. Heath, Sir Harold Wilson, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Mason and Mr. Rees. As he is not to be a candidate and is no longer thought to be at risk, the police intend to remove personal protection from Sir Harold in the next few days. They understand the need to handle this sensitively, they will not remove it too abruptly and in phasing it out will take account of any well-publicised commitments which Sir Harold intends to take on during the campaign. There are one or two other MPs whose protection the police believe is no longer justified but they do not intend to propose any changes in the case of candidates until after the election.

The police have given careful consideration to the question of personal protection for party leaders during the campaign. In 1979 the Prime Minister, as Leader of the Opposition, had been receiving personal protection for some time because of the threat assessment and continued to receive it during the campaign. Mr. Steel was given personal protection after the murder of Mr. Neave. In this campaign, the police judge that personal protection for Mr. Foot, Mr. Steel and Mr. Jenkins would not be justified. They have taken full account of the PIRA activities mentioned in the assessment we sent you earlier this week. Mr. Foot's office have been told of the police view and are not disposed to challenge it. The police stand ready to provide personal protection at a few hours' notice if intelligence is received which changes the threat assessment.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,
Tony Rawsthorne

A. R. RAWSTHORNE

F.E.R. Butler, Esq.

CONFIDENTIAL

12 June 1963





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

13 May 1983

Police arrangements for the
Election Campaign

I am writing to confirm the telephone message which I have given to Colin Walters, that the Prime Minister was content with the arrangements set out in your letter of 12 May.

I am copying this letter to Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

E. E. BUTLER

A.R. Rawsthorne, Esq.,
Home Office

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MR WOLFSON

We discussed last night the Private Office's role during the General Election campaign.

In general our role now is:-

- (i) To support the Prime Minister in any essential duties which she has to carry out as Head of Government;
- (ii) To provide assistance which may properly be required of us in providing factual material and checking speeches etc., which contain official information or statements of Government policy;
- (iii) To advise the Prime Minister on the use of Government services or the facilities during the Election Campaign;
- (iv) To provide for the Prime Minister's communications and security.

As regards the first, we will try to keep to a minimum the official papers and other matters with which we have to trouble the Prime Minister for the next four weeks. We must make sure that we can always contact her quickly and for that purpose a Garden Room girl will accompany the Prime Minister on her tours and a Duty Clerk will go ahead: when the Garden Room girl is travelling with the PM's party, the Duty Clerk will be setting up communications at the next stop and taking any messages which need to be delivered to the Prime Minister when she arrives. I would only arrange for a Private Secretary or member of the Press Office to accompany the PM's party if Government business required it.

As regards the second, it is perfectly proper for us to provide factual material and to check speeches and statements: I hope that we will be asked to check speeches and statements since the Prime Minister still speaks as Head of Government even on party occasions. It would also have been proper for Mr. Ingham to provide the Prime Minister with his usual summary of the morning's press, but we agreed

/that

that this would be difficult in practice if the PM is leaving No.10 at 8.15 a.m. on most mornings and it is likely to be unnecessary since Central Office are preparing a full summary. But the Prime Minister may like Mr. Ingham and me to be available at about 8 a.m., before she leaves No.10 in the mornings, so that she can give us instructions about the line on any press stories relating to the Government and commission any factual material she wants before her morning press conference.

As regards the use of Government services or facilities, it is better for the Prime Minister to err on the side of propriety if there is any question of using Government facilities for what may be seen as party political purposes. For security reasons, the Prime Minister should travel in a 10 Downing Street car driven by a 10 Downing Street driver even on election tours: there are arrangements for the Party to reimburse the cost. Official transport will be provided for No.10 staff but transport for the political staff should be provided by the Party. Tim Flesher is supervising the timetable for movements of the Duty Clerks and Garden Room girls: could you please arrange for him to be kept informed of details of the Prime Minister's movements as they are settled.

Party transport rather than No.10 cars should be used for conveying to Central Office any material which the Prime Minister asks for while preparing for her morning press conference: you may want to arrange for a car to be available for this purpose.

Finally, on communications and security, the Garden Room girls and Duty Clerks will provide communications in the normal way. The Special Branch will provide protection and are liaising with you and Central Office on arrangements: I have told Superintendent Cawthorne that if he had any anxiety about the arrangements (which neither he or I expect) he should let me know.

E.E.R. BUTLER

13 May, 1983

FILE

RM

SUPERINTENDENT CAWTHORNE

PRIME MINISTER'S SECURITY DURING THE GENERAL
ELECTION CAMPAIGN

You may like to see the attached paragraph from a minute which I have sent to Mr. Wolfson about arrangements for official support during the Election Campaign.

E. E. R. BUTLER

13 May, 1983

File

SWITCHBOARD

c. Mr. Coles
Mr. Scholar
Mr. Rickett
Mr. Flesher
Mr. Joce
Duty Clerk

I attach a minute from
Superintendent Cawthorne listing the
telephone numbers on which the Prime
Minister can be contacted while she is
out on the General Election campaign.
These means of communication will not
be secure.

FAB

18 May 1983

Robin - to keep. ✓

Mr. Butler.

1. Whenever the Prime Minister travels out of town on her election campaign, the means of communication will be as follows:

- (a) From 8.15 am to 10.45 am each day: Conservative Central Office,
tel: 222 9000
Ext. 2105/6 or
222 1048 (direct to
PM's Office)
- (b) From 11 am to 11.42 am: Per British Transport Police Information Room, tel.
380 1400 and ask for message to be passed by radio to her train.
- (c) From 11.42 am till about 11.50 am: Per British Island Airways at Gatwick: tel.
0293 546301/9.
- (d) From 11.50 am to about 1 pm:
Gatwick Operations Room.
Tel: 0293 30112 - ask for Operations Desk and use name "TURNBULL" and ask for urgent message to be passed to aircraft.
- (e) From 1 pm: Per local police force, or per radiotelephone no. 216765 which will be on the Campaign Coach by the radio link to the PM's No. 10 car.

London.
(G.E. Cawthorne)
17.5.83.