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PSO/CDSBRIEFING AT NORTHWOOD

Mr Whitmore has just telephoned me to confirm that we should plan on a visit to Northwood on Sunday by the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr Parkinson). The plan is that these Ministers should drive from Chequers to Northwood to arrive at any time from 1600 onwards. Arrangements can be made on Sunday for a telephone message to be passed to Northwood when the party leaves, and you will appreciate that we cannot be precise about when that will be.

2. No publicity is to be given to the visit for the time being.

5. A decision on this will be made by the No 10 Press Office tomorrow.

3. The Prime Minister has specifically instructed that the Operation Paraquet events that took place on the afternoon and evening of 22nd April should not be mentioned during the visit. With the sole exception of the Prime Minister OD(SA) members have not and will not, be informed of the incident. Northwood may, of course, give a briefing on where the Operation stands on Sunday. Could you please undertake to relay this message by secure means to CinC Fleet.

23rd April 1982

(D B OMAND)
PS/S of S