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SECRET.

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Visit to Northern Ireland by the Duke and Duchess of Kent. + further events.

ROYAL FAMILY

March 1980

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
2.4.80							
16.5.80							
20.7.80							
23.9.81							
15.4.88							
13.3.89							
22.5.89							
26.7.89							
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CLOSED

PREM 19/2833

Prime Minister 11(a-b)
To role HP

B/7/20/DMC

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE 2217
STORMONT CASTLE
BELFAST BT4 3STPermanent Under-Secretary of State
Sir John Belloch, KCBTel. Belfast (0232) 63011
Telex 74272A Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London

26 July 1989

Dear A & docw

The Prime Minister will wish to know that the Secretary of State has agreed that HRH The Duke of Kent should visit Northern Ireland on Friday 28 July.

In outline the programme for His Royal Highness is as follows:

1000	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
1005	Depart RAF Aldergrove
1025	Visit to 1 Battalion of the Devon and Dorset Regiment including lunch
1445	Depart Bessbrook Mill
1455	Arrive Gosford Forest Park
1500-1600	Visit the International Scout Camp Gosford 89
1605-1630	Visit to Markethill Village Park being constructed by the Scouts
1637	Depart Gosford Forest Park
1655	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
1700	Depart RAF Aldergrove

Travel between these locations will be by helicopter. At present our security advisers see no reason why the visit should not go ahead as planned, but the security situation will, of course, be kept under continuous review so that, if necessary, the visit could be cancelled at any time.

b.

Any premature press queries will, as usual, be answered to the effect that it is not the practice to comment on speculation about visits to Northern Ireland by members of the Royal Family.

I am copying this letter to Bill Heseltine and Patrick Wright.

Yours ever

[Handwritten signature]



me fm
43

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Principal Private Secretary

22 May 1989

10 a

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 19 May and has noted the programme for The Duchess of Kent's visit to Northern Ireland. She commented that it is a very full programme indeed.

I am copying this letter to Bill Heseltine and Sir Patrick Wright.

Andrew Turnbull

Sir John Blelloch, K.C.B.

Temporarily retained, (Wayland, 4/11/86



Permanent Under-Secretary of State
Sir John Billoch KCB

A Turnbull Esq
10 Downing Street
London

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L/5/27/DMC NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ Pa

Prime Minister

To note. In and out in a day (and a
very full one) as you prefer. (The
earlier proposal for Prince Michael to
stay overnight but leave first
thing fell through)

19 May 1989

AT 12/5

Noted - it is
rather a bit
for one day. 150
I hope not 150
much for the
Queen. not

The Prime Minister will wish to know that the Secretary of State has agreed that the Duchess of Kent should visit Northern Ireland on Tuesday 23 May. Besides providing a good geographical spread the programme has been drawn up to cover a wide variety of interests - industry, agriculture, culture - as well as visits to a Marie Curie Home and to the Royal Ulster Constabulary,

The visit is secret with no prior announcement.

In outline the programme for Her Royal Highness is as follows:

1015	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
1020	Depart RAF Aldergrove
1035	Arrive Helipad at Portadown and transfer to cars
1045	Arrive Ulster Carpet Mills
1050-1140	Open new Tweed Weaving Building, visit carpet weaving section meeting members of the workforce
1145	Depart Ulster Carpet Mills
1155	Depart Portadown
1210	Arrive Loughry Agricultural College, Cookstown
1215-1225	Break
1230-1315	Lunch
1315-1325	Break
1330-1350	Meet Students on food technology course
1355	Depart Loughry College
1420	Arrive Helipad at Stormont and transfer to cars
1430	Arrive Beaconsfield Marie Curie Home
1435-1515	Meeting staff and patients in 4 wards
1515-1535	Meeting patrons of Building Appeal and members of the House Committee in the Garden

6

1540	Depart Beaconsfield by road
1545	Arrive RUC Headquarters
1550-1600	Visit RUC Operations Room
1600-1630	Afternoon tea with RUC Senior Officers
1635	Depart Brooklyn
1645	Arrive Stormont Helipad
1650	Depart Stormont Helipad
1705	Arrive Hillsborough Helipad
1710	Arrive Hillsborough Castle
1715-1815	Break
1820-1910	Reception
1910-1915	Break
1920	Sign Visitors Book and depart Hillsborough Castle
1925	Depart Hillsborough Helipad
1940	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
1945	Depart RAF Aldergrove

All travel between locations will be by helicopter (save the short journey from the Beaconsfield Marie Curie Home to the RUC Headquarters). At present our security advisers see no reason why the visit should not go ahead as planned, but the security situation will, of course, be kept under continuous review so that, if necessary, the visit could be cancelled at any time.

Any premature press queries will, as usual, be answered to the effect that it is not the practice to comment on speculation about visits to Northern Ireland by members of the Royal Family.

I am copying this letter of Bill Heseltine and Patrick Wright.

John
Wright
✓

NBI
BT 1413 8

B/3/10/DMC

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
STORMONT CASTLE
BELFAST BT4 3ST*Permanent Under-Secretary of State*
Sir John Blesloch, KCBTel. Belfast (0232) 63011
Telex 74272A Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

13 March 1989

Dear Sir

The Prime Minister will wish to know that the Secretary of State has agreed that the Duke of Kent should visit Northern Ireland on Thursday 16 March. His Royal Highness will be visiting the Officers and men of 1 RRF at Bessbrook Mill, South Armagh; the Duke of Kent is the Colonel in Chief of this regiment. The visit is secret with no prior announcement.

In outline the programme for His Royal Highness is as follows:

1045	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
1050	Depart Aldergrove
1110	Arrive Bessbrook Mill
1310	Lunch with the Officers
1620	Depart Bessbrook Mill
1645	Depart Aldergrove

At present our Security Advisers see no reason why the visit should not go ahead as planned, but the security situation will, of course, be kept under continuous review so that, if necessary, the visit could be cancelled at any time. In addition it should be noted that all travel will be by air and because of the difficult area the visit will be cancelled in the event of non-flying weather.

Any premature press queries will, as usual, be answered to the effect that it is not the practice to comment on speculation about visits to Northern Ireland by members of the Royal Family.

I am copying this letter to Bill Heseltine and Patrick Wright.

*John Blesloch**John Blesloch*

1 of 1

SECRET AND PERSONAL



Copy No: 4 of 4 copies

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

15 April 1988

Dear John,

ROYAL VISIT

I have shown the Prime Minister your letter of 14 April (reference: L/4/17/MLR) and the Prime Minister discussed

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Temporarily retained CWayland H/11/16

The Prime Minister would be grateful if you could arrange for a short visit to the Army to be included in the Duchess's programme.

I am sending copies of this letter to Sir William Heseltine and Sir Patrick Wright.

Nigel Wicks

N. L. Wicks

Sir John Blelloch, K.C.B.,
Ministry of Defence.

3. Weather permitting, all travel between locations will be by helicopter. Modified programmes for non-flying weather have been prepared by the RUC. At present our security advisers see no reason why the visit should not go ahead as planned; but the security situation will be kept under continuous review so that, if necessary, the visit could be cancelled at any time.

4. Premature press queries will receive the usual answer that it is not the practice to comment on speculation about visits to Northern Ireland by members of the Royal Family.

5. I am copying this letter to Bill Heseltine and Patrick Wright.

You know

-2-

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Royal Family

DS S



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

23 September 1981

Thank you for your letter of 21 September 1981 letting me know that HRH The Duke of Kent will be visiting Northern Ireland on Friday of this week.

I have shown your letter to the Prime Minister.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Philip Moore.

G. A. WHITMORE

P.J. Woodfield, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

SP



Permanent Under Secretary

Mr P J Woodfield CB CBE

Clive Whitmore Esq
PS/Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Prime Minister

PJW
22/9

21 September 1981

Dear Clive,

mb

The Prime Minister will wish to know that we have agreed that HRH The Duke of Kent should visit Northern Ireland on Friday, 25 September on a secret unannounced visit to army units serving in the Province of which he is Colonel or Colonel in Chief.

The outline programme is as follows:

10.45	Arrive RAF Aldergrove in Andover of the Queen's Flight. Met by Commander Land Forces.
11.00 - 12.30	Visit 3rd battalion, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers at Holywood Barracks, <u>Belfast</u> .
12.30 - 15.15	Visit 1st battalion, the Scots Guards at Girdwood Camp, <u>Belfast</u> .
15.45 - 17.20	Visit 1st battalion, the Devon and Dorset Regiment in <u>South Armagh</u> .
17.45	Depart RAF Aldergrove.

His Royal Highness will travel within Northern Ireland by RAF helicopter and not by a Queen's Flight aircraft.

At present the security forces see no reason why the visit should not go ahead but, as usual, the visit may be cancelled at any time if the security situation should worsen significantly or if prior news of the visit were to leak.

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

P J WOODFIELD

Yours ever,
Philip Woodfield

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2. Royal family



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

Permanent Under Secretary

Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

PUS/053/B/

30 July, 1980

Prime Minister

A small but meaningful
gesture in the right direction.

the
3x.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Moore,
KCVO, CB, CMG,
Buckingham Palace,
LONDON SW1

ms

Dear Philip.

VISIT OF HRH THE DUKE AND
DUCHESS OF KENT

I mentioned that the visit by the Duke and Duchess was generally regarded as a great success here and that I would be letting you have a more considered appraisal.

... I attach a note prepared for me by Ewart Bell, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. The important point is that this Royal visit not only gave a lot of pleasure to a significant number of people who came into contact with the visitors, but over and above that gave the Province as a whole something to talk about other than terrorism and politics. It was/kind of highly publicised event in which most people might have no more than a modest interest but which added colour and humanity out of the ordinary.

As you will see from the list annexed to the note, there is a real hope that another Royal visit might be possible before too long and in any case during 1981. I am sure that - subject always to the trend of events - it would help the people of Northern Ireland if we were able to include the Province in as near normal a way as possible in Royal itineraries. Any encouragement you can give to this will be greatly valued.

Security will, you may be confident, remain the prime consideration but it is encouraging that the security authorities were justified in their confidence that they could cope with a Royal visit spread over two days, and with no element of surprise, better than with the surprise "in-and-out". I don't suppose Their Royal Highnesses were aware, incidentally, how novel and beneficial it was to see

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Contd.....

streets lined with policemen in ceremonial kit and wearing white gloves: these things should not be underestimated.

I was able yesterday to discuss the subject with the Chief Constable. He would welcome another Royal Visit as a symbolic extension of the normality he is gradually extending on the streets of Northern Ireland and would particularly endorse a visit in connection with the completion of St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast. And he advises that in Northern Ireland the presence of a Princess or a Duchess will greatly add to the impact of the visit. As you may be aware, we have already consulted Nicholas Lawson about the GOC's invitation to Princess Anne to visit the Royal Signals Unit next Summer. We hope the programme will involve both military and civil events, including St. Anne's.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosures to Clive Whitmore for his information.

Yours ever

Ken

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THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT'S VISIT TO
NORTHERN IRELAND - 24/25 JUNE 1980

The visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent to Northern Ireland on 24 and 25 June was very successful and gave a great deal of pleasure to many people as well as providing a welcome boost to the community as a whole and the opportunity for good publicity for Northern Ireland.

2. Press coverage was extensive and good with live BBC TV coverage of the final event of the 2-day visit - a garden party for 1,500 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Ulster Defence Regiment. The remainder of the programme (at times undertaken separately by the Duke and Duchess) included commerce and industry, recognition of the 'caring services', visits to Army Units and the presentation of Gallantry Awards to members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

3. The main events, with guests drawn from all walks of life and regardless of class and creed, were as follows:-

- a. Cloghan Point Fuel Terminal - 70 guests including 23 members of NIES staff plus approximately 500 schoolchildren.
- b. Joss Cardwell Rehabilitation Centre - 37 guests including staff plus approximately 30 patients.
- c. Coffee Reception at Hillsborough Castle - approximately 80 guests from Youth, Welfare, Nursing, Ambulance, Fire, Prison and other services.
- d. UDR Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle - approximately 1,500 people from all parts of the Province attended.

In addition/

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In addition, visits to Short Bros Ltd and Hughes Tool Co Ltd, for presentation of the Queen's Awards, provided the opportunity for both workforces to meet HRH The Duke of Kent, while the visits to Army Units and the presentation of Gallantry Awards to members of the RUC were much appreciated by the security forces.

4. The fact that the visit was spread over two days enabled this wide variety of interests to be included in a programme which Their Royal Highnesses themselves evidently found interesting and enjoyable and, although it involved 11 separate movements of the Royal Visitors, it went smoothly and presented no serious problem for the RUC as regards their security. Discordant notes were heard, inevitably, but appeared to be limited to a reference by a Republican Club Councillor to "Royal Junketing" going on in the midst of an economic crisis and to allegations from the Carrickfergus Borough Council that they had been snubbed because all the members of the Council had not been invited to the Clochan Point ceremony and a visit to Carrickfergus Castle had not been included in the itinerary.

5. A number of requests have already been received for a Royal presence at forthcoming events in Northern Ireland and these and other possible events are listed in Annex A. Around these major events balanced programmes, similar to that arranged for Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Kent, could be organised. Because of security aspects of a Royal Visit, a Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle gives the best opportunity for the largest number of people (up to 3,000) from a wide cross section of the population to have a part in the visit.

W.E. BELL
July 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

June 1981

IN NORTHERN IRELAND FOR WHICH A ROYAL PRESENCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED

- (1) The GOC has requested that HRH Princess Anne who is Col in Chief of the Royal Ulster Lancers Unit might visit the Units in Northern Ireland during 1981. The GOC believes that such a visit would be of benefit to the soldiers.
- (2) The Council for National Academic Awards proposed that their President, The Prince of Wales might be invited to a proposed 10th Anniversary Honorary Degree Congregation at the Ulster Polytechnic in 1981.
- (3) The Board of Belfast Cathedral desire the presence of a member of the Royal Family at the Congregation of the new Belfast Cathedral in June 1981.
- (4) The Craigavon Borough Council has asked for HRH Prince Charles or another member of the Royal Family to open Craigavon Civic Centre in the second half of 1982.
- (5) The Royal British Legion has requested that a member of the Royal Family might open a new Convalescent Home as part of the Legion's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations scheduled to take place June 1981.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY EVENTS

To supplement a programme for a future Royal Visit the following events are available:-

- (1) The opening of the extension of the Forensic Science Laboratory - mid 1981.
- (2) Official opening of new factory for VF International (leisure wear clothing manufacturers) at the Springtown Industrial Estate, Londonderry.
- (3) Opening of new Forest Park in Co Fermanagh - mid 1981 (or any time of the Royal Visit).
- (4) Opening of Masgrave Park Hospital Orthopaedic Theatres - March 1981.
- (5) Opening of Western Area Multi-Disciplinary Education and Training Centre and 120 place residential accommodation for nurses - June 1981.
- (6) Opening of Royal Victoria Hospital Residential Accommodation (48 units) for nurses - August/September 1981.
- (7) Opening of 36 bed unit at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.
- (8) A possible visit to the De Lorean Car Manufacturing Plant. (Subject to security advice).
- (9) Opening of new road and/or housing schemes or an exhibition showing what progress has been achieved in Belfast.
- (10) A visit to UVF Hospital (an ex-servicemen's hospital) Craigavon Estate, Circular Road, Belfast - any time.

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SECRET

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

3



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

*Ks
Print*

M Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

16 May 1980

Dear Mike,

VISIT TO NI BY THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT - 24 AND 25 JUNE

In my letter to you of 31 March, I told you about the proposed visit to Northern Ireland by the Duke and Duchess of Kent. Michael Alexander replied on 2 April recording the Prime Minister's agreement to our plans.

I am now writing to let you know that, since the Duke and Duchess's programme is unusually wide-ranging, and there is a risk of public and press speculation about the visit arising through the number of outside organisations involved, my Secretary of State believes that a formal announcement should be made as soon as can be arranged. He is satisfied that an announcement at this stage will not materially increase the security risk involved in the visit.

... I attach for your information, a copy of the draft press statement we intend to issue.

*Yours sincerely
Mike Hopkins*

M W HOPKINS

SECRET

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DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

ROYAL VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

It has been learnt today from St James's Palace that Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Kent will make a two-day visit to Northern Ireland on 24-25 June.

The main purpose of their visit will be to attend a Garden Party to be held as part of the celebration connected with the 10th anniversary of the Ulster Defence Regiment. While in the Province the Duke and the Duchess will also carry out a number of other engagements.

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2 April 1980

Visit to Northern Ireland by
the Duke and Duchess of Kent

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 31 March to Mike Pattison about the visit to Northern Ireland by the Duke and Duchess of Kent on 24 and 25 June. She agrees that the two day visit is desirable and that planning for it may go ahead on the basis suggested by Mr. Atkins.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Chilcot (Home Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

M.W. Hopkins, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

SECRET

SECRET

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

M. Pattison Esq.,
10, Downing Street,
London SW1.

Prime Minister

(1)

Agree?

Ans

1/4 31 March 1980

Yes out

Dear Mike,

VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT

You will wish to inform the Prime Minister that preliminary planning is under way for a visit by the Duke and Duchess of Kent to Northern Ireland on 24 and 25 June 1980.

The main purpose of the visit would be for the Duke and Duchess to attend a Garden Party, to be held by the Ulster Defence Regiment in the grounds of Hillsborough Castle, to mark the tenth anniversary of its formation. The Secretary of State for Defence and the Army Board have supported the concept of this event.

The Garden Party would take place in the afternoon of the 25 June and would provide the Duke and Duchess with an opportunity to meet and talk informally with members of the UDR and their families.

On arrival on 24 June (at about 10.30 am) the Duke would visit his Regiment (2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers) at Holywood while the Duchess visited the Joss Cardwell Rehabilitation Centre or Girl Guide Headquarters - both venues are convenient to Holywood.

The Duke and Duchess would then travel to HQNI Lisburn where the Duke would visit the 1st Scots Guards plus representatives of 2nd Scots Guards while the Duchess met representatives of the Army Catering Corps and the Womens Royal Army Corps. Following lunch at HQNI the Royal Party would pay a visit to Cloughan Point Oil Terminal beside the Kilroot Power Station on the County Antrim side of Belfast Lough for an opening ceremony, followed by a sherry reception and a private dinner party at Hillsborough Castle.

On Wednesday morning (10.00 am - 11.00 am) members of voluntary and other organisations such as Samaritans and the Fire Service will be invited to a coffee reception at Hillsborough Castle after which the Royal Party will travel to Garnerville on the outskirts of Belfast to visit the RUC. They will return to Hillsborough Castle for lunch and will attend the UDR garden party in the afternoon.

- 1 -

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Travel within Northern Ireland would be by helicopter of the Queen's Flight except for one short car journey by the Duchess. If the Prime Minister agrees that the visit should take place it would be accepted, as in the case of all Royal Visits in the last three years, that it might be necessary for security reasons to cancel the visit at any time up to the last minute. We shall keep the visit confidential until as short a time in advance as is feasible. A review of the security situation would be made before any announcement.

My Secretary of State believes that this proposed two day visit is desirable. It should not present any great security or administrative difficulties. He would be grateful for the Prime Minister's approval to his proceeding with plans for the visit in consultation with St James's Palace on the basis of detailed arrangements to be made under his responsibility.

I am copying this to John Chilcot, who will want to know that Metropolitan Police Officers would need to accompany the Duke and Duchess.

Yours sincerely

Mike Hopkins

M. W. HOPKINS

SECRET