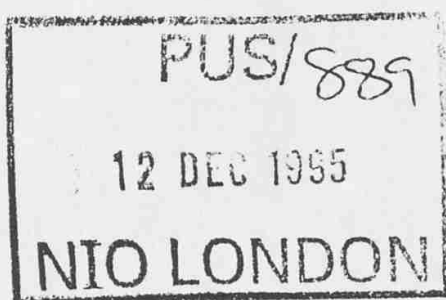


SECRET AND PERSONAL

FROM: VALERIE STEELE
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT
EXT 28154
DATE: 12 DECEMBER 1995



cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B [3 & 4 of 17]
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B [5 & 6 of 17]
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B [7 & 8 of 17]
PS/Sir David Fell - B [9 of 17]
Mr Thomas - B [10 of 17]
Mr Legge - B [11 of 17]
Mr Bell - B [12 of 17]
Mr Watkins - B [13 of 17]
Mr Wood - B [14 of 17]
Mr Maccabe - B [15 of 17]
Ms Checksfield - B [16 of 17]
File [17 of 17]

PS/PUS (B&L) - B [1 & 2 of 17]

VISIT OF SPLEEN - OUTLINE PROGRAMME ② ①

1. As discussed at yesterday's meeting I attach a revised outline programme based on Ballymena, Belfast (but not North Belfast) and Downpatrick.
2. The second option includes the same three locations but considers the possibility of flying directly by helicopter from Downpatrick to Dublin.
3. No provision has been made for meetings in either option, but if any were required then we would of necessity try to shorten some of the engagements and/or seek to extend the departure time.

[Signed RUTH WHYTE]

pp V J STEELE

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ANNEX



 OUTLINE PROGRAMME: SPLEEN

OPTION A:

10.30 Arrival RAF Aldergrove

10.50/
11.50 Courtesy call on Rev Robert Coulter, Mayor of Ballymena
[local school children could be invited to Council Offices
for Carol Singing] followed by walk-about in main shopping
area of Ballymena or Seven Towers Shopping Centre

12.00/
12.40 Meet Royal Irish and RUC at St Patrick's Barracks,
Ballymena for LUNCH

13.00/
14.15 Chamber of Commerce Carol Service at St George's,
High Street, Belfast

14.35
15.15 Children's Christmas Party at Down Museum, Downpatrick

15.40/
16.00 Meet the Press at Jet Centre, Aldergrove or at Down Museum

16.15 Departure from RAF Aldergrove

OPTION B:

10.30 Arrival at RAF Aldergrove

10.50/
11.50 Ballymena as above

12.00/
12.30 St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena as above

13.00/
14.15 Chamber of Commerce Carol Service at Down Cathedral,
Downpatrick

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OPTION B (cont'd):

14.30/
15.15 Children's Party at Down Museum, Downpatrick

15.20/
15.40 Meet the Press at Down Museum

15.45 Depart by helicopter for Dublin

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840

FROM: VALERIE STEELE
CENTRAL SECRETARIAT
EXT 28154

DATE: 14 DECEMBER 1995

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
[3 & 4 of 17]
PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
[5 & 6 of 17]
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
[7 & 8 of 17]
PS/Sir David Fell - B [9 of 17]
Mr Thomas - B [10 of 17]
Mr Legge - B [11 of 17]
Mr Bell - B [12 of 17]
Mr Watkins - B [13 of 17]
Mr Wood - B [14 of 17]
Mr Maccabe - B [15 of 17]
Ms Chekcsfield - B [16 of 17]
File [17 of 17]

PS/PUS (B&L) - B [1 & 2 of 17]

VISIT OF SPLEEN - OUTLINE PROGRAMME (2)

1. Following PUS's discussion this morning with Edward Oakden, I have drafted a further outline programme for the visit which is attached.
2. This programme includes Ballymena, (a courtesy call on the Mayor, plus carol singing with local children followed by a walk-about) lunch at St Patrick's Barracks, to include Chief Constable and GOC, followed by the official opening of the North City Business Centre, with a press opportunity at the Business Centre.
3. No 10 are still keen to include a meeting with the four Church Leaders acknowledging their helpful statement at the time of the Clinton Visit and to allow time for this, and for an estimated time of arrival from Aldergrove of 15.50, there would be not time left for Downpatrick, which therefore leaves the programme unbalanced in terms of local political parties. Indeed there is also very little time for a proper meeting with the Church

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BC/17900/HF

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Leaders, nor is the Business Park an ideal location for this purpose. The Jet Centre at Aldergrove would be better, however this would eat into the timing even more. In relation to a meeting with the 4 Church Leaders, I understand that PUS has already conveyed the view that it may give the impression of tokenism and appear as a substitute for meetings with political leaders.

4. Edward also inquired about the possibility of a demonstration or protests in Ballymena. PAB take the view that the only protest would be from the DUP, and that the chances of this happening, while it can not be entirely discounted, are very low. The Party is rather demoralised at present, and the opportunity to portray Ballymena in a favourable light is likely to outweigh any organised protest.
5. To fly by helicopter directly to Dublin from Downpatrick would take 45/50 minutes by comparison with 20 minutes from Downpatrick to Aldergrove and 25 minutes by plane. There is therefore little saving (apart from transfer time) and the helicopter would be much more vulnerable to bad weather conditions, especially over the Mourne. As the attached programme demonstrates however, Downpatrick could only now be included as a substitute for North Belfast and the event would be similar to that in Ballymena.

[Signed VJS]

V J STEELE

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OUTLINE PROGRAMME: SPLEEN

FLYING	NON-FLYING	
10.30	10.30	Arrive RAF Aldergrove.
10.35	10.35	Depart RAF Aldergrove by car for Ballymena.
-	11.00/11.10	Courtesy call on Mayor, Councillor Robert Coulter at Council offices.
-	11.15/11.40	Carol singing with local school children at Council offices.
-	11.45/12.15	Walk-about in main shopping area of Ballymena with the Mayor.
-	12.20/12.30	BREAK at St Patrick's Barracks Ballymena, HQ of Royal Irish Regiment.
-	12.30/13.00	Lunch with RUC and Army at St Patrick's Barracks. GOC and Chief Constable to attend.
13.35	13.35	Depart St Patrick's Barracks by helicopter.
13.45	-	Arrive at Girdwood Barracks HLS North Belfast transfer to cars.
13.50/14.30	14.15/14.40	Official opening of North City Business Enterprise Park, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast: The Park has been funded jointly by the IDB's Local Enterprise Development Board, the International Fund and International Brands (the US parent company of Gallaghers). Located on the Protestant side of the North Belfast Peace Line, the Park has a Board drawn from both communities and the guest list would reflect this cross-community involvement and local business community.
14.35/14.55	14.45/14.55	Meeting with 4 Church Leaders at Enterprise Park.
15.00/15.20	14.55/15.10	Press facility at North City Business Enterprise Park.

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BC/17900/HF

10

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15.25	15.15	Depart Enterprise Park by car.
15.30	-	Depart Girdwood Barracks HLS by helicopter.
15.45	15.45	Arrive at RAF Aldergrove.
15.50	15.50	Depart RAF Aldergrove.

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