

SECRET - PERSONAL

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From: MR LYNE

Date: 18 December 1995

PRIME MINISTER

cc: MR OAKDEN

YOUR VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND: Thursday 21 December

We had a word on the flight back from Madrid. I have since spoken to Sir David Fell at the NIO. He was strongly in favour of your going ahead with the visit. He said that it had been quite some time since you were last in Northern Ireland. He thought it would be a particularly good idea for you to see the business community. And he felt that, if you were going to Dublin, it would be important to go first to the North.

I attach a revised programme, although I think it is still not quite right:

- You would begin the programme in Ballymena, in Ian Paisley's constituency. He rang Edward today to ask if you would be coming. We should give him advance notice. NIO do not expect DUP demonstrations.

I am not wild about the "Christmas event with local school children". If this has not yet been promised to the school children, **would you like NIO to reconsider?** We might suggest instead that you should visit some place of economic/business interest in Ballymena.

*This will be
fine: it is
Christmas
after all!*

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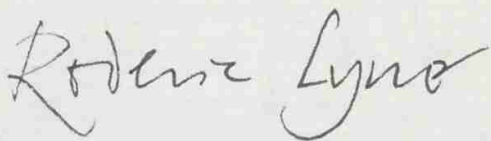
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- The official opening of the North City Business Centre is a good idea. However, 25 minutes is surely too short a time for this. We should add a little, either by squeezing Ballymena or by taking off 10 minutes earlier.
- The CBI/IOD Carol Service at St. George's Church (which you attended a couple of years ago) would combine both Christmas and the business community. We agreed on the plane that this would be worth doing. I have suggested to NIO that you might read the lesson. Content?
- Downpatrick is an SDLP constituency (Eddie McGrady) to balance Ballymena. Having gone all the way there (15 minutes by helicopter) I think you might do a little more than just a walkabout. We could probably push departure for Dublin back a bit. **Shall we ask NIO to add one other item, of business interest?**

You would not give a press conference. We would deal with the media through photographs and doorsteps. The story for the day would be that this was (a) a Christmas visit; and (b) a look at the changing economy during the ceasefire.



RODERIC LYNE

18 December 1995

[F\Ireland.MRM]

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OUTLINE: SPLEEN

	FLYING	NON-FLYING	
1.	10.30	✓ 10.30	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
2.	-	10.35	Depart RAF Aldergrove by car
3.	-	11.00	Arrive at Town Hall, Ballymena:
4.	-	11.05/11.15	(Courtesy call on Mayor) in Mayor's Parlour
		1110 - 1130	
5.	-	11.20/11.40	Christmas Event with local school children in Minor Hall
6.	-	11.40	Depart Ballymena Town Hall by car
7.		12.20	Arrive North City Business Centre, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast
8.		12.20/12.45	Official Opening and Tour of North City Business Centre
9.		12.50	Depart North City Business Centre by car
10.		12.55	Arrive at St George's Church, High Street, Belfast
11.		13.00/14.10	CBI/IOD Carol Service and Reception
12.	14.15	14.15	Depart St George's Church, High Street, Belfast
13.	14.20	-	Arrive Girdwood Army Base HLS
14.	14.25	-	Depart Girdwood HLS
15.	14.40	-	Arrive Downpatrick HLS
16.	14.45	-	Depart Downpatrick HLS by car
17.	14.50	14.50	Walk-about in Market Street, Downpatrick
18.	15.20	15.00	Depart Market Street, Downpatrick
19.	15.25	-	Arrive Downpatrick HLS
20.	15.40	-	Depart Downpatrick HLS
21.	15.45	15.45	Arrive RAF Aldergrove
22.	15.50	16.00 1550	Depart RAF Aldergrove

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