

**SECRET - PERSONAL***bcc: Carol - To be aware*

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S 293 /95

From the Private Secretary

30 November 1995

*Jean Martin,*

**POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
TO NORTHERN IRELAND**

In one of the recent telephone discussions about Northern Ireland, your Secretary of State encouraged the Prime Minister to pay a visit before the end of the year.

Separately, I have had further exchanges today with Paddy Teahon about an informal meeting between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach. You will recall that the Prime Minister had invited the Taoiseach to lunch here next Monday, 4 December. This has now been supplanted by an invitation from the Taoiseach to the Prime Minister and Mrs Major to go to Dublin for a family dinner at the Taoiseach's home on the evening of Thursday 21 December.

21 December appears to be almost the only day on which the Prime Minister could visit Northern Ireland. Would it be acceptable from the NIO's point of view for him to do so on his way to Dublin? He could leave London first thing in the morning, perhaps landing in Belfast (or Londonderry?) at 1030am. After engagements and a lunch in Northern Ireland, he would fly on to Dublin in the late afternoon.

I have not bothered you with this today, because I believe you have been preoccupied with another visitor; but it would be helpful if you could give me at least an initial reaction for the weekend.

I am copying this letter to Sir John Chilcot.

*yours ever,  
Roderic*

**RODERIC LYNE**

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Northern Ireland Office

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