

**SECRET - PERSONAL - VISITS***c - Detectives**F***10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA***S 169/96*

From the Private Secretary

18 November 1996

*Dear Ken,***OPERATION CHARITON**

Thank you for your letter of 14 November. We should now proceed on the basis that the Operation will go ahead on 18 December, with the visitor arriving the previous evening in time for dinner. He would need to leave to return to London no later than 1600 the following afternoon, since he has a speaking engagement in London,

As far as events are concerned, the proposed dinner on the evening of 17 December would presumably include some of the key individuals, as you suggest in your letter. Otherwise, we would be happy with one of the industrial visits suggested, with a, b and c in your list representing our order of priority too. A visit to a school with a cross-community Christmas element would be welcome. Lunch with community representatives, and a walkabout, could also be done, as long as there is a good opportunity to meet the security forces in some way too. The proposed reception for Mayors and Chairmen is not seen as a priority for this kind of visit - presumably the problems which caused its postponement last time still apply in any case?

I would be grateful if you could work up a more detailed plan for the Operation on this basis. I will let you know in due course whether the visitor's wife will accompany, but the answer is likely to be yes.

*Yours ever***JOHN HOLMES**

Ken Lindsay Esq  
Northern Ireland Office

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