

SECRET AND PERSONAL - VISITS
From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

c- Detectives

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John Holmes Esq
Private Secretary to
the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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14 November 1996

Der John ,
OPERATION CHARITON — is. you visit.

Thank you for your letter of 1 November about a possible Christmas Visit; of the two dates which you identified, Sir Patrick would prefer the later one, but of course is very happy to fit in with your diary.

You have also spoken to Sir John Chilcot about a school carol service, or other Christmas event being included. As CHARITON has attended the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Carol Service twice in the last three years, we feel that this would be best avoided on security grounds. So far we have been able to identify a school's cross-community carol service only on the earlier date (12 December), but we are still investigating and indeed, are reasonably confident that it should be possible to organise one when you are able to confirm the date.

We believe that the visit would also afford an opportunity to recognise some of the individuals and groups who have been painstakingly trying to rebuild cross-community relationships since the events of the summer, and this might be done over a buffet lunch. There is also the outstanding commitment to the Mayors of the twenty-six District Councils

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following the cancellation of their visit to London earlier in the year, and a Reception at Hillsborough for them (and perhaps their deputies and/or Economic Development spokesmen) could also provide a speech opportunity.

If your diary allowed, and CHARITON were able to stay until the evening (indeed overnight would be even better), a dinner party at Hillsborough could be arranged for some of the key individuals who are newly appointed such as Archbishop Brady (with other church leaders), the new Chief Constable and GOC; otherwise private meetings can be organised.

The attached list of options will, I hope, give you enough ideas from which a worthwhile programme can be created. When you have had an opportunity to consider this we would be happy to take forward your suggestions in the usual way.

Yours ever,

Ken

W K LINDSAY

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OPTIONS FOR CHARITON

MP

1. 10.00/11.00 - Industrial Visit

- a. Event to mark new Interconnector Gas Pipeline at Ballylumford, Co Antrim

Roy Beggs, UUP



✓ (Rod had something to do with this at British Gas and was keen)

or

- b. O'Hara's Bakery, Cambrai Street, North West Belfast. Largest employer in Protestant North Belfast. New premises completed June 1996 - cost of £3.5m - workforce of 300

Cecil Walker, UUP

or

- c. Baird Ltd, Antrim
A large printing firm in NI

Clifford Forsythe, UUP

2. 11.30/12.30 - School Event

Opportunity for cross-community event eg carol service for school children or visit to an Integrated School, including carol singing eg Cross-community School Carol Service being organised by the Speedwell Project at Parkanaur Forest Park, Dungannon on 12 December

Ken Maginnis, UUP

3. 13.00/14.30 - LUNCH

- a. For community representatives who have been working since the summer to rebuild community relations eg in Armagh/Newcastle area

Mr McGrady, SDLP or Mr Mallon, SDLP

or

- b. With Security Forces

4. 14.45/15.45 - Walk-about and meet Christmas Shoppers eg Armagh or Newcastle depending on lunch venue



Leaf @ 3.45

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5. 16.00/17.00 - Opportunity for private meetings eg church leaders; new Chief Constable & GOC etc
6. 17.30/18.15 - Reception for Mayors and Chairmen at Hillsborough (speech opportunity)
7. BREAK
8. 19.30/22.00 - Dinner at Hillsborough Castle with suitable Christmas music eg 'Ray of Hope' cross-community schools choir

NO

* You should meet
Franeagan + new
All-Ireland Primete.
I don't see this as
necessary - and no
time.

No time.

1 AB Tue. night.

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