

SECRET

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

This is a copy. The original has been extracted and closed, 40 years.

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON SW1P 3AJ



Mr Alexander

I passed this comment to Mike Hopkins today.

WH 28/5

We must look very carefully at this

the last moment.

on my website do not announce it.

not.

27 May 1981

Michael Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
London SW1

See further later

Prime Minister

Dear Michael

Print - 29/5

You are already aware of this general limit.

Print - 29/5

ROYAL VISIT

The Prime Minister will wish to know that it is proposed that Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra will visit Northern Ireland on Tuesday 2 June, circumstances permitting.

The main object of the visit is for HRH to attend the consecration of St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast on Tuesday evening, an event which will also be attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury and which will be covered by television.

HRH will arrive in the early afternoon, visit a factory in Bangor, and open new District Council Offices and a new Recreation Centre in Banbridge before dining at Hillsborough Castle prior to the Consecration Ceremony. She will then return to Great Britain.

Security considerations are, of course, paramount in view of the present tense situation in the Province. On Thursday 28 May we shall review the security situation in the light of advice from the GOC and Chief Constable, and on 29 May my Secretary of State will advise the Royal Household whether the visit should take place. If that advice is favourable, the security situation will be kept under constant review and if the Palace agree, an announcement will be made late on Sunday (in time for Monday's newspapers) that HRH will be coming to attend the Consecration Service and to fulfil other engagements. The Press announcement will give no other details of the programme.

Knowledge of the proposed visit has been kept to the minimum number of people necessary to make the essential administrative arrangements. * ~ ~ ~

* ~ ~ ~ we shall continue to keep the Prime Minister informed of developments.

* ~ ~ * Passage deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FOI Exemption
@Wayland, 13/9/11

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I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Philip Moore and to Miss M Mitchell at St. James's Palace.

Yours sincerely
M W Hopkins

M W HOPKINS

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