

TOP SECRET

PRIME MINISTER

Suggestion 'do'
Musgrave Park so that we 2
can shake to the programme
even if weather is bad
No press conference
- less words to
camera pub

VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

May I get your reaction to the outline programme which I have been discussing with Philip Woodfield. It is still highly provisional and in particular the order of things can be changed. The suggestions are:-

- 7.45 a.m. Leave No. 10
- 8.30 Take off Northolt
- 9.30 Arrive Aldergrove - visit R.A.F. + Greenjackets briefly
- 9.50 ~~4~~ Leave Aldergrove for Newtownards by helicopter
- 10.15 Arrive Newtownards shopping centre
Meet the Mayor, Mr. Kilfedder M.P.
- 11.00 Leave Newtownards by helicopter
- 11.30 Arrive Newry - visit RUC
- 12.00 Leave Newry by helicopter
- 12.15 Arrive Bessbrook - visit roulement battalion (Goldstreamers)
for buffet lunch
- 1.30 Leave Bessbrook by helicopter

Either

Or

2.15 Arrive Ballykelly - visit Cheshires' social centre to meet soldiers and some civilians

2.00 Arrive Musgrave Park Hospital to visit wounded Cheshires and other civilian and military wounded.

3.00 ~~Return~~ Leave for Aldergrove and press conference (see below)

Press

Bernard Ingham will give you a fuller note but his initial advice is that you do not give a press conference (but give a straight talk to camera without any interviewer, ^{3 to 4 mins} about your visit and general impressions, with a Christmas message.
agreed

Secretary of State

He would want to welcome you and be at Newtownards to welcome you there and to see you off, but would propose to leave you to do the army by yourself.

Unhelicopterable weather

We are working this out but, subject to advice, you could probably do most of this programme by car except, of course, Ballykelly.

Conclusion

It would be helpful to have any general comment and in particular a reaction to the suggestion that you give a straight-to-camera message. If you like that idea, we will put in hand preparation of a text.

J.R.B.

10.12.