

Secret and Personal



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

Mr. Ingham

Thanks. I am content but hope that we can get some TV of the PM in the shopping centre and at the hospital.

Re Butler

FERR  
20.12.

NORTHERN IRELAND

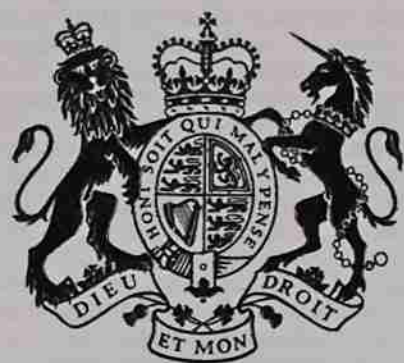
I have agreed with Dr. Gilliland, NIO, the following points:

- 1) Press Association's reports (who is invited by NIO) will travel with the party but in a separate helicopter. He will have privileged access, since the NI media simply will not pool. He will not be told anything in advance and will simply be asked to see Dr. Gilliland at Stormont Castle at an appointed time
- 2) No doorstepping, no interviews, no press conference
- 3) NIO will ensure the statement is put on to auto cue. The message will be recorded before the camera, with the Prime Minister delivering the message seated at a desk on which there will be a copy of words

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and a bunch of flowers

- The Prime Minister will be filmed with the soldiers at lunchtime for early evening news bulletins
- The media will be excluded from the troops (on the last visit in Belfast they cost Plascom & Spencer £10,000 in damages etc, according to D. Gilliland); PA will however have access
- As and when we think fit I shall let a TV and still cameraman into specific situations on the understanding they post; otherwise there will be no facilities.
- We shall have to play it by ear; but we shall incline to be more rather than less rigorous in our approach to the media.

Spencer

20/12

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