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26 Jan. 84.



10 DOWNING STREET

MR EWING

I attach a letter from the Northern Ireland Office about arrangements for the Prime Minister's visits to Northern Ireland. Please could you put it on the file and take the action required in relation to the earlier letter of 7 March. I have detached from these papers the note giving the new codeword. Please put this note on the file so that those concerned will note that I am holding the new codeword in my personal security container in my room.

F.R.B

23 January, 1984

E.R.

SECRET
PERSONAL

Copy No /

ADM 18/47/04

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VISITS TO NORTHERN IRELAND BY THE PRIME MINISTER -
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF CODEWORD

1. It has been agreed with No 10 Downing Street that any visit by the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland should be the subject of an operational codeword. This will make it easier to inform officers who need to know of the visit beforehand, and will facilitate communication about the visit in writing or by telephone.
2. The codeword to be used is EQUITY. It should normally be used in the form "OPERATION EQUITY". The formal meaning of the codeword is "Visit of the Prime Minister to Northern Ireland". The codeword itself is classified CONFIDENTIAL; its meaning is classified SECRET.
3. Knowledge of the codeword and its meaning is to be controlled on the strictest possible "need to know" basis. This memorandum is accordingly issued on the authority of the PUS of NIO for the personal information of the addressee. It should not be shown, nor should the codeword or its meaning be revealed orally or in any other document, to any other officer without prior consultation with me.
4. The codeword is changed after each visit. It may also need to be changed if it is compromised by incorrect use, unauthorised communication of its meaning, or through a security breach. Any known or suspected compromise of the codeword should be reported immediately by telephone in guarded terms, and then in writing to me (telephone: 01 273 5148).



D BROOKER
Establishment Division

20 January 1984

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PERSONAL
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