

R U. to me 16 Sept.

M 14/3.

MR COLLES

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

I mentioned to you yesterday that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had asked to see the Prime Minister this week. I have arranged this for 1500 on Friday, for up to half an hour.

John Lyon telephoned this morning to say that Mr Prior would like to cover three areas. First, he is increasingly concerned about the management of Northern Ireland prisons. He thinks it may be necessary for the Government to commit more resources now in order to avoid a crisis later. Secondly, he will want to report briefly on his meeting that day with Mr Barry, the Foreign Minister of the Irish Republic. Thirdly, he would like to discuss the ministerial workload in his Department in the light of the prolonged convalescence of Lord Mansfield.

*DM*

14 March 1984