

106h

E.R.

- . CC PS/SOS (B&L) - M
- PS/Mr Scott (B&L) - M
- PS/PUS (B&L) - M
- PS/Sir Ewart Bell
- Mr Bourn
- Mr Brennan - M
- Mr Merifield
- Mr Norris - M
- Mr Gilliland
- Mr Wood - M
- Mr Reeve
- Mr Blackwell - M

① Sir Ewart Bell
 ② AI/4
 c. Mr Carrall
 Mr Owen

Mr Angel - M

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S VISIT TO DRUMADD BARRACKS

I was telephoned on Friday evening by Mr Noel Kilkenny, Private Secretary to Mr Peter Barry who was anxious to speak to the Secretary of State. It was impossible to arrange for any conversation to take place that evening and it was agreed that Mr Barry would telephone Mr Prior at 4.30 pm on Saturday afternoon.

The Secretary of State reported to me that the conversation had been friendly. Mr Barry had said that the Irish Government were very upset about the visit and felt obliged to make a formal protest. The Secretary of State said that a visit by a member of the Royal Family to a regiment in the UK of which he was Colonel was an internal matter for the UK, and that a statement to this effect would be issued shortly. He regretted the furore that the visit had created, and that because of the Irish Government's public statements, HMG had had no choice but to respond robustly.

The Secretary of State and Mr Barry agreed that theirs had been a private conversation and that following the issue of the statement in Whitehall neither Government would say anything further in public.

Noel Cornick

NOEL CORNICK
Private Secretary

6 February 1984

