



4. The Cardinal was concerned to emphasise the following points:-

- (i) The visit would be pastoral; this accords with the preferences so far expressed by Ministers.
- (ii) Although the initial invitation to the Pope was made on behalf of the Catholic hierarchy of England and Wales, given the equality of status of the Scottish hierarchy, he, Cardinal Hume, had been in touch with Cardinal Gray and the text of the announcement would refer to England, Scotland and Wales.
- (iii) On the other hand, there would be no question of a visit to Northern Ireland; the pastoral responsibility of the Province falls elsewhere.
- (iv) The visit would be ecumenical. The Archbishop of Canterbury has already sent a message to the Pope welcoming the proposal on these grounds. I enclose a copy of this, as conveyed at Archbishop Runcie's request, in our telegram No 12 to the Holy See.
- (v) The proposal for a visit in the summer of 1982 is still only tentative, as the draft press release brings out. Cardinal Hume will wish to discuss precise dates and programme with the Government and is very conscious of the many problems, not least those of security, to which the visit will give rise. Sir Michael Palliser advised him to be in touch about this in due course with Clive Whitmore.

5. I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretaries of State for Home Affairs, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and to David Wright.

Yours ever,
Andrew

R A Burns
Private Secretary to the
Permanent Under Secretary