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Ireland

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 January 1980

Dear Brian,

Northern Ireland

As you will know from Clive Whitmore's letter to you of 17 January, the Prime Minister has read Annex B, dealing with Northern Ireland border bases, of your letter to Clive of 10 January about her visit to the Ministry of Defence.

The Prime Minister has, nonetheless, expressed concern, having read JIC(80)(N)(IR)1 about the possibility that there will be further mortar attacks on security force bases. She has asked whether the Army have taken any further action to defend against such attacks in Newtonhamilton, Forkhill or Crossmaglen. I should be grateful if you could let me have a note on precautions being taken in the light of the new assessment of the threat.

I am sending copies of this letter to Roy Harrington (Northern Ireland Office) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely

Michael Alexander

Brian Norbury, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence

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