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PUS/L/487/MLR

E1 MAY 1984

EJ Lee
Mr Jackson
Mr Sullivan
Mr Ken
Mr W. Neil
Mr Quinn

Mr Bourn

cc

PS/SofS (L&B)
PS/Mr Butler (L&B)
PS/Mr Scott (L&B)
PS/Mr Patten (L&B)
PS/Lord Lyell (L&B)
PS/Sir Ewart Bell
Mr Brennan
Mr Buxton
Mr Carvill
Mr Merifield
Mr Palmer
Mr Gilliland
PS/PUS (B)

801/5

ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS AT FUNERALS

I attach to this note, for the record, the guidelines as approved by the Secretary of State for the attendance of Ministers at funerals of members of the security forces, prison service and judiciary killed by terrorists.

SAM

Mr W. Neil
For our file
Mr Kidd
Mr Homer
For filing
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PS/PUS

26 April 1984

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GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS AT FUNERALS

In the event of deaths by terrorist action, the Secretary of State or another Minister should attend the funerals of;

- a. The Chief Constable; the Deputy Chief Constable; the three senior Assistant Chief Constables and the nine Assistant Chief Constables.
- b. The two Colonels of the UDR. (This recommendation may seem to compare poorly with that proposed for the RUC, but the difference arises because the UDR has a smaller command superstructure and most of the senior posts are filled by Regular Army officers)
- c. The Lord Chief Justice, the three Lord Justices of Appeal, the five Judges of the High Court and the two Recorders; the nine County Court Judges; and the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- d. A Prison Governor in charge of a prison, whatever his formal rank; and a deputy Governor of a major prison.

It would be for the Secretary of State to decide in the light of circumstances whether to attend himself or to be represented by another Minister.

All other funerals would be attended by officials representing the Secretary of State unless there were special circumstances which made Ministerial attendance appropriate - eg a particularly atrocious terrorist attack involving a large number of casualties. There should, therefore, be discretion to depart from the guidelines in special cases.

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9 APR 1984

1. PS/Mr Scott (L&B)

PS/Secretary of State (L&B)

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PS/Mr Butler (L&B)

PS/Lord Mansfield

PS/Mr Patten (L&B)

PS/Sir Ewart Bell

Mr Bourn

Mr Brennan

Mr Buxton

Mr Carvill

Mr Gilliland

Mr Merifield

Mr Palmer

PS/PUS(B)

(23)
1 Mr Jackson 16/4
2 Mr Smith 16/4
3 Mr King 16/4
+ Mr W. Smith 16/4
5 Mr Quinn 16/4
10cc + return file

Mr. Sumner
16/4

ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS AT FUNERALS OF MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES, PRISON SERVICE AND JUDICIARY KILLED BY TERRORISTS

1. I have been considering whether we should do anything to systematize our representation at funerals in Northern Ireland of members of the Security Forces, etc who are killed by terrorist action. There was some criticism recently both from Governors and (possibly on their advice) from Lord Brookeborough in the House of Lords because no Minister attended the funeral of Mr McConnell, a Governor III from the Maze, and I think it would make for consistency in the future if we were to establish some guidelines. This minute suggests what they should be.

Existing Arrangements

2. Most of the casualties among the Security Forces are members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the RUC Reserve and the Ulster Defence Regiment. Their funerals are attended on a rota basis by a senior official (usually Assistant Secretary) of the Central Secretariat or the Northern Ireland Office who represents the Secretary of State. The number of funerals is too many for a Minister to attend each one and attendance on a selective basis would certainly lead to criticism and allegations that we were

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treating one death as more important than others. I think, therefore, that these arrangements should continue; but in the event of the death of a very senior officer it would be appropriate for the Secretary of State or another Minister to attend the funeral.

3. To the best of our knowledge, no Regular Army funerals have taken place in Northern Ireland. Generally speaking, therefore, these guidelines will not apply to the Regular Army, although if, say, the GOC were to be killed, the Secretary of State would probably wish to attend his funeral in Great Britain.

4. The Prison Service is the direct responsibility of the Northern Ireland Office and is therefore in a rather different position from the Police and the Army. The usual practice has been that funerals of members of the Prison Service are attended by a senior official of the NIO Prison Department. The Head of the Prison Department, Mr Palmer, attended the funeral of Mr McConnell, who was a personal friend. But in the case of two previous murders of Governors - the Deputy Governor of the Maze and of a Governor III from Belfast - the funerals were attended by a Minister. I think there is a case for more consistency here.

5. Funerals of members of the Judiciary killed by terrorists have been very rare and ad hoc decisions have been taken on representation. Again, I think it would be appropriate for the Secretary of State or a Minister to attend the funeral of a senior judicial figure.

Recommendations

6. In the light of the foregoing analysis it is recommended that in the event of deaths by terrorist action the Secretary of State or another Minister should attend the funerals of:

- a. The Chief Constable; the Deputy Chief Constable; the three senior Assistant Chief Constables and the nine Assistant Chief Constables.

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- b. The two Colonels of the UDR. (This recommendation may seem to compare poorly with that proposed for the RUC, but the difference arises because the UDR has a smaller command superstructure and most of the senior posts are filled by Regular Army officers.)
- c. The Lord Chief Justice, the three Lord Justices of Appeal, the five Judges of the High Court and the two Recorders; the nine County Court Judges; and the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- d. A Prison Governor in charge of a prison, whatever his formal rank.

It would be for the Secretary of State to decide in the light of circumstances whether to attend himself or to be represented by another Minister.

7. All other funerals would be attended by officials representing the Secretary of State unless there were special circumstances which made Ministerial attendance appropriate - eg a particularly atrocious terrorist attack involving a large number of casualties. There should, therefore, be discretion to depart from the guidelines in special cases.

8. I should be glad to know whether Ministers would be content for us to operate on the guidelines set out in paragraphs 6-7.

4 April 1984


R. J. ANDREW

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