

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

PRESIDENT ROBINSON'S VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

- President Robinson is not visiting Northern Ireland tomorrow as the official guest, or at the invitation, of HMG. She is doing so in a private capacity.
- HMG will, of course, afford her, like any distinguished visitor to this country, such protection and courtesy as the situation requires.
- There is no question of the Government's having approved the President's programme or any part of it. That is her responsibility.

For use only if pressed about
the West Belfast element

- The House will understand that it would be quite wrong to comment in detail on press reports of the visit before it has happened.

- But I discussed the visit to West Belfast with the Irish Prime Minister yesterday evening. I made it clear that this kind of visit would be harmful. I advised that it should not be made.

- Any question whether the Irish Government has approved the President's plans is a matter for the Irish authorities.