PRESIDENT ROBINSON: CALL AT BUCKINGHAM APALCE

PRESS LINE

- President Robinson is making a courtesy call at Buckingham Palace in response to an invitation received from The Queen. This is in accordance with well established diplomatic practice. Such calls form part of the normal courtesies due to a Head of State visiting other countries.

(If raised) Will this result in a State Visit?

- The President is visiting the UK privately. The courtesy call does not give rise to any question of a State Visit. There are no plans for any such visits between the two countries.

(If raised) Is a courtesy call appropriate having regard to the unresolved problem of Northern Ireland?

- The courtesy call has no implications for issues relating to Northern Ireland.