

Confidential filing

King Birendra's visits to the UK

NEPAL

AUGUST 1979

| Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date | Referred to | Date |
|---------------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|
| 20.8.79 | | | | | | | |
| 12.9.79 | | | | | | | |
| 14.9.79 | | | | | | | |
| 2.11.79 | | | | | | | |
| 18.9.80 | | | | | | | |
| 29.9.80 | | | | | | | |
| 27.10.80 | | | | | | | |
| 18.11.80 | | | | | | | |
| 20.11.80 | | | | | | | |
| 24.11.80 | | | | | | | |
| 17.12.80 | | | | | | | |
| 9.1.81 | | | | | | | |
| 6.3.81 | | | | | | | |
| 24.4.81 | | | | | | | |

DREM 19/551



Nepal

JS

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 April 1981

I am writing on behalf of Michael Alexander, who is at present overseas with the Prime Minister, to thank you for your letter of 23 April with which you enclosed a New Year's Greetings Card from Their Majesties The King and The Queen of Nepal. I shall, of course, lay it before the Prime Minister at the earliest opportunity.

N. J. SANDERS

Mr. Mohan Bahadur Panday, CVO.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Panday'.



ROYAL NEPALESE EMBASSY,
12A, KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS,
LONDON, W. 8.

23rd April 1981

Mr. Michael O.B. Alexander
The Private Secretary to
Her Excellency, The Rt. Hon'ble
Prime Minister
London, SW1

*Greetings card
held in GR.*

Dear Mr. Alexander,

Enclosed herewith a Nepali New Year's Greetings
Card from Their Majesties The King and The Queen of
Nepal to The Rt. Honourable Margaret Thatcher M.P.
I will appreciate if you would kindly lay the same
before the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

MOHAN B. PANDAY
Charge d' Affaires

25 March, 1981.

Thank you for your letter of
23 March. I have brought the enclosed
message from the Prime Minister of Nepal
to Mrs. Thatcher's immediate attention.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

His Excellency Mr. Jharendra N. Singha,
GCVO.

9.



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
REF. NO. T 53/81

ROYAL NEPALESE EMBASSY,
12A, KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS,
LONDON, W. 8.

23rd March 1981

Mr Michael O.B. Alexander
The Private Secretary to
The Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1

Dear Mr. Alexander,

Enclosed herewith a Message from the Rt. Hon. Prime
Minister of Nepal to The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.
I would appreciate if you would kindly convey the same to
The Prime Minister.

*Yours sincerely,
J. N. Singha*

JHARENDRA N. SINGHA
Ambassador

HER EXCELLENCY MARGARET THATCHER
PRIME MINISTER OF UNITED KINGDOM
LONDON

I THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR THE GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

SURYA BAHADUR THAPA
PRIME MINISTER

FILE

VLB

NEPAL

✓ FCO under
Compl.

6 March 1981

In the Prime Minister's absence from London, I am writing to thank you for your letter of 4 March to my colleague Mr. Alexander, with which you enclosed a message from His Majesty the King of Nepal.

I shall of course place this before the Prime Minister on her return.

M A PATTISON

His Excellency Mr. Jharendra Singha, GCVO.

Message with box 6.3.81



ROYAL NEPALESE EMBASSY,
12A, KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS,
LONDON, W. 8.

4th March 1981

Mr Micheal O.B. Alexander
The Private Secretary to
The Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1

Dear Mr. Alexander,

Enclosed herewith a Message from His Majesty The
King of Nepal to The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.
I would appreciate if you would kindly convey the
same to The Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

Jharendra Singh

JHARENDRA N. SINGHA
Ambassador

SUBJECT

cc Master
of

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 45/81

THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, MP
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
LONDON

WE THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR THE GREETINGS OF THE
SEASON SENT TO US

BIRENDRA R



King of Nepal

MFJ

Nepal

CF

9 January 1980

Thank you for your letter of 7 January addressed to Mr. Whitmore. I have placed the letter from His Majesty The King of Nepal before the Prime Minister.

MODBA

His Excellency Mr Jharendra Narayan Singha, CVO.

SS



ROYAL NEPALESE EMBASSY,
12A, KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS,
LONDON, W.8.

29
7th January 1981

Mr. C.A. Whitmore
Principal Private Secretary to
The Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1

Dear Mr. Whitmore,

I have much pleasure in enclosing herewith a letter
from His Majesty The King of Nepal to The Rt. Hon.
Margaret Thatcher. I would be grateful if you would
kindly place the same before the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

JHARENDRA N. SINGHA
Ambassador

SUBJECT

T243E/80

Nepal
(2)

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T243E/80**



राजदरवार, नेपाल
Royal Palace
Nepal

Prime Minister
of

Handwritten signature

Handwritten signature

December 17, 1980

Excellency,

The Queen and I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Your Excellency for the excellent arrangements made by the British Government during our recent visit to the United Kingdom. We have also been impressed by the warmth and goodwill found in Britain for Nepal and the Nepalese people.

It was a pleasure for us to meet and exchange views with Your Excellency on matters of mutual interest. We found the talks very useful and particularly appreciate Your Excellency's interest and understanding of Nepal's aspirations for peace and development. I believe that the visit has greatly contributed towards further strengthening the close bonds of friendship and cooperation existing between our two Kingdoms.

I renew assurances of high consideration.

Birendra
R/ Birendra R. /

Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street, London



cc. Few Files

10 DOWNING STREET

Nepal.

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 November, 1980.

Your Majesty,

Red box
Stored on top of
"Nepal" filing Cabinet
in CF.

I write to thank you for your truly magnificent gift. It will have an honoured place here not only as a memento of your visit to 10 Downing Street but also as a symbol of the warm and friendly relations which exist between our two countries and which your stay has done so much to cement.

I have the honour to remain,

Your Majesty's devoted servant,

(SGD) MT

His Majesty King Birendra

"

co

cc PM - Gifford HS

Nepal

20 November 1980

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you very much for sending her a selection of literature on Nepal and His Majesty King Birendra.

Mrs. Thatcher is most grateful to you.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Department of Information,
Government of Nepal.

LLO



CLEARED
10, DOWNING STREET

With the Compliments of
His Majesty's Government of Nepal
Department of Information

PRIME MINISTER

Nepal

Lunch for the King and Queen of Nepal

Wednesday, 19 November, 1980

I attach, for your information, the guest list and seating plan for tomorrow's lunch for the King and Queen of Nepal.

Sue Goodchild

18 November 1980

c.c. Mr. Denis Thatcher

MF

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE LUNCHEON TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR. DENIS THATCHER IN HONOUR OF THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN OF NEPAL ON WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 1980 AT 12.45 PM FOR 1.00 PM

The Prime Minister
and Mr. Denis Thatcher

His Majesty King Birendra
and Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya

Her Royal Highness Princess Shanti Singh
and Rajah Deepak Jung Bahadur Singh

The Hon. K.B. Shahi
and Mrs. Shahi

Minister for Foreign Affairs

His Excellency The Nepalese Ambassador
and Mrs. Singha

Lt.-Gen. Dana Gambhir Singh Rayamazi

Military Secretary to His Majesty

Mr. Chiran Shumsher Thapa

Press Secretary to His Majesty

Mr. Jagdish Shumsher J.B. Rana

Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Lt.-Col. Dr. Khagendra Bahadur Shrestha

Physician

Lt.-Col. Shanta Kumar Malla

ADC to His Majesty

Mr. Gahendra Man Singh

Personal Secretary to His Majesty

Meer Subbar Narayan Prasad Shrestha

Private Secretary to His Majesty

HM Government

The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington
and Lady Carrington

The Rt. Hon. John Biffen, MP
and Mrs. Biffen

Mr. Neil Marten, MP
and Mrs. Marten

Labour Party

The Rt. Hon. Peter Shore, MP
and Dr. Shore

Mr. Laurie Pavitt, MP

Vice Chairman, Anglo-Nepalese
Parliamentary Group

Conservative MPs

Mr. John Page, MP
and Mrs. Page

Chairman, Anglo-Nepalese Parliamentary
Group

Mrs. Edward du Cann

Mr. Kenneth Warren, MP
and Mrs. Warren

Mr. Roger Sims, MP
and Mrs. Sims

British Suite

Lord Somerleyton

Lord-in-Waiting

Lady Susan Hussey

Lady-in-Waiting

Mr. John Denson
and Mrs. Denson

HM Ambassador, Kathmandu

Squadron Leader Adam Wise

Equerry in Waiting

Industry

Sir Nicholas Cayzer
and Lady Cayzer

British & Commonwealth Shipping Co. Ltd.

Mr. J.G. Bellak
and Mrs. Bellak

Crown Derby

Media

Sir Ian Trethowan
and Lady Trethowan

Director General, BBC

Others

Lord Brownlow
and Lady Brownlow

The Dowager Lady Camoys

known personally to His Majesty

Sir Douglas Busk
and Lady Busk

Vice Chairman of the Mount Everest
Foundation

Major General R.W.L. McAlister
and Mrs. McAlister

Major General in the Brigade of Gurkhas

Professor Hugh Thomas
and Mrs. Thomas

Professor Richard Gombrich

Boden Professor of Sanskrit, Oxford

Brigadier A.E. Taggart

Chairman, Britain-Nepal Society

Squadron Leader Leslie Piper
and Mrs. Piper

Commander of 'Operation Khana Cascade'
Detachment in Nepal May-June 1980

Mr. I.P. Manandhar
and Mrs. Manandhar

prominent Nepalese citizen and sole
Nepalese member of Britain-Nepal
Society Committee

Mr. Joe Tasker
HM Officials

Mountaineer

Sir John Graham
and Lady Graham

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

10 Downing Street

Mr. Clive Whitmore

Mr. David Wolfson

Mr. Bernard Ingham

Mr. Michael Alexander
and Mrs. Alexander

Mr. Richard Ryder

THE RT. HON.
THE PRIME MINISTER

HIS MAJESTY KING BIRENDRA

MR. DENIS THATCHER

HER MAJESTY
QUEEN AISHWARYA

The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington

The Hon. K. B. Shahi

The Lady Carrington

His Excellency the
Ambassador of the
Kingdom of Nepal

Mrs. Marten

Lieutenant-Colonel

Dr. Khagendra Bahadur
Shrestha

Dr. Shore

Professor Hugh Thomas

Lady Trethowan

Mr. Laurie Pavitt

Lady Graham

Lieutenant-Colonel
Shanta Kumar Malla

Mr. Clive Whitmore

Mr. J. G. Bellak

Mrs. Manandhar

Squadron Leader Adam Wise Mr. Michael Alexander

The Lord Somerleyton

Mrs. Singha

Mr. John Page

The Lady Brownlow

Mr. Jagdish Shumsher J. B. Rana

Lady Cayzer

Major-General

R. W. L. McAlister

Lady Busk

Brigadier A. E. Taggart

Mrs. Denson

Squadron Leader Leslie Piper

Mrs. Warren

Mr. Roger Sims

Meer Subbar

Narayan Prasad Shrestha

The Rt. Hon. Peter Shore

Lieutenant-General
Dana Gambhir Singh Rayamazi

The Dowager Lady Camoys

Sir Nicholas Cayzer

Mrs. Edward du Cann

Sir Ian Trethowan

Mr. John Denson

Mrs. McAlister

Mr. Kenneth Warren

Mrs. Sims

Professor Richard Gombrich

Mrs. Alexander

Mr. Bernard Ingham

Mr. I. P. Manandhar

RAJA KUMAR DEEPAK JUNG BAHADUR SINGH

The Rt. Hon. John Biffen

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCESS SHANTI SINGH

Mr. Neil Marten

Mrs. Shahi

The Lord Brownlow

Mrs. Biffen

Mr. Chiran Shumsher Thapa

Lady Susan Hussey

Sir Douglas Busk

Mrs. Page

Sir John Graham

Mrs. Thomas

Mr. Gahendra Man Singh

Mrs. Piper

Mr. Joe Tasker

Mrs. Bellak

Mr. David Wolfson

Mr. Richard Ryder

10 Downing Street
19th November, 1980

ENTRANCE

Mr. Gove Whitmore

The Prime Minister

His Majesty King Birendra Rajah Deepak Jung Bahadur Singh
The Rt. Hon. John Biffen

Mr. Denis Thatcher

Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya
Foreign and Commonwealth SecretaryHer Royal Highness Princess Shanti Singh
Mr. Neil Marten

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| The Hon. K. B. Shahi | The Lord Somerleyton | The Rt. Hon. Peter Shore | Mrs. Shahi |
| The Lady Carrington | Mrs. Singha | Lt.-Gen. Dana Gambhir Singh Rayamazi | The Lord Brownlow |
| His Excellency the Nepalese Ambassador | Mr. John Page | The Dowager Lady Camoys | Mrs. Biffen |
| Mrs. Marten | The Lady Brownlow | Sir Nicholas Cayzer | Mr. Chiran Shumsher Thapa |
| Lt.-Col. Dr. Khagendra Bahadur Shrestha | Mr. Jagdish Shumsher J. B. Rana | Mrs. du Cann | Lady Susan Hussey |
| Dr. Shore | Lady Cayzer | Sir Ian Trethowan | Sir Douglas Busk |
| Professor Hugh Thomas | Maj.-Gen. R. W. L. McAlister | Mr. John Denson | Mrs. Page |
| Lady Trethowan | Lady Busk | Mrs. McAlister | Sir John Graham |
| Mr. Laurie Pavitt | Brigadier A. E. Taggart | Mr. Kenneth Warren | Mrs. Thomas |
| Lady Graham | Mrs. Denson | Mrs. Sims | Mr. Gahendra Man Singh |
| Lt.-Col. Shanta Kumar Malla | Squadron Leader Leslie Piper | Professor Richard Gombich | Mrs. Piper |
| Mr. Clive Whitmore | Mrs. Warren | Mrs. Alexander | Mr. Joe Tasker |
| Mr. J. G. Bellak | Mr. Roger Sims | Mr. Bernard Ingham | Mrs. Bellak |
| Mrs. Manandhar | Meer Subbar Narayan Prasad Shrestha | Mr. I. P. Manandhar | Mr. David Wolfson |
| Squadron Leader Adam Wise | Mr. Michael Alexander | | Mr. Richard Ryder |

ENTRANCE

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 November 1980

Dear Michael,

State Visit by the King of Nepal

I attach briefs for the Prime Minister for the discussions with the King and Queen of Nepal at 12.30pm on Wednesday 19 November and other engagements during the State Visit.

You will remember that since writing to you on 8 October about the Prime Minister's lunch I told you that King Birendra had expressed the wish that there should be no speeches at the lunch.

The King and Queen hope for a private talk with the Prime Minister. The Nepalese Foreign Minister will be present at No 10, but is not expected to join the King and Queen for the talk. The Nepalese are nevertheless aware that the Prime Minister may wish one of her Private Secretaries to be present during the discussion.

The Nepalese attach particular importance to gaining some form of endorsement from Ministers for the King's proposal that Nepal be declared a zone of peace (Brief No 1). The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is likely to take this point up when he calls on the King. But the King may also raise the matter with the Prime Minister. We suggest that the precise form of words be used in both cases since any more positive formula could harm relations with India. The Nepalese will probably wish to make this assurance public. We would propose to agree to this provided they stick closely to the formula used.

The Prime Minister may also wish to comment sympathetically on the King's efforts to introduce constitutional evolution in Nepal (Brief No 1). We believe that some members of his family and Palace advisers are reluctant to see any constitutional progress. It may strengthen the King's resolve to proceed with his reforms if he knows that there is sympathy and understanding for them in this country.

We have been told by the Nepalese Ambassador that the King is unlikely to raise any bilateral issues but may talk about regional cooperation in South Asia (Brief No 1). He will be interested to hear the Government's views about major international issues particularly Afghanistan, Iran/Iraq and East-West Relations (Briefs Nos 6-8). There may already have been an opportunity for Lord Carrington to say something about these subjects to King Birendra when he calls on him

/earlier

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earlier in the day. Mr Pym and Mr Heseltine are also to make separate calls on the King.

Yours WJL

Paul Lyne

PP

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA: 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

LIST OF BRIEFS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Brief No 1 | The Nepalese Zone of Peace Proposal, Internal Developments and Regional Co-operation |
| Brief No 2 | Background On Nepal (Ambassador's Despatch of 27 October) |
| Brief No 3 | Fact Sheet |
| Brief No 4 | Personality Notes on the Nepalese entourage |
| Brief No 5 | Outline programme of State Visit |
| Brief No 6 | Afghanistan |
| Brief No 7 | Iran/Iraq and the Gulf |
| Brief No 8 | East/West Relations |
| Brief No 9 | Aid (if raised) |

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA: 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 1: THE NEPALESE ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL, INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Points to Make

General

1. State Visit sets the seal on our excellent bilateral relationship. Glad we have been able to help Nepal's economic development through our bilateral aid programme. Gurkhas continue to make important contribution to our armed forces. Admire the strong stand King has taken on Afghanistan; fully share his views.

Nepal as a Zone of Peace

2. United Kingdom has much sympathy with the proposal that Nepal be declared a zone of peace. We wish the Nepalese well in elaborating the idea and discussing it with Nepal's neighbours. We shall be interested to hear of progress.

Internal Developments in Nepal

3. Since your last visit to London, we in Britain have followed with sympathy and understanding skilful way in which you have been giving lead to Nepalese constitutional development.

Development of Co-operation in the Region (if raised)

4. Understand Nepal has expressed interest in Bangladesh proposal for closer South Asian regional co-operation. What steps do Nepalese see necessary to carry idea forward? Any proposal which brings together the countries of South Asia is to be welcomed.

Ganges Waters (if raised)

5. This is for the countries of the Region to agree on amongst themselves.

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA: 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 1: THE NEPALESE ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL, INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Essential Facts

Bilateral Relations

1. Excellent. Principal British interest is Gurkha recruitment. Gurkhas provide 10% of our front-line infantry strength. Also benefits Nepal through remittances from Gurkhas serving overseas. There is some opposition in Nepal to Gurkha connection because it is thought to sully Nepal's non-aligned status. But the King's commitment to it is not in doubt. We are the largest bilateral aid donor to Nepal (£9 million in current financial year).

Nepal as a Zone of Peace

2. The Nepalese have strongly emphasised their hope that we shall be able to say something about the King's proposal that Nepal be declared a Zone of Peace.

3. The proposal was first made by King Birendra at his Coronation in February 1975. Several aspects of it are vague. But in essence the Nepalese envisage that they and other states will enter into regional bilateral engagements not to use or threaten the use of force; not to permit activities on their soil hostile to the other state concerned; not to enter into military alliances; and not to allow the establishment of foreign military bases.

4. Underlying the proposal is the Nepalese concern that in any war between their two neighbours (India and China), Nepal might become involved against its will. The proposal appears to have received a new lease of life following Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Soon after the proposal was launched it received the support of Pakistan, China and North and South Korea. The Soviet Union gave it only a guarded welcome. The Americans and a number of other countries

/invited

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invited to comment (including Japan, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia) have been non-committal. The Nepalese claim that seventeen countries have now declared support for the proposal (China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Philippines, Iraq, Czechslovakia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Israel, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Burma, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. The Japanese have expressed an appreciation of the proposal which falls short of support). The Indians do not like the proposal and watch carefully other countries' reactions to it. They see the main motive for the proposal as distrust for Nepal's neighbours. They also dislike the fact that the provision for regional engagements would give Peking a locus standi in the affairs of South Asia.

5. The Nepalese have assured us that the proposal would not inhibit the recruitment of Gurkhas. It is possible, however, that a Zone of Peace, if implemented, might ultimately be used by those opposed to the Gurkha connection as a pretext for calling for the curtailment of recruitment. This and the Indian attitude make it inappropriate to go beyond the line suggested in the Points to Make.

6. The draft of the speech to be delivered by HM The Queen at the State Banquet contains the following: 'We both attach cardinal importance to the right of nations large and small to peace, freedom and independence. You have spoken in your travels around the world of your interest in world peace. You will find in this country a ready echo of this theme.'

7. The Nepalese may seek to publicise any reassurance given by HMG. We propose to agree that they may do this.

Internal Developments in Nepal (See Brief No 2)

8. Constitutional changes following the May 1980 referendum are being considered by the King. His views are crucial. If reforms do no more than provide a facade behind which the status quo is maintained tension will grow again.

/Forum...

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Forum for the Development of Co-operation in the Region

9. In May Bangladesh proposed a summit meeting between the countries of South Asia to explore the creation of a forum for the development of co-operation in the Region between Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The Maldives were later included at their own request. Sri Lanka and Maldives have been the most markedly receptive to the idea, whilst India has agreed only in principle (the Indians prefer bilateral diplomacy).

Ganges Waters

10. The Nepalese may seek our support for the Nepalese and Bangladesh view that the answer to Ganges water control problems is the construction of dams in Nepal. The Indians see this as a bilateral issue between India and Bangladesh. We have been careful not to take sides.

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA: 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 2: BACKGROUND

- I Ambassador's Despatch of 27 October 1980
- II Background Brief

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KING BIRENDRA: THE GOD POLITICIAN

(Her Majesty's Ambassador at Kathmandu to the Secretary
of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs)

SUMMARY

1. Constitutional changes will soon take place in Nepal. Much depends on the personal initiative of the Monarch (paras 1 and 2).
 2. In declaring a referendum on change and promising more democratic reforms King Birendra in 1979 defused tension, sparked by student riots. The results did not endorse radical change but if they are used as a mandate for the status quo disorder could grow (paras 3 and 4).
 3. Britain's interests lie in supporting political and economic stability and Nepal's moderate stance in the non-aligned movement. This can best protect our particular interest in Gurkha recruitment (para 5).
 4. Every encouragement should therefore be given to moves by the King in an enlightened direction (para 6).
-

Kathmandu
27 October 1980

My Lord

1. The King and Queen of Nepal will make a State Visit to Britain in November, and the Prince of Wales will visit Nepal in the following month. These visits will take place shortly before the expected announcement of important constitutional reforms in the shaping and introduction of which the King's role will be crucial. The King derives his strength from his hereditary position and from his popular veneration as a reincarnation of Vishnu. Those least desirous of change derive their strength from their proximity to him. But paradoxically, as the ultimate source of power, actual as well as constitutional, the King alone has the capacity to bring into active political life those elements of the population whose exclusion could sooner or later precipitate instability, violence, and finally revolution.
2. The key constitutional events of the last thirty years have been associated with the personal intervention of monarchs. In 1950 King Tribhuvan, the present King's grandfather, overthrew the rule of the Rana family who, as hereditary Prime Ministers, had for a century confined the King's ancestors to ceremonial and religious functions.

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King Tribhuvan's revolutionary step heralded the end of Nepal's isolation from the rest of the world. His successor, King Mahendra, gave a democratic constitution to his country in 1958 but, at the end of 1960 after only 18 months of Parliamentary government, dissolved Parliament and imprisoned the Ministers elected under that constitution. The partyless Panchayat system was subsequently developed under which representatives were elected originally in four tiers, culminating in the Rastriya Panchayat (National Assembly), direct election taking place only at the lowest level.

3. Following disturbances in the Spring of 1979, which began with students, King Birendra proclaimed in May of that year that a referendum would be held to decide whether the existing system should continue "with timely reforms" or be replaced by a multi-party system. In December he clarified the position by declaring that whatever the result of the referendum three reforms would be introduced: universal adult franchise, the selection of the Prime Minister by the National Assembly (or its equivalent) and the making of his government responsible to the Assembly. The referendum was held in May this year and won by the Panchayat system which gained just under 55% of the poll at which 70% of the electorate voted. The referendum appears to have been conducted fairly, but given the inbuilt advantages of the sitting tenant, the result cannot be regarded as an adequate endorsement of the system as it stood which was widely and justifiably criticised during the campaign as corrupt and inefficient. The King remained above the arena but Panchayat supporters, particularly in rural areas, benefited greatly by linking his name with their cause.

4. An analysis of the voting indicates that the opponents of the Panchayat system included many from the more educated and sophisticated levels of society who possessed the administrative technological and professional skills required for the modernisation of the country - people whose opportunities had been broadened by the return from the Rana domination in 1950. Nepal is proud of not having been under colonial control, an accident due, as in the case of Thailand, more to administrative convenience than to design. But consequently Nepal has suffered all the disadvantages of an under-developed country without the material benefits which a colonial administration would have conferred. The hierarchal nature of Nepalese society and the caste system, which, though its existence is denied, operates universally, denies opportunities to the less privileged, particularly in the poor hill areas, and cannot in time fail to breed frustration and discontent; though the disturbances in 1979 had their origin mainly in urban areas where relative deprivation is more apparent and where outside influences from India and elsewhere find a more fertile field. The action of the King in declaring a referendum defused tensions and the proposed constitutional reforms could, if properly carried out, allow the creation of a more healthy political life. If however they are merely made the façade behind which the status quo is maintained, - and there are already unfortunately some signs in this direction, such as the removal of the civil servants who supported the multi-party opinion - then political opposition will once more be bottled up and the alternative models offered by China and the Soviet Union, represented by their respective wings of the Nepalese Communist Party, will become more attractive. The danger could be aggravated by the chronic economic difficulties of Nepal which has at present no major exploitable natural resource and is kept afloat by foreign aid. Crop failures this year were a striking example of how easily the country could slip into crisis.

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5. The maintenance of political stability and a tolerable economic situation in Nepal are of direct interest to the United Kingdom both in terms of maintaining the balance of power in South Asia and of the continued recruitment of Gurkha soldiers who number nearly 7,000 and at present constitute about a tenth of our front-line infantry strength. So far Nepal has succeeded in playing a modest and constructive role as a moderate Third World country. The King has travelled widely, particularly to countries of the region, advocating the declaration of Nepal as a Zone of Peace - a proposal which he launched at his Coronation in 1975. Though the proposal may seem to lack substance, it is, I think, in our interest to recognise it, not least because of the importance attached to it by its begetter as an embellishment of Nepal's non-aligned credentials. The better these are, the less likely it is that pressures will mount inside or outside. Nepal for the abolition of that anomalous, "neo-Colonial", legacy, the Brigade of Gurkhas! Happily in more than three years in this country, I have detected no significant opposition to Gurkha recruitment among those who wield power and influence, but it is essential that goodwill be maintained both at this level and in the popular mind. Our aid programme, which despite some reductions remains this year the largest among bilateral donors is an important instrument in this regard and its continuation at a significant level should be seen as necessary rather than philanthropic.

6. The stability of Nepal and our interests in this country can best be upheld by the continuation of the Monarchy provided that the King moves in an enlightened direction. He is genuinely popular, he is keenly interested in economic development, he has had the benefit of a liberal (Etonian) English education, and he has a deep respect for British political institutions, in particular the Monarchy. There must remain some doubt about his will and capacity to carry out reforms in which he personally believes against the opposition of some members of his family including, it is thought, the Queen Mother and his brothers as well as those entrenched in the Palace and the Establishment. They will argue that the reincarnation of the Hindu God Vishnu cannot decently or safely dwindle into a Constitutional Monarch, but Nepal is a country of contradictions where Hinduism, the State religion, co-exists with Buddhism and the King presides both at ceremonies of animal slaughter and ceremonies glorifying the preservation of life in all its forms. There seems no reason therefore why he should not evolve as a political God-King and so save Nepal from the darkness which might follow the overthrow of the Monarchy as it did in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Iran. King Birendra must achieve this by his exertions, but we may be able to help by our example, and for this reason there is an added significance to the timing of the two Royal visits.

7. I am sending copies of this despatch to Heads of Mission in New Delhi, Islamabad, Dacca, Colombo, Rangoon, Bangkok, Brunei and Kabul, and to the Governor and CBF, Hong Kong.

I am, My Lord,
Yours faithfully,

John B Denson

STATE VISIT OF THEIR MAJESTIES KING BIRENDRA AND QUEEN AISHWARYA OF
NEPAL, 18 - 21 NOVEMBER 1980

BACKGROUND BRIEF

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STATE VISIT OF THEIR MAJESTIES KING BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV AND QUEEN AISHWARYA RAJYA LAXMI DEVI OF NEPAL, 18 - 21 NOVEMBER 1980

BACKGROUND NOTE

The Visit : Genesis and Aims

King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya will pay a State Visit to the United Kingdom at the invitation of Her Majesty The Queen. It will be Their Majesties' first State Visit to Britain. They made an unofficial visit from 11 to 15 September, 1979. Visits between the two countries have been a source of continuing goodwill and friendship.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will pay a visit to Nepal from 6 to 13 December, 1980, at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra.

The late King Mahendra and Queen Ratne (now Queen Mother) paid a State Visit to the UK in October, 1960. This was reciprocated by Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who paid a State Visit to Nepal in February, 1961.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales represented Her Majesty The Queen at the coronation of HM King Birendra in February, 1975. Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and the late Earl Mountbatten of Burma were guests at the Coronation.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester represented Her Majesty The Queen at the marriage ceremony of King Birendra in February, 1970. Apart from these visits there has also been an exchange of visits by other members of the Royal Families of both countries on various occasions.

There have also been frequent visits by Ministers and officials. The King and Queen of Nepal have travelled widely elsewhere (see personality notes).

Aims

The State Visit is intended to strengthen the traditional ties of friendship existing between the two countries and to maintain a satisfactory climate of goodwill against which we can continue our Gurkha recruitment programme.

Nepal : Salient Facts

Geography

Nepal is almost as large as England and Wales - about 500 miles long and 100 miles wide. It has only two neighbours: India and China (Tibet). It is landlocked. Its surface imports come through Calcutta, 500 miles to the south (although an alternative route through a Bangladesh port is being developed). In latitude, the capital, Kathmandu, is just south of both Delhi and Cairo.

The country comprises three distinct horizontal formations. In the south, adjoining the Indian plains, is the Terai. It represents 10% of the total land area and nearly 30% of the population live there. The central belt of the country is hilly, with fertile valleys, leading up to the snowline at about 14,000 feet. The hills account for 60% of the area of the country and about 60% of the population. The remainder of the country consists of high mountains which are sparsely inhabited. The backbone of the Nepalese Himalayas contains the highest mountains in the world; Mount Everest (Sagarmatha) (29,028 ft), Kangchenjunga (28,168 ft), Makalu (27,807 ft) and other majestic peaks. The country is drained by three great river systems rising within and beyond the Himalayan mountain ranges and eventually flowing into the Ganges in India.

Population

The total population will reach about 14.3m by July 1981, based on

an estimated annual population increase of 2.1% since 1970. 40.8% of the people are under 15 years of age. Population pressure is such that the forest wealth of Nepal is fast shrinking because of the rising demand for food, grazing land and firewood. The area under forest has decreased almost 40% in the past 30 years. The population is unevenly distributed. National life is centred on the Nepal Valley where the capital city Kathmandu (population 196,000) is situated. There are fairly dense clusters and ribbons of population along the valleys and in the Terai. There are small isolated upland settlements. But in the extensive high altitude areas there is no permanent settlement.

Religion

The official religion of Nepal is Hinduism. There are significant minorities of Buddhists (about 7.0%) and Muslims (about 3.0%). The Constitution explicitly forbids any effort to convert persons from one religion to another and Christian missionaries, as such, are not allowed into the country. The Government does, however, permit various Christian churches to operate schools and staff medical missions. One Christian church has been built in Kathmandu to serve the foreign community and the small number of Nepalese Christians.

Racial Composition

The ethnic composition of the population is varied: there are people of Indo-Aryan origin living mainly in the Terai; of Mongoloid origin (including the Newars of the Kathmandu valley and the Gurungs, Kiratis and other Hill peoples) living in the centre; and of Tibetan origin living mainly in the north (these include the Sherpas). Nepali, sometimes called Khaskura Gurkhali or Parbatiya, the language of the Brahmins and

Chhetris (Chetris), is one of Sanskrit derivation and has become the lingua franca of Nepal.

The Economy

Although there is some industry (and more is being established with foreign assistance) the economy is almost wholly based on agriculture. Since systematic irrigation is minimal, it is very dependent on weather conditions. In normal years the country can feed itself and there is a surplus of rice for export. In recent years the production of food grains has declined while that of cash crops has increased. Despite considerable investment, agricultural productivity is declining and the trend in overall production is downwards. Principal exports are jute, and jute goods, rice, hides and skins, handicrafts and carpets. The bulk of foreign trade is with India but the proportion is declining as a result of a deliberate policy of diversification of trade. There is an adverse visible trade balance which is getting worse. Despite substantial contributions from tourism (the rise in which, unfortunately, has recently been checked) the gap is no longer closed by invisibles. The balance of payments is, however, in surplus because of foreign aid. Gold and foreign exchange holdings are fairly steady and in November 1979 stood at \$173.1 million.

The Gross Domestic Product in 1976/7 (last year for which figures are available) was about \$1548 million. The average growth rate of the per capita GDP for the period 1965-78 was only 2% and for the period 1970-77 was 0.88%.

Nepal is classified as one of the 25 least-developed countries, with a per capita GDP of about \$120. Foreign aid in 1979/80 is expected to total about £75 million, rather more than half of it in the form of grants. The largest bilateral donors are India, China, the United

states and Britain.

The current five-year development plan (1975-80) concentrates on the development of agriculture, social services and industry (including the continuing exploitation of the potential for hydro-electric generation), transport and communications.

Much of the country is inaccessible, except on foot. A highway is being built along the whole length of the Terai (the 'East/West Highway') by various aid donors. Most of it has been completed and is in use. The plan is that the highway should be linked northwards to four regional centres, Dhankuta, Kathmandu, Pokhara and Surkhet. The Kathmandu and Pokhara links are already in use and a dry weather link exists to Surkhet. The Dhankuta link (being built by Britain) is making good progress. Later there will be a second east-west highway through the hills from Dhankuta to Surkhet. The Kathmandu-Pokhara section already exists and some work has begun on the Pokhara-Surkhet link.

History

Nepal emerged as a nation in the middle of the 18th century when its component parts were unified by the warrior Raja of Gorkha, Prithvi Narayan Shah.

The present boundaries to the north and south were defined after wars with Tibet and with the British East India Company with some later concessions after the Indian Mutiny of 1857. As a result of the war in the south, Nepal entered into a treaty relationship with Britain and a British Resident was appointed to live in Kathmandu in 1816. He was the first Ambassador of any Western power (and, indeed, the only Ambassador until 1950).

In 1846 power was seized by Jung Bahadur Rana after a massacre of nobles. He was the first of a line of hereditary Prime Ministers who

ruled Nepal for 104 years. During this time the constitutional role of the monarchs was mainly ceremonial.

In 1950 there was a revolt against the Rana regime and King Tribhuvan, the present King's grandfather, resumed full royal powers and abolished the hereditary prime-ministership. He appointed a Council of Ministers from among leading political personalities and summoned an advisory assembly. Gradually the country was opened to foreigners.

The country experimented briefly with parliamentary democracy in 1959, when the Nepali Congress Party (NCP), a democratic socialist party then influenced by the Indian Congress Party, easily won a large majority of the seats in the new Parliament. Less than a year later, mainly on the grounds of party in-fighting, the present King's father, King Mahendra, dissolved the parliament and jailed most of the leading politicians. In place of the parliament he created a 'partyless' democracy - a tier of four councils, or panchayats, of which only the lowest level, or village panchayat, was popularly elected.

In May 1979, following communal disturbances in Kathmandu and elsewhere in Nepal, the King proclaimed that a referendum would be held to enable the people of the country to indicate whether they wished the partyless panchayat system, with suitable reforms, to continue; or whether there should be a multi-party system of government. Then, in December the King announced that in future all elections in Nepal would be based upon adult franchise (thus giving direct elections to the four tiers of panchayat councils including the Rastriya Panchayat - the national legislature - for the first time). The King announced that the Prime Minister would be appointed by the national legislature and that the Council of Ministers would be responsible to the legislature. Until

/this

At this time the King had appointed both the Prime Minister and all Cabinet Ministers.

The result of the referendum held in May 1980 was a victory for the Panchayat system with 54.5% of the votes compared with 45.5% secured by the supporters of the multi-party system. The total poll was 66% of the electorate. Members of both the Nepali Congress and Communist Party have blamed defeat on the superior administrative machinery available to the Panchayat side when canvassing, on lack of unity in the multi-party camp and on rigging of the polls by panchayat workers. Mr B P Koirala, the leading figure on multi-party side, appears to have accepted defeat although he had been confident of winning.

On 21 May, 1980 the King appointed a Constitutional Reforms Commission which invited the public to offer suggestions by 15 July on constitutional reforms. The Commission submitted its recommendations to the King on 9 September.

The Prime Minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa, reshuffled his Cabinet on 1 June, one year after he had formed it. The reshuffle strengthens the posts dealing with economic and trade matters.

External Relations

Nepal joined the United Nations in 1956 and is a member of the non-aligned movement. The country has currently established diplomatic relations with some 79 countries. At his Coronation in 1975, the King put forward the idea that Nepal should be declared a 'Zone of Peace'. This has become a fundamental idea in Nepal's foreign policy, and has attracted support from fifteen countries, including China, but has so far had little practical application. Relations with India and China, two of the principal aid donors, are Nepal's chief international preoccupation.

Nepal-India Relations

Nepal's relations with India have always been complicated by the disparate sizes of the two countries, Nepal's dependence on India for trade and transit facilities, its concern at Indian influence on Nepal's internal affairs and India's fears of China. Relations between India and Nepal improved, however, during the Janata Government in India (1977-79) and now seem good. In March, 1978 separate treaties on trade and transit were signed. Under the transit treaty, India has provided 15 transit routes and other facilities to Nepal. In August, 1980 it was announced that during recent talks on curbing unauthorised trade between India and Nepal, India had agreed to establish a separate unit in its Ministry of Commerce to handle exports to Nepal. King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya made an unofficial visit to India in September, 1979 and an official visit in March, 1980.

Nepal-China Relations

Relations with China are also good. During the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Huang Hua, to Nepal in November 1979, the Nepal-China Boundary Agreement was signed. King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya visited China in August, 1979. The Nepalese Foreign Secretary Jagdish Shumshere Rana visited Peking in September 1980 and at a meeting with Wan Li, Chinese Vice-Premier, said "Our two sides share similar views on the regional situation and on international issues of common concern. There exists no problem in bilateral relations. What we seek is a channel for further strengthening and developing friendship and co-operation between the two countries".

Other Relations

Nepal has opposed both the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. However, a Nepalese team took part

in the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Relations with the USSR are less close than those with China, although a Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, paid an unofficial visit to Nepal in April, 1980. There is some Soviet aid and there are a number of Nepalese students at the Lumumba University in Moscow. A North Korean delegation visited Nepal in September, 1980 and was received by the King, who expressed support for Korean re-unification. In addition to the British and Hong Kong Gurkha Connection, (see below), there are Gurkha units in Singapore.

UK-Nepalese Relations

General

Friendly relations have existed between Nepal and the United Kingdom since the Treaty of Sagauli of 1816 which was concluded at the end of the Anglo-Nepalese War (Gurkha War). Nepal's pro-British attitude has been shown by the assistance given in the Indian mutiny and in both World Wars. The Gurkha connection has long ensured a genuine affection in the relations between Nepal and the United Kingdom.

History of Relations

Nepalese relations with Britain began in the eighteenth century as the East India Company extended its activities into the Himalayan region. The extension of British influence led to friction, which came to a head when the Nepalese seized territories administered by the East India Company. This in turn led to the so-called Gurkha War of 1814-16. After a successful campaign by the East India Company, the first Treaty of Sagauli was ratified in 1816. It replaced earlier commercial treaties of 1792 and 1801. The Treaty of Sagauli allowed the British to establish a Residency in the capital. It reduced Nepal's territory and gave the British some control over Nepalese foreign contacts. Nepal was not to employ any European, American or British subjects without the consent of

the British Government, which was also given the right to mediate in any dispute arising between Nepal and Sikkim. It was also agreed that there would be an exchange of diplomatic representatives between Britain and Nepal.

India, when it gained independence, in 1947, retained the lands annexed by the British.

In 1846 Jung Bahadur became Prime Minister. He visited London in 1850 and delivered a message from the King of Nepal to Queen Victoria. Jung Bahadur Rana was a firm friend of the British, sending his troops to help them during the Indian mutiny of 1857. In recognition of these services the British Crown, which had assumed the sovereignty of India, restored part of the Terai annexed in 1816.

After a hundred years of friendly relations the second Treaty of Sagauli was signed with the British Government in 1923. This restated the fact of Nepal's independence and sovereignty. The 1923 Treaty of Friendship was replaced in 1950 by new treaties between Nepal and the United Kingdom and between Nepal and India.

Diplomatic Representation

Under the Treaty of Sagauli (1816) the British had the right to appoint a Resident Officer in Kathmandu. In 1923 with the signing of the second Treaty of Sagauli the post of Resident was raised to British envoy to the Court of Nepal. Nepal established a legation in London in 1934 and both countries exchanged Ministers Plenipotentiary and Envoys Extraordinary. The legations were raised to the status of Embassies in 1947 and the representatives raised to the rank of Ambassador.

The Gurkhas

The decision to recruit Gurkhas was taken in the early 19th century. In both World Wars large contingents of Gurkhas served in the British

/Army.

Army. Ten VCs were awarded to members of the Gurkha Brigade for acts of bravery during the World War II. There are about 6,900 Gurkhas serving in the Gurkha regiments of the British Army. The United Kingdom maintains a recruiting station in east Nepal. Thousands of young Nepalese compete each year for the 300 or so vacancies in the Gurkha ranks.

The Gurkha connection plays an important part in the country's economy. The cash inflow derived from annual pensions, remittances to families or savings taken home in a lump sum by discharged veterans or servicemen on leave is a major source of foreign exchange. Britain finances a 're-integration programme' to help returned Gurkhas and other Nepalese in medical training and agricultural programmes.

Aid

The first British aid was announced during Her Majesty The Queen's visit to Nepal in 1961, consisting of a one million pound grant together with loans to a total of £800,000. From 1961 to 1979 British aid totalled £37 million, rising from £83,000 in 1961 to over £11 million in 1979.

Training has always been an important part of the British aid programme to Nepal. In 1980-81 some 125 training awards, mostly for training in Britain, are being financed at a cost of about £700,000. Britain is to provide about £9 million in aid to Nepal during 1980-81.

The main current British capital aid projects are the Dharan/Dhankuta road, diesel electric generators, aircraft (an Avro was delivered to Nepal in December 1979), telecommunications, tea development and rural development. There are some 50 British experts on long-term appointment to Nepal and a small number on short-term assignments. In addition, the Voluntary Service Overseas has about 20 volunteers working in the country.

In 1980 a drought caused poor harvests throughout Nepal. The British Government donated 5,000 tonnes of wheat, obtained from India. In addition, 1,005 tonnes of Nepalese grain was airlifted by the RAF to the inaccessible Western Region of the country. The cost of the airlift was some £220,000.

The British Government provided thirty-five tents worth about £10,000 for the victims of the earthquake in the far western region of Nepal in July, 1980. The Save the Children Fund has donated £3,000 for relief aid. The fund also set aside about £180 to cover the cost of portorage from the nearest airfield to the affected families.

Trade

In 1979 the United Kingdom's exports to Nepal were £5.1 million. Imports from Nepal were £1.6 million. Nepal participated in the Expo 1979 Trade Fair and Seminar in London in July 1979.

NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA: 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 3: NEPAL - KEY FACTS

- Population : 14 million approx.
- Capital : Kathmandu: population about 200,000.
Surrounding valley (including towns of Patan and Dadgam): population about 415,000
- Government : National Panchayat consists of 112 members elected through panchayat system, 23 representatives of professional organisations and royal nominees not exceeding 15% of the elected members.
- Country divided into 14 Zones and 75 development districts.
- Economy : Real gross domestic product grew by only 2% p.a. in period 1977/78. Agriculture employs 90% of the labour force, accounts for over 65% of GDP and 80% of export earnings. GNP per capita income in 1978 was US\$ 120.

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The King recalls his schooldays in Britain with great affection and remains in touch with some of his tutors, his House-master and many of his contemporaries at Eton. In 1973 he was appointed an honorary General in the British Army.

His hobbies include sport, helicopter flying (he qualified on his return from University as a parachutist) and painting (the Nepal Association of Fine Arts was founded under the King's Chairmanship).

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1. HM KING BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV

Speaks Excellent English

Born 28 December 1945

Married: two sons aged 9 and 2
one daughter aged 4

Son of the late King and his first wife. A second wife, the Queen Mother is still alive and is an influence behind the throne. He has two brothers, Gyanendra and Dharendra, both of whom have in turn acted as regent in his absence from the country. After primary education in Darjeeling, he went to Eton (1959-64). In 1967 and 1968 he studied at Tokyo and Harvard Universities. The King travels widely. In 1960 he took part in the State Visit to the UK by his father. He has also visited Europe, India, China, Tibet, Iran, Jordan and USSR, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and the Philippines.

He succeeded to the throne on 31 January 1972, on the death of his father, becoming the tenth King of the Shah dynasty. A Hindu, as King he is regarded by many of his people as a reincarnation of the God Vishnu. His coronation took place on 24 February 1975. He has absolute powers as monarch, can summon and dismiss the national parliament and appoints the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. Up to the present he is the real power in Nepal. But he has announced plans for constitutional reform which will in future provide for parliament to choose a prime minister and for ministers to be answerable to parliament.

He takes a keen interest in development matters (he is Chairman of the National Development Council) and makes frequent visits to various parts of the country, spending at least one month each year in one of these regions. On the negative side he gives a somewhat passive impression and there are doubts whether, if it ever came to a showdown, he would be strong enough to stand up to pressure. His brothers and some of his confidential advisers are believed to have advised him to maintain the present absolute power of the crown.

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA: 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 4: PERSONALITY NOTES

1. HM King Birendra
2. HM Queen Aishwarya
3. HRH Princess Shanti Singh
4. Hon Mr K B Shahi
5. Mrs K B Shahi
6. Raja Kumar Deepak Jung Bahadur Singh
7. HE Mr Jharendra Narayan Singha
8. Madam Bhuban Singha
9. Lt Gen Dan Gambhir Singh Rayamazi
10. Mr Chiranjivi Shumsher Thapa
11. Mr Jagdish Shumsher J B Rana
12. Lt Col Khagendra Bahadur Shrestha
13. Lt Col Shanta Kumar Malla

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2. HM QUEEN AISHWARYA RAJYA LAXMI DEVI SHAH

Speaks moderately good English

Born 7 November 1949

Married: two sons aged 9 and 2.
one daughter aged 4. Crown Prince Dipendra is now enrolled as a boarder at Budhanilkantha Boys School in Kathmandu (which is based on the British education system).

Eldest daughter of Major-General Kendra Shumsher J B Rana. Educated in India and Nepal. Graduated as a Bachelor of Arts from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. She studied literature and is particularly interested in the works of Shakespeare and the poems of Wordsworth.

Married Crown Prince Birendra on 19 February 1970 (her two younger sisters are married to her husband's younger brothers). Declared Queen on her husband's accession to the throne on 31 January 1971 and crowned Queen at her husband's coronation on 24 February 1975. She travels widely with the King both within Nepal and abroad. (The countries she has visited include Europe, India, China, Tibet, Iran, Jordan, USSR, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Philippines.)

The Queen carries out a very heavy programme of official engagements and gives patronage to a large number of organisations, especially those concerned with women's affairs and children. In 1975 she inaugurated various projects for International Women's Year.

Believed to be a strong influence on the King and possibly more sympathetic to constitutional change than his brothers and many of his advisers. In public she rarely smiles but in private she can display a bright sense of humour though with foreigners her conversation is inhibited.

Her interests include gardening, flower arranging, literature, poetry, music and sports.

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3. HRH PRINCESS SHANTI SINGH

Speaks good English

Born November 1941

Married to Raja Kumar Deepak Jung Bahadur Singh (see separate note). Two sons.

Eldest daughter of the late King Mahendra. Educated at Loreto Convent, Darjeeling, India, and graduated at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

She accompanied King Mahendra to the Non-Aligned Summit Conference in Belgrade, 1961 and on formal State Visits to Britain, France, China, Mongolia and Greece. She holds the Nepal Coronation Medals of 1956 and 1975.

Princess Shanti encourages social work. She serves on the committees of The Nepal Children's Organisation, The Nepal Red Cross Society, The Nepal Leprosy Relief Association (as Chairman) and the Nepal Kennel Club.

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4. THE HONORABLE K B SHAHI

Minister for Foreign Affairs June 1979
Rastriya Panchayat Member for Nawalparasi, Lumbini Zone

Speaks reasonable English but is a little difficult to understand at times

Born July 1929

Married

Educated at Patna University (Political Science). Once a member of the Samyukta Praja Tantra (United Democratic) Party headed by the former Premier Dr K I Singh, and was an editor of the Party newspaper 'Samyukta Prayash' (United Effort) in 1957. He was nominated to the Rastriya Panchayat in April 1971 for a four-year term and elected unopposed to the Rastriya Panchayat from Nawalparasi District in 1976. 1976-78 he was twice a member of the Nepalese Delegation to the United Nations.

No previous ministerial experience, but alive to foreign affairs problems. Well disposed towards United Kingdom. Quiet and serious.

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5. MRS SHAHI

Foreign Minister's Wife

She understands some English but speaks little

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6. RAJA KUMAR DEEPAK JUNG BAHADUR SINGH

Businessman

Speaks good English

Born Kathmandu 1939

Married King Mahendra's eldest daughter, HRH Princess Shanti (see separate note). Two sons.

Eldest son of Ishwari Jung Bahadur Singh, Rajah of Bajang, W Nepal. Educated St Xavier's Kathmandu, St Francis Lucknow. Studied forest engineering in Romania and at Peshawar.

1968, He and HRH Princess Shanti visited Britain as official guests.

A plumpish, powerfully built, self-important but quite pleasant young man who does not appear to be either energetic or ambitious. Involved in an export-import business: also owns a fleet of buses.

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7. HE MR JHARENDRA NARAYAN SINGHA

Nepalese Ambassador to London

Speaks good English

Born Kathmandu 1924

Married twice. (see below)

Educated in Nepal and at Allahabad University, India, where he obtained a master's degree in diplomacy and international law. 1950 joined Nepalese Foreign Service. Served Delhi (1951) London (1956). Ambassador to the Soviet Union, (accredited also to Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary) (1961). Ambassador to Delhi (1965) United Arab Republic (1969) 1974 returned to Nepal and served in the Department of Administrative Management until 1976. 1977 appointed Ambassador to London after brief retirement.

Separated from his first wife and married again in Benares in 1967 Rani Bhuban Rajya Laxmi. He is suave, personable and friendly. He is always impeccably turned out in Western style dress, and keeps up a high standard of home entertaining. He enjoys shooting, tennis and golf.

Awarded CVO during King Mahendra's State Visit to UK in 1960; accompanied King Mahendra on Visits to UK, France, and Netherlands 1966/67.

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8. MADAM BHUBAN RAJYA LAXMI SINGHA

Wife of Nepalese Ambassador to London

Speaks quite good English

Daughter of General Singha Shumshere JBR and HRH Princess Rana. First married to The Rajah of Khetri. They divorced and in 1967 she married Mr Singha. Her parents firmly opposed the marriage.

She is intelligent and socially at ease. She was a Secretary of the Britain/Nepal Society at its foundation.

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9. LT GEN DAN GAMBHIR SINGH RAYAMAZI

Military Secretary to HM The King

Speaks good English

Aged 52 years

Educated Dehra Dun, India before joining the Nepalese army. As a Major he transferred to Palace Service as ADC to the King's grandfather Tribhuvan. Recently promoted to Lt General and virtually runs the Palace military secretariat.

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10. MR CHIRANJIVI SHUMSHER THAPA

Joint Press Secretary of HM The King

Speaks good English

Born July 1942

Married: one son

Educated at St Xavier's, Godavari and passed Senior Cambridge Exams in 1958. Studied in USA and UK. MA in Economics from Trinity College, Cambridge.

1965 appointed Assistant Private Secretary to HRH Crown Prince Birendra. 1966 visited China twice. 1967 took sabbatical leave from the Palace and in the UK wrote a thesis on 'China-India Economic Relations'. April 1969 promoted to Deputy Private Secretary to Crown Prince. January 1972 visit with his wife to England and USA was cut short by King Mahendra's death. February 1972 appointed Joint Press Secretary to King Birendra. He serves as a link between foreign missions and the Palace.

Intelligent and pleasant, but inclined to aloofness. He speaks fluent French and has a working knowledge of Chinese. Enjoys swimming.

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11. MR JAGDISH SHUMSHER J B RANA

Foreign Secretary (Permanent Under Secretary) Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Speaks excellent English

Born 1928

Married, but is now separated

A son was killed in an air accident with other members of his family. Subsequently had twin sons and a daughter.

One of the sons is undertaking studies in Soviet Union after schooling in England.

Educated at St Xavier's Patna. BA Benares Hindu University 1949, MA Lucknow 1951.

Joined Nepalese Foreign Service and served in Washington 1959. Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1965. 1972-77 Ambassador to USSR and also accredited to the German Democratic Republic. 1977 returned as Joint Secretary (equivalent to Deputy Under Secretary) responsible for Europe, America, and the UN, becoming Foreign Secretary 1979.

A forceful but pleasant personality, brought up by a Scottish nanny. He mixes well, is a long standing personal friend of HM Ambassador at Kathmandu and is helpful to the Embassy there.

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12. LT COL DR KHAGENDRA BAHADUR SHRESTHA

Doctor to Their Majesties

Speaks Good English

Born 1936

Married: 2 daughters and 1 son

BSC (Kathmandu), qualified in India and did further training in Britain (MRCP DTM H) and the USA.

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13. LT COL SHANTA KUMAR MALLA

ADC to HM The King

Speaks good English

Born April 1944

Married: 1 son and 2 daughters

Son of General Malla, Principal Military Secretary to the King.

1962 joined the army. Trained in Britain and the United States.

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*This is a copy. The original
has been exhaover and
closed, 40 years.*

NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA: 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 5: OUTLINE PROGRAMME OF STATE VISIT

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday 18 November | 11.35 | Arrive at Gatwick Airport |
| | 12.30 | Ceremonial welcome at Victoria Station State Drive from Victoria to Palace |
| | 13.30 | Lunch with The Queen at Palace |
| | 16.25 | Visit Westminster Abbey to lay a wreath on tomb of Unknown Warrior |
| | 16.55 | Addresses of welcome at St James' Palace |
| | 17.15 | Visit HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother |
| | 17.50 | Call by Secretary of State for the Environment |
| | 20.30 | State Banquet at Palace |
| | <hr/> | |
| Wednesday 19 November | 10.00 | Call by Lord Carrington |
| | 10.35 | Depart Palace for St James's |
| | 10.45 | Reception of High Commissioners and Ambassadors |
| | 11.40 | Return to Palace |
| | 11.50 | Call by Secretary of State for Defence |
| | 12.30 | Call on Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street |
| | 13.00 | Government lunch at 10 Downing Street |
| | 16.00 | Reception at Royal Nepalese Embassy |
| 19.30 | Banquet at Guildhall | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Thursday 20 November | 10.00 | Leave Palace for programme out of London |
| | 11.10 | Visit Hydraulics Research Station, Wallingford |
| | 12.30 | Visit to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst Luncheon at Sandhurst |
| | 16.15 | Visit to the Royal Geographical Society London |
| | 20.30 | Return Banquet at Claridges |
| <hr/> | | |
| Friday 21 November | 10.00 | Depart Palace for Royal Nepalese Embassy Private Programme |
| <hr/> | | |
| Saturday 22 November | 10.45 | Depart RAF Wittering 4 August 2011 |

** Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under
FOI exemptions. CWayland*

NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 6: AFGHANISTAN

Points to Make

1. No progress towards a settlement: 85,000 Soviet troops in occupation. Only their presence keeps Babrak Karmal in office. No sign Soviet Union prepared to allow Afghan people any say in choice of own government.
2. Present Soviet attitude appears completely unforthcoming. The Kabul proposals of 14 May would do no more than confirm status quo.
3. Condemnation of Soviet role must continue as deterrence against ventures elsewhere. Detente is not divisible.

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 6: AFGHANISTAN

Essential Facts

1. Within Afghanistan the 85,000 Soviet troops have so far failed to break the will of the resistance to continue the war. Soviet helicopter gunships have played an effective but not decisive role. On the ground reprisals against villages have not halted supplies to the insurgents. The training and equipment of Soviet forces for mountain warfare is now better than earlier this year. But, despite the continuing failure of exiled resistance leaders to form a United Front, the resistance groups are also better equipped and more experienced. A long campaign lies ahead. The winter will bring problems for both sides. The Russians appear resigned to this and despite continuing casualties, will take whatever action is necessary to avoid military defeat.
2. The visit by Babrak Karmal to Moscow in October demonstrated that the Russians are not interested in a settlement except on their terms. They gave unqualified support to him and indicated that if necessary they would increase the level of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.
3. The fundamental requirements for any political settlement are the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops and freedom for the Afghan people to choose their own government. Our proposals for neutrality and non-alignment were deliberately in general terms. There are various ways in which the concept might be implemented and we did not wish to exclude options.
4. The proposals announced in Kabul on 14 May made no commitment about Soviet withdrawal and envisaged a withdrawal only at the request of the regime that the Soviet Union are keeping in power.
5. Afghanistan is to be debated in the UNGA on 18-20 November. We have told the Pakistanis that we will vote for the Islamic draft resolution and will work for it to receive the widest possible support. We will make a strong national statement condemning the Soviet occupation.

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 7: IRAN/IRAQ AND THE GULF

Points to Make

Situation on the Ground

1. Little change in the military situation. Hostilities likely to be long-drawn out.

Attempts at Peace-making

2. Little chance of immediate cease-fire. UN Secretary-General's Special Representative to visit Iran/Iraq on fresh peace mission. In the longer term, prospects for successful mediation by the Islamic countries may improve: a meeting of the Heads of Government of Islamic Conference countries is expected to take place soon in Saudi Arabia.

Ships trapped in the Gulf

3. Current efforts of the ICRC to arrange the safe exit of ships trapped in the Gulf offer best prospect of solving this problem.

Shipping in the Gulf and Oil

4. Shipping remains normal. No immediate danger the war will spread. Potential threat to shipping remains. Consulting with friends and allies. Only prudent to consider contingency plans to ensure free passage through Straits of Hormuz.

5. Particularly important as the war drags on to maintain calm without resort to the spot market.

US Hostages

6. Americans have serious difficulties with three out of four conditions. No prospect of early release. Have offered direct consultation with Iranians.

NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 7: IRAN/IRAQ AND THE GULF

Essential Facts

Situation on the Ground

1. Developing into a war of attrition. Both sides beginning to feel effects of shortages of spares, etc. Other states in the area show no sign of becoming involved at present. Iraqis can probably take Abadan but this is unlikely to increase their bargaining power.

Mediation

2. There is still no immediate prospect for success. UN Security Council Resolution SC479 called on both sides to end hostilities. The Non-Aligned have now shelved a weak draft resolution (which seemed unlikely to achieve results) and are working on a fresh draft. Dr Waldheim is sending a special envoy, Mr Palme, to the Gulf on a fresh peace mission. There has been little progress in Non-Aligned and Islamic Conference efforts to organise peace missions over the last two weeks.

Shipping

3. Iraqi insistence upon recognition of their sovereignty over the Shatt-al-Arab has so far prevented release of the shipping trapped there. The ICRC are now attempting to arrange a convoy under assurances of safe passage, but questionable whether the Shatt is still navigable. We are looking at our contingency plans for war insurance in the event of a threat to shipping in the Lower Gulf, but in a low-key so as not to alarm industry.

Oil

4. No cause for immediate concern. However, continuation of the conflict with no immediate prospect of a ceasefire is causing some nervousness. Spot prices and term prices are beginning to push upwards. The next IEA Ministerial meeting is scheduled for 9 December. By then (or earlier) it may be necessary to give serious consideration to measures such as sharing, limiting consumption and bringing further pressure to bear to hold down prices.

/UK

UK Contribution to Security in the Gulf

5. HMS Coventry and HMS Alacrity are patrolling outside the Gulf of Oman. An RN task group is participating in Exercise Beacon Compass in the Indian Ocean.

6. We have informed the President of the UAE, Shaikh Zaid, that in the spirit of our Friendship Treaty, that we are ready to consider giving what military help we can.

Consultations with Allies [Not for Use]

7. Navy-to-Navy talks between ourselves and the Americans have shown more unity of purpose but wide differences remain about the way in which our common objective can best be achieved.

8. At Echternach on 25-26 October EC Foreign Ministers agreed on the need for strict neutrality on the dispute.

Arms Supplies

9. We are not taking sides in this conflict. Requests for export licences examined on a case-by-case basis. In the case of Iran, defence equipment remains embargoed in accordance with the decision of the Nine last April.

US Hostages

10. The Iranian Parliament announced its conditions for release of the hostages on 2 November. These were almost identical to those laid down by Khomeini in mid-September:

- (i) US pledge of non-interference;
- (ii) transfer of Shah's wealth to Iran;
- (iii) release of blocked Iranian assets in US;
- (iv) dropping of US claims against Iran.

11. US Government have welcomed this as positive step. But conditions (ii) - (iv) present difficulties for the US. Iranian Prime Minister has asked for early public acceptance by US of conditions

NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 8: EAST-WEST RELATIONS

Points to Make

1. Russians seem to have assessed before US Presidential Election that a period of greater difficulty in US/Soviet relations had begun. Harder Soviet East-West line is reaction to continuing criticism over Afghanistan and anxiety about Eastern Europe. But they will be cautious about concluding that Governor Reagan's victory will mean intensified confrontation.
2. Current strain in East/West relations results from lack of Soviet restraint. Russians still interested in detente because of its economic and political benefits (trade, credits, arms control agreements) but they must understand they cannot have detente in Europe while flouting it in Asia or elsewhere.
3. We shall maintain distinction between our relations with Soviet Union before and after Afghanistan. A drift back to normal would suit Russians and ease pressure on them to withdraw.
4. Recognise need for more concerted Western action to counter Soviet expansion in Third World: hope for closer contact with multilateral Third World organisations eg Non-Aligned Movement.
5. Lord Carrington impressed during his visit to Poland (29-31 October) by Kania's confidence that Poles could surmount their problems and rely on support of their allies. But situation fragile and problems very severe, especially in economic field.
6. We regard these problems as a purely internal Polish affair, to be settled by the Poles themselves without outside interference. We hope all other countries share this view.

NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 8: EAST-WEST RELATIONS

Essential Facts

1. Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Communique of 20 October included hard line passage blaming West for increase in international tension, echoing sharply anti-American and anti-Western remarks of Soviet leaders in recent speeches. But it reiterated a commitment to principles of detente as expressed in Helsinki Final Act and supported Romanian request that next CSCE meeting after Madrid should be in Bucharest, thus implying a belief that the CSCE process would continue. Madrid meeting still dead-locked on time to be devoted to implementation review.

NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 9: AID QUESTIONS

Points to Make (If Raised)

1. Understand Britain was the highest aid donor to Nepal in 1979 (£11m). Over next few years, public expenditure reduction and our commitments to multi-lateral institutions will cause reductions in bilateral aid programmes. We shall endeavour to meet our commitments on existing projects, but little chance of new projects until about 1983.

Budhanilkantha School

2. Sympathetic to King's wish for continued British support while Crown Prince is at the School. Willing to supply key British staff until at least 1983/84, and will be sympathetic to needs after that. Actual numbers of British staff to be agreed after review in Nepal this month.

Development in Hill Areas

3. Conscious of particular need to open up development in Hill areas. Most of our programme is related to this: road construction; rural development; development of tea industry; agricultural research and extension.

Telecommunications Project

4. The contract with Marconi for supply of an earth satellite station (about £2.4m) should be concluded this month. Understand Cable and Wireless are offering favourable arrangement for supply of other equipment, management and training. They are providing excellent service in many developing countries.

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 9: AID QUESTIONS

Essential Facts

Aid Levels

1. Total aid to Nepal 1961 to 1979: £37m
Total aid in 1979: £11m
Future levels (not for disclosure)

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 1980/81 | £9.475m |
| 1981/82 | £7.9m |
| 1982/83 | £7.5m |
| 1983/84 | £7.0m |

Main projects are listed in attached Fact Sheet

Budhanilkantha Boys' School

2. The Crown Prince entered the School in February 1980; he may stay until 1987. On his visit in 1979 the King expressed the hope that the British staff there could be strengthened. Our agreement to provide staff (currently 6, including Headmaster and Bursar) expires 1982. We can continue to provide some staff until 1984 but an increase would be difficult to accommodate within reduced aid provision. The School is already producing outstanding academic results.

Development in the Hill Areas

3. Two-thirds of population live in the Hills with minimal resources. The King is particularly interested in development at village level. UK projects in Hill areas are:-

- Dharan/Dhankuta Road £15.5m
- Kosi Hill Area Rural Development £4.5m
- Tea Industry Development £3.7m
- Agriculture Centres at Pakhribas and Lumle

Telecommunications Project

4. The cost of our telecommunications project substantially exceeds the grant of £2.6m. An earth satellite station will be provided within the grant. It would ease pressure in our programme if, instead of seeking additional funds for other necessary equipment, HMG Nepal

/can

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can be persuaded to accept a Cable and Wireless proposal for a management arrangement, providing equipment, training etc. This would provide efficient service and guaranteed revenue. But Nepal have had political reservations about a ''trans-national'' operating their telecommunications.

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NEPAL: STATE VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA 18-21 NOVEMBER 1980

BRIEF NO 9: AID QUESTIONS

Fact Sheet

| <u>Main Current Capital Projects</u> | Grant in £m |
|--|----------------|
| Construction of Dharan-Dhankuta Road (Completion 1982) | 15.5 |
| Provision of civil aircraft and hangar (Completion 1982-83) | 6.2 |
| Electricity Generators Hetauda (Completion 1981) | 2.4 |
| Kosi Hills Rural Development Project (1980-1985) | 4.5 |
| Telecommunications: provision of earth satellite station and telex equipment (Completion 1982) | 2.6 |
| Development of Tea Industry (1980-1984) | 3.7 |
| Balance of £12 million grant 1979 not yet allocated | 7.5 |

Technical Co-operation

Cost of running between £2.0 and £2.5m per annum (within total aid figures).

Main programmes:

Agricultural Centres at Pakhribas and Lumle (formerly 'Gurkha Resettlement Scheme') - about £0.6m per annum

Training awards in UK - about £0.7m per annum

Staff for Budhanilkantha Boys' School

Assistance with technical education - colleges of engineering

Technical support for capital projects.

There are about 30 British experts in Nepal fully financed by ODA.

Food Aid

Grant of 5,000 tonnes of wheat, currently being supplied from India.



Submitted to NO. 10
with Briefing and seen
by MODBA.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Nepal

The Nepalese Foreign Minister will be calling at 12.00, not 12.15 (as in your programme). This is to enable him to be on hand at No 10 when the King arrives at 12.30. Sir J Graham will accompany him to No 10, unless you wish to do so yourself (he will probably sit outside the meeting). You do not need to be at No 10 until 12.45.

/ I attach a further brief on the Zone of Peace. For the reasons given, the Department do not think we should go as far as the Nepalese would wish. I have told them that you do not want this issue to overshadow the State Visit: nor do you want to engage in a lengthy haggle with the Foreign Minister. Sir J Graham is meeting the Nepalese Ambassador at 11.15 to try to resolve the problem before you see Shahi. If he does not succeed in doing so, you could suggest that further discussions should be held between the PUS and his Nepalese opposite number (Rana) at their meeting tomorrow. This would give us further time to work out a satisfactory formula.

RMJL

19 November 1980

I hope you will be
able to get back from
Cabinet by then. //



Mr Lyne

cc: PS/PUS
Sir J Graham

NEPAL: ZONE OF PEACE

1. Since the Secretary of State used the agreed formula with King Birendra yesterday, the Nepalese Ambassador has been pressing for a declaration of support rather than sympathy. This is not surprising but I think it desirable that we should stick to our carefully worked out line.
2. My earlier brief summarised the proposal. The Secretary of State may now care to see the fullest description that we have of it, which is contained in a paper given to us before the State Visit by the Nepalese Ambassador.
3. I think the formula already agreed goes quite far enough for Indian consumption.
4. I attach Sir J Thomson's telno 786 in which he expressed the hope that we could confine ourselves to saying that we favour proposals for zones of peace, provided these enjoy the support of all countries concerned. Sir J Thomson judged that this would not please the Indians but it would probably get us by without real trouble.
5. Kathmandu telno 256 took a different line and said that the formula recommended by Sir J Thomson would be thoroughly offensive to the Nepalese as it would make it quite clear that we were cowering to India.
6. In trying to steer between these two views, we worked out a formula which is, I think, more favourable to the Nepalese than the Indians would like.

7./



7. Since the matter is liable to be raised when the Nepalese Foreign Minister sees Lord Carrington later this morning, I attach some suggested points to make. Paragraphs 2-6 are designed to be used seriatim i.e. I suggest the Secretary of State tries each argument in turn in the hope that we do not have to use them all.

8. We shall attempt to discuss the matter with the Nepalese Ambassador before the call on the Secretary of State. But this may be difficult as he is totally involved in the State Visit.

*He will now see
Sir J. Graham and
depart at 11.15.*

A. J. Coles

A J Coles
South Asian Department

19 November 1980

POINTS TO MAKE

1. I described to His Majesty the King yesterday our attitude to the proposal. I am quite prepared for the press to be told after this meeting that Her Majesty's Government view the proposal with interest and sympathy, that we wish you well in elaborating it and in discussing it with your neighbours and that we hope you will keep us informed of progress.

IF PRESSED

2. I have thought very carefully about this. I think the proposal is imaginative and constructive and I assure you that we understand it and sympathise with it. But I do not want to go further in public than the words I used in conversation with the King.

3. It is my judgement that if the UK takes too forward a position now, that will not help you in obtaining support from your neighbours. Surely what matters in practice is the degree of support you get with the region.

|| 4. I am already saying more than, I think, any other major Western country has said.

5. The King told me yesterday that talks about the proposal were still going on with India. Clearly the Indian attitude is very important. Is it your tactic to try to isolate the Indians? My experience suggests that that will not work. Moreover, frankly, I suspect that if the UK goes further in public than I have indicated, || that will make the Indians less, not more, likely to endorse the proposal.

6. We know very well from long experience that states in regions outside Europe can resent pronouncements by states outside their region. Your constructive proposal envisages among other things that the states concerned should not enter into military alliances and should not allow the establishment/

establishment of foreign military bases. I understand and sympathise with those ideas which are very relevant to the region. But the UK, which is and will remain a member of a military alliance - NATO - and which has a different attitude to military bases in Europe, cannot be too forward in recommending quite different arrangements for the South Asian region.

7. I ask you to look carefully at the words I have used. I have asked you to keep us informed of progress. There is a clear implication there that our attitude could evolve. We are perfectly prepared to look at the matter as and when your discussions within the region progress.

22a

THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE

The proposal to declare Nepal as a Zone of Peace is based on the principles of reciprocity and mutuality of obligations. For the effective implementation of the proposal Nepal is prepared to undertake the following obligations provided other friendly countries would also accept reciprocal obligations vis-a-vis Nepal.

1. Nepal will adhere to the policy of peace, non-alignment and peaceful co-existence and will constantly endeavour to develop friendly relations with all countries of the world, regardless of their social and political system, and particularly with its neighbours, on the basis of equality and respect for each other's independence and sovereignty.
2. Nepal will not resort to the use of threat of force in any way which might endanger the peace and security of other countries.
3. Nepal will seek peaceful settlement of all disputes between it and other state or states.
4. Nepal will not interfere in the internal affairs of other states.
5. Nepal will not permit any activities in its soil that is hostile to other states supporting this proposal and in reciprocity, states supporting this proposal will not permit any activities hostile to Nepal.
6. Nepal will continue to honour the obligations of all the existing treaties which it has concluded with other countries as long as they remain valid.
7. In conformity with its policy of peace and non-alignment, Nepal will not enter into military alliance nor will it allow the establishment of any foreign military base on its soil. In reciprocity other countries supporting this proposal will not enter into military alliance nor they will allow establishment of military base in their soil directed against Nepal.

FJN0021/2

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GRS 140
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FROM DELHI 310230Z OCT
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 786 OF 30 OCTOBER 1980
INFO ROUTINE KATHMANDU

Auto return id info.

16 KATHMANDU TELNO 249: ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL

1. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO SEE THE FORM OF WORDS REFERRED TO IN TUR.
2. CONTRARY TO WHAT THE INDIAN COUNSELLOR TOLD ROBERTS (HIS LETTER OF 22 OCTOBER), I SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF THE INDIANS DROPPING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL. NOR IN ANY CASE DO I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO ANTICIPATE A CHANGE IN INDIAN POLICY. I HOPE THEREFORE THAT WE CAN CONFINE OURSELVES TO SAYING WE FAVOUR PROPOSALS FOR ZONES OF PEACE, PROVIDED THESE ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY ON THE PAKISTANI PROPOSAL FOR A SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE. GIVEN THE CONTEXT THIS WOULD NOT PLEASE THE INDIANS BUT IT WOULD PROBABLY GET US BY WITHOUT REAL TROUBLE. I HOPE IT WOULD SATISFY THE NEPALESE.

THOMSON

MINIMAL

SAD

P & CD

[NOT ADVANCED]

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CONFIDENTIAL *Class 770* CONFIDENTIAL
FM KATHMANDU 031056Z NOV
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 256 OF 3 NOV 80
INFO PRIORITY DELHI

TOP COPY

DELHI TELEGRAM NO 786 : ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL

1. THE ARGUMENT IN THIS TELEGRAM SEEMS TO BE THAT OUR POLICY IN SOUTH ASIA SHOULD DEPEND EXCLUSIVELY ON WHETHER IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO INDIA , AND BY EXTENSION THAT INDIA EXERCISES AND HAS THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE DOMINANCE. THE FACTS OF SIZE , GEOGRAPHY AND "CLOUT" ARE CLEAR BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN OTHER BRITISH INTERESTS IN THE AREA SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY, AND OUR JUDGEMENT SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON WHETHER WE ARE TRYING "TO ANTICIPATE A CHANGE IN INDIAN POLICY". OUR ACTIONS AND WORDS SURELY CANNOT BE TAILORED TO SUIT INDIA'S SUSCEPTIBILITIES SEMI COLON THE REVERSE IS SCARCELY EVER TRUE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE INDIAN ATTITUDE TO AFGHANISTAN AND THE WESTERN PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (DELHI TELEGRAM NO 767).

2. THE MAJOR BRITISH INTEREST IN NEPAL IS THE CONTINUED RECRUITMENT OF GURKHA SOLDIERS. IT IS DIRECT AND IT IS NECESSARY TO OUR DEFENCE.

I HAVE REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE NEED TO PRESERVE AN ATMOSPHERE OF GOODWILL. THE STATE VISIT AND THE VISIT TO NEPAL OF THE PRINCE OF WALES WILL CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THIS , BUT THEY SHOULD BE BUTTRESSED. THE ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL IS THE ONLY QUESTION OF POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE WHICH THE NEPALESE HAVE RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH THE STATE VISIT SEMI COLON IT CONCERNS THE KING PERSONALLY. THE FORMULA PROPOSED IN DELHI TUR WOULD BE THOROUGHLY OFFENSIVE TO THE NEPALESE AS IT WOULD MAKE QUITE CLEAR THAT WE WERE KOWTOWING TO INDIA, THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE REGION WHICH HAS NOT ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL. THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, JAPAN AND OTHERS HAVE DONE SO (ROBERTS' TELETER TO SMALLMAN OF 2 SEPTEMBER REFERS). THE FOREING MINISTER RAISED THE MATTER AGAIN WHEN I CALLED ON HIM THIS MORNING. IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOME GESTURE OF SUBSTANCE TO MAKE TO THE NEPALESE ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE VISIT, BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS THIS HAS PROVED DIFFICULT. AN APPROPRIATE REFERENCE TO THE ZONE OF PEACE WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO GIVING THE NEPALESE POLITICAL SATISFACTION WHILE OMISSION OF REFERENCE TO IT COULD CAST A CLOUD OVER THE VISIT.

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FSN 397/2

Departmental Series
South Asian Department

KING BIRENDRA: THE GOD POLITICIAN

(Her Majesty's Ambassador at Kathmandu to the Secretary
of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs)

SUMMARY

1. Constitutional changes will soon take place in Nepal. Much depends on the personal initiative of the Monarch (paras 1 and 2).
2. In declaring a referendum on change and promising more democratic reforms King Birendra in 1979 defused tension, sparked by student riots. The results did not endorse radical change but if they are used as a mandate for the status quo disorder could grow (paras 3 and 4).
3. Britain's interests lie in supporting political and economic stability and Nepal's moderate stance in the non-aligned movement. This can best protect our particular interest in Gurkha recruitment (para 5).
4. Every encouragement should therefore be given to moves by the King in an enlightened direction (para 6).

Kathmandu
27 October 1980

My Lord

1. The King and Queen of Nepal will make a State Visit to Britain in November, and the Prince of Wales will visit Nepal in the following month. These visits will take place shortly before the expected announcement of important constitutional reforms in the shaping and introduction of which the King's role will be crucial. The King derives his strength from his hereditary position and from his popular veneration as a reincarnation of Vishnu. Those least desirous of change derive their strength from their proximity to him. But paradoxically, as the ultimate source of power, actual as well as constitutional, the King alone has the capacity to bring into active political life those elements of the population whose exclusion could sooner or later precipitate instability, violence, and finally revolution.
2. The key constitutional events of the last thirty years have been associated with the personal intervention of monarchs. In 1950 King Tribhuvan, the present King's grandfather, overthrew the rule of the Rana family who, as hereditary Prime Ministers, had for a century confined the King's ancestors to ceremonial and religious functions.

King Tribhuvan's revolutionary step heralded the end of Nepal's isolation from the rest of the world. His successor, King Mahendra, gave a democratic constitution to his country in 1958 but, at the end of 1960 after only 18 months of Parliamentary government, dissolved Parliament and imprisoned the Ministers elected under that constitution. The partyless Panchayat system was subsequently developed under which representatives were elected originally in four tiers, culminating in the Rastriya Panchayat (National Assembly), direct election taking place only at the lowest level.

3. Following disturbances in the Spring of 1979, which began with students, King Birendra proclaimed in May of that year that a referendum would be held to decide whether the existing system should continue "with timely reforms" or be replaced by a multi-party system. In December he clarified the position by declaring that whatever the result of the referendum three reforms would be introduced: universal adult franchise, the selection of the Prime Minister by the National Assembly (or its equivalent) and the making of his government responsible to the Assembly. The referendum was held in May this year and won by the Panchayat system which gained just under 55% of the poll at which 70% of the electorate voted. The referendum appears to have been conducted fairly, but given the inbuilt advantages of the sitting tenant, the result cannot be regarded as an adequate endorsement of the system as it stood which was widely and justifiably criticised during the campaign as corrupt and inefficient. The King remained above the arena but Panchayat supporters, particularly in rural areas, benefited greatly by linking his name with their cause.

4. An analysis of the voting indicates that the opponents of the Panchayat system included many from the more educated and sophisticated levels of society who possessed the administrative technological and professional skills required for the modernisation of the country - people whose opportunities had been broadened by the return from the Rana domination in 1950. Nepal is proud of not having been under colonial control, an accident due, as in the case of Thailand, more to administrative convenience than to design. But consequently Nepal has suffered all the disadvantages of an under-developed country without the material benefits which a colonial administration would have conferred. The hierarchal nature of Nepalese society and the caste system, which, though its existence is denied, operates universally, denies opportunities to the less privileged, particularly in the poor hill areas, and cannot in time fail to breed frustration and discontent; though the disturbances in 1979 had their origin mainly in urban areas where relative deprivation is more apparent and where outside influences from India and elsewhere find a more fertile field. The action of the King in declaring a referendum defused tensions and the proposed constitutional reforms could, if properly carried out, allow the creation of a more healthy political life. If however they are merely made the façade behind which the status quo is maintained, - and there are already unfortunately some signs in this direction, such as the removal of the civil servants who supported the multi-party opinion - then political opposition will once more be bottled up and the alternative models offered by China and the Soviet Union, represented by their respective wings of the Nepalese Communist Party, will become more attractive. The danger could be aggravated by the chronic economic difficulties of Nepal which has at present no major exploitable natural resource and is kept afloat by foreign aid. Crop failures this year were a striking example of how easily the country could slip into crisis.

5. The maintenance of political stability and a tolerable economic situation in Nepal are of direct interest to the United Kingdom both in terms of maintaining the balance of power in South Asia and of the continued recruitment of Gurkha soldiers who number nearly 7,000 and at present constitute about a tenth of our front-line infantry strength. So far Nepal has succeeded in playing a modest and constructive role as a moderate Third World country. The King has travelled widely, particularly to countries of the region, advocating the declaration of Nepal as a Zone of Peace - a proposal which he launched at his Coronation in 1975. Though the proposal may seem to lack substance, it is, I think, in our interest to recognise it, not least because of the importance attached to it by its begetter as an embellishment of Nepal's non-aligned credentials. The better these are, the less likely it is that pressures will mount inside or outside. Nepal for the abolition of that anomalous, "neo-Colonial", legacy, the Brigade of Gurkhas! Happily in more than three years in this country, I have detected no significant opposition to Gurkha recruitment among those who wield power and influence, but it is essential that goodwill be maintained both at this level and in the popular mind. Our aid programme, which despite some reductions remains this year the largest among bilateral donors is an important instrument in this regard and its continuation at a significant level should be seen as necessary rather than philanthropic.

6. The stability of Nepal and our interests in this country can best be upheld by the continuation of the Monarchy provided that the King moves in an enlightened direction. He is genuinely popular, he is keenly interested in economic development, he has had the benefit of a liberal (Etonian) English education, and he has a deep respect for British political institutions, in particular the Monarchy. There must remain some doubt about his will and capacity to carry out reforms in which he personally believes against the opposition of some members of his family including, it is thought, the Queen Mother and his brothers as well as those entrenched in the Palace and the Establishment. They will argue that the reincarnation of the Hindu God Vishnu cannot decently or safely dwindle into a Constitutional Monarch, but Nepal is a country of contradictions where Hinduism, the State religion, co-exists with Buddhism and the King presides both at ceremonies of animal slaughter and ceremonies glorifying the preservation of life in all its forms. There seems no reason therefore why he should not evolve as a political God-King and so save Nepal from the darkness which might follow the overthrow of the Monarchy as it did in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Iran. King Birendra must achieve this by his exertions, but we may be able to help by our example, and for this reason there is an added significance to the timing of the two Royal visits.

7. I am sending copies of this despatch to Heads of Mission in New Delhi, Islamabad, Dacca, Colombo, Rangoon, Bangkok, Brunei and Kabul, and to the Governor and CBF, Hong Kong.

I am, My Lord,
Yours faithfully,

John B Denson



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 October 1980

1.

Lg. Mark

It is a little bit by 6p. Henry.

Can you have a word with David Worsop.

We don't want all the same people who will read the official list.

Dear Michael,

Content with the list? Yes 17x.

State visit of King and Queen of Nepal

I enclose a draft guest list for the Prime Minister's luncheon on Wednesday 19 November in honour of Their Majesties The King and Queen of Nepal.

There is one idiosyncrasy affecting the Nepalese suite which you may care to note for placement. Raja Kumar Deepak Jung Bahadur Singh, the husband of Her Royal Highness Princess Shanti Singh, takes his precedence after the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mrs Shaki.

Mr Shore is nominated on the basis of his present position. There is of course an element of doubt as to whether he will still be the Opposition's Foreign Affairs Spokesman on 19 November.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

PAPERS TO CAROLINE
PLEASE



Nepal
Le M

Noted.

CP. 13/10

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 October 1980

State Visit by the King of Nepal

Thank you for your letter of 8 October about the arrangements for King Birendra's meeting with the Prime Minister. There would be no difficulty about the proposals in your letter. I should be grateful if your briefing could include the text of a short speech which the Prime Minister might make to set the stage for King Birendra.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R. J. M. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

9

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 October 1980

Dear Michael,

State Visit by the King of Nepal

In your letter of 18 September you agreed that the Prime Minister should give a luncheon for King Birendra on Wednesday 19 November, preceded by talks at 12.00 noon.

The Nepalese have now told us that King Birendra would like to have a brief private discussion with the Prime Minister rather than formal talks - and that he has asked if Queen Aishwarya could be present (as she was when he called at 10 Downing Street on 12 September last year). The Nepalese seem to be thinking in terms of a private talk for about a quarter of an hour before the guests arrive for lunch. As lunch is planned for 12.45 for 1.00pm, the talk would begin at 12.30pm. The Nepalese Foreign Minister will be calling on Lord Carrington at 12.15, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary would bring Mr Shahi across to No 10 at 12.45.

We have also been informed that it is King Birendra's wish to deliver a speech during the luncheon. The Nepalese have given us no indication as to the likely length or subject matter of the speech, and will not be able to do so until the King returns to Kathmandu from a trip to one of the outlying areas of the country. We will try to find out more about his intentions. However, the Nepalese are clearly setting some store by this and we hope that the Prime Minister can agree to the King delivering a short speech on this occasion.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON

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Nepal

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

29 September 1980

Dear Banni,

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NEPAL:
PROPOSED PROMOTION TO HONORARY FIELD MARSHAL

I have shown the Prime Minister your letter of 26 September 1980.

She agrees that providing the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary is content, Mr. Pym should seek the approval of The Queen for the promotion of His Majesty The King of Nepal to the rank of Honorary Field Marshal.

I am sending a copy of this letter to George Walden (FCO).

Yours we,

Her: Whinn.

B.M. Norbury, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

CONFIDENTIAL

GC

Nepal

HS

29 September 1980

State Visit of The King and Queen of Nepal on
Tuesday 18 November

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 25 September.

I can confirm that the Prime Minister will be leaving from 10 Downing Street for the above occasion.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Eric Penn, K.C.V.O.,
O.B.E., M.C.

KRB



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITE

Telephone 01-~~8307022~~ 21

MO 6/11

26th S

Dear Clive,

Handwritten initials

*Prime Minister
Content,
not have
of the proposal*

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NEPAL: PROPOSED PROMOTION TO
HONORARY FIELD MARSHAL

The Army Board have proposed that, in recognition of the long and honourable tradition of service of the Gurkhas as an integral part of the British Army, the approval of The Queen should be sought for the promotion of Honorary Field Marshal of Honorary General His Majesty Bir Bikram Shah Deva, King of Nepal. The King's proposal is for the promotion of Honorary Field Marshal.

My Secretary of State understands that this proposal has the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. That, further, there would be an opportunity for The Queen to mark this promotion during The King's visit to the United Kingdom in November. If the Prime Minister is content he should submit for a formal submission to be made to The Queen.

I am sending a copy of this letter to George

CONFIDENTIAL

MF



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-~~XXXXXXXX~~ 218 2111/3

MO 6/11

26th September 1980

Dear Clive,

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NEPAL: PROPOSED PROMOTION TO
HONORARY FIELD MARSHAL

The Army Board have proposed that, in recognition of the long and honourable tradition of service of the Brigade of Gurkhas as an integral part of the British Army, the approval of The Queen should be sought for the promotion to Honorary Field Marshal of Honorary General His Majesty Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva, King of Nepal. The King's father was an Honorary Field Marshal.

My Secretary of State understands that this proposal has the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary; and that, further, there would be an opportunity for The Queen to mark this promotion during The King's visit to the United Kingdom in November. If the Prime Minister is content he will arrange for a formal submission to be made to The Queen.

I am sending a copy of this letter to George Walden (FCO).

Yours and
B M

(B M NORBURY)

C A Whitmore Esq



LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE,
ST JAMES'S PALACE, S.W.1.

25th September, 1980

My dear Prime Minister,

State Visit of
The King and Queen of Nepal
Arrival - Tuesday, 18th November, 1980

I have the honour to inform you that The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will meet The King and Queen of Nepal upon their Arrival at Victoria Station at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th November next.

The Queen wishes you, as Prime Minister, to be present on this occasion and to arrive at Victoria Station, Hudson's Place, by not later than 12.10 p.m.

Day Dress with a Hat will be worn.

I shall be grateful if I may please be provided with the address from which you will start your journey to Victoria Station in order that a route and windscreen label may be provided to facilitate your arrival.

Yours sincerely
[Signature]

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

Caroline GR

es.
29/9



TTIP

10 DOWNING STREET

MR. THATCHER

I mentioned to you last week that the Prime Minister will be giving lunch for the King of Nepal on 19 November. I think you have already noted this in your diary, but I confirm that your presence would be appreciated.

M. A. PATTISON

22 September 1980



10 DOWNING STREET

MOOBA

Do you want DT for
Nepal lunch on
November 19?

MP

19/11

Mr Palkin.

Yes.

Print
- 20/11

FILE

VLB

CONFIDENTIAL

Nepal

18 September 1980

State Visit by the King of Nepal

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 15 September on this subject. She has agreed to give an official lunch for the King of Nepal on Wednesday, 19 November. She has also agreed that the lunch should be preceded by a session of talks beginning at 1200.

The Prime Minister would not wish to attend the Lord Mayor's Banquet.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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NM



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Agree to give lunch (instead of dinner as previously envisaged) for King of Nepal. It will involve postponing lunch with the Guinea Club. There is no need for you to go to the Lord Mayor's Banquet:

15 September 1980

Dear Michael, you will, of course, be attending the State Banquet.

State Visit by the King of Nepal

As you know, the King and Queen of Nepal will be paying a State Visit here from 18 - 21 November. Their Majesties are expected to arrive at Victoria Station at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday 18 November where Her Majesty The Queen will present the principal members of Her Government. Arrangements are being co-ordinated by the Lord Chamberlain's Office who have asked whether the programme might include luncheon by the Prime Minister on behalf of Her Majesty's Government. This is proposed for Wednesday 19 November (at 12.45 p.m. for 1.00 p.m.).

We recommend that the lunch should be preceded by a short tete-a-tete discussion between the Prime Minister and King Birendra at 12.00 p.m. followed by enlarged talks to include members of the King's party at which Lord Carrington could also be present. This would provide a useful opportunity for an exchange of views on matters of international concern and for the Prime Minister to assure the King of our continuing interest in Nepal's political stability and economic development. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will also make a courtesy call on His Majesty earlier in the day.

We shall send recommendations for the guest list for the lunch by 17 October. We propose that this should be for 64, including wives.

A State Banquet will be held at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 18 November.

The Lord Chamberlain's office would also be glad to learn whether the Prime Minister would wish to attend the Lord Mayor's Banquet for the King and Queen on the evening of 19 November. Lord Carrington will not be able to go.

yours ever
Rodrick Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O D'B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON



file TTP
Nepal

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 November 1979

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 29 October and for the message of His Majesty The King of Nepal enclosed with it.

M O D BA

His Excellency Mr. Jharendra Karayan
Singha, C.V.O.

SKM



ROYAL NEPALESE EMBASSY,
12A, KENSINGTON PALACE GARDENS,
LONDON, W. 8.

29th. October, 1979.

Dear Prime Minister,

I have much pleasure in enclosing
herewith a letter from His Majesty The King
addressed to Your Excellency.

With the kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(J. N. Singha)
Ambassador

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

SUBJECT

cc Master srt
Ops srt



राजदरवार, नेपाल
Royal Palace
Nepal

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T123E/79T

October 18, 1979

Excellency,

On behalf of the Queen and on Our own, We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Your Excellency for the warm hospitality accorded to Us during Our recent visit to London.

The visit provided Us an opportunity to have sincere exchange of views with you on matters of mutual interest in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. We believe this exchange has helped both our countries to better understand each other and to further strengthen the traditional bonds of close friendship and cooperation so happily subsisting between our two countries.

I renew assurances of high consideration.

Birendra R.

/ Birendra R. /

Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
London

Nepal

CONFIDENTIAL



JS
He

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 September 1979

VISIT OF THE KING OF NEPAL

When the King of Nepal called on the Prime Minister on Wednesday, the question of arms sales to his country came up. I attach a copy of the relevant extract from the record of the conversation.

You may also be interested to know that the Prime Minister spoke very warmly to the King about the performance of the Gurkha units in the Army.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, possibly reading 'R.L.L.' or similar.

R.L.L. Facer, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

CONFIDENTIAL

cc Nepal Aug '79
Visit of Bircide
file KB



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 September 1979

KING OF NEPAL'S CALL

The King of Nepal called, as arranged, on Wednesday 12 September. I enclose a record of his talk with the Prime Minister.

In discussion after the King had left, the Prime Minister said that she very much hoped it would prove possible to arrange for the King's State Visit to take place in the summer months. In regard to the cancellation of the Prince of Wales' visit to the Sub-Continent, she said that she did not think the trip should be postponed for too long. It might well be desirable on political grounds for the Prince to go to India and Nepal earlier than 1981. (The Prime Minister had heard that a date in that year might be the earliest that the Prince's existing commitments would permit).

I am sending a copy of this letter, and its enclosure, to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

R M J Lyne Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORD OF A TALK BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND KING BIRENDRA OF NEPAL AT NO. 10 DOWNING STREET, ON WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER AT 1600 HOURS.

Present

Prime Minister
H.E. J.B. Denson
Mr. M.O'D. Alexander

King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah
Jharendra Narayan Singha
K.B. Shahi

Non-Aligned Conference

The Prime Minister asked King Birendra for his views on the Non-Aligned Summit in Havana which he had just attended. King Birendra said that, given the conflicting views represented at the Conference, it was surprising that so much had been achieved. The views of the radicals had not prevailed. But the radicals would go on advancing their views. President Castro had three more years in office as Chairman of the Conference and he would ensure that the Cuban Co-ordinating Bureau played an active role. It will become apparent at the next Ministerial meeting of the Conference in Delhi in 18 months' time - and still more at the next Summit in Baghdad in three years time - how much progress they had made.

King Birendra said that the specific problems which had concerned his delegation in Havana related to the future of Kampuchea and to Egypt. On the first point, Nepal was opposed to the activities of the Vietnamese in Cambodia. Whatever his failings, Pol Pot was a national figure. On the Egyptian issue, Nepal had taken the line with those seeking Egyptian expulsion from the Conference that Egypt's relations with Israel were a regional problem and Egypt was entitled to make agreements with whoever she chose. The Rhodesian problem had not figured prominently in the discussions in Havana. On the situation in Cuba itself, King Birendra said that he had formed the view that if the Cuban Government were given the opportunity to develop better relations with the United States, they would take it. At present, the Cubans were conscious of being too closely tied to the Soviet Union and were looking for a way out.

Nepal

King Birendra expressed his gratitude for the aid that had been given to his country by the UK. Mr. Denson said that

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-2-

the United Kingdom now seemed to have a sensible and balanced programme of aid for Nepal. Two major elements in it were a programme for the reintegration of returning Gurkha soldiers and a multi-disciplinary scheme being run in the east of the country, in conjunction with local authorities there, for integrated rural development. Mr. Denson also referred to the school being run with British support which King Birendra's son would be entering next year. King Birendra said that he hoped the British element on the staff of the school could be strengthened. He was anxious that his son should receive a good education while remaining in a Nepalese environment. On the aid programme in general, King Birendra said that the requirement was for small scale projects which would have an impact at village level. For example, assistance with the building of small suspension bridges; the provision of drinking water; the development of crops that would grow at high altitude; and with projects that would improve the distribution of food. The Prime Minister, having warmly praised the qualities of the Gurkha units in the British Army, said that she much agreed with an aid strategy intended to raise standards in the villages and developed in consultation with village leaders. In conversation a day or two earlier, President Banda had made the point to her that the villagers were the people who knew best what they needed in their localities.

On larger scale aid projects, King Birendra said that Nepal's greatest natural resource was her water. In the dry season 16 per cent of the water flowing into the Ganges came from Nepal. Surveys by Japanese and Australian teams had suggested there was considerable scope for hydroelectric and irrigation projects. It might ultimately be possible to produce 80 million kilowatts of electric power which could be sold to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and China. Harnessing of water on this scale would of course be an expensive and lengthy undertaking. But it had to be done not only because of the potential financial benefits but also because of the need to control flooding. The Indian Government would like to see the problem handled exclusively on a bilateral Indo-Nepalese basis. But the Nepalese Government intended to proceed on a case by case basis. The Prime Minister agreed with this approach.

/Relations with the Soviet Union

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Relations with the Soviet Union

King Birendra expressed anxiety about the role and the intentions of the Soviet Union in the sub-continent. Soviet activities were increasing in Nepal although, happily, the Communist Party in Nepal was split into various factions their agitation was a unsettling factor. Although economic progress and the extension of the vote were helpful in combating the activities of the Communists, Nepal had had an unfortunate experience in the attempt to develop political parties. As the Shah of Iran had found, the transition to a more democratic system was extremely difficult to manage. King Birendra said that he was reasonably confident about the situation in rural areas but that there were problems in urban areas. The Prime Minister said that Soviet activity was on the increase everywhere. Many countries faced the problem of active, well organised and dedicated minorities seizing the direction of events from the apathetic majority. Recent events in Iran were an alarming example of what could happen. They showed how the human rights issue could be exploited by those who when they came to power proved that they were in fact less interested in human rights than the regime they had overthrown. The extent of revolutionary infiltration was frightening. The essential first step in combating their activities was to increase awareness of what they were doing. King Birendra said that he shared the Prime Minister's hope that Western governments had drawn the correct conclusion from events in Iran.

Arms Sales

King Birendra said that his Government bought most of their arms from India but that some came from the United Kingdom. The Indian Government had suggested to him that there was an understanding, endorsed by Western Governments, that only India should supply Nepal with arms. The Nepalese Government, however, wished to retain the flexibility of dealing direct with the United Kingdom. The Prime Minister said that she hoped the direct link would be retained. Nepalese requests would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

The discussion ended at 1710.

14 September 1979

CONFIDENTIAL

MR. ALEXANDER

MR. RYLANDS

MR. TAYLOR

DETECTIVES

FRONT DOOR

MR. JAMES

Nepal

The following will arrive at 3.45 for a photocall at 4.00 with the Prime Minister and King Birendra of Nepal:

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| COI | - | R. Smith |
| Central Press | - | D. Colds(Photographs) |
| PA Photos | - | J. Horton |
| Embassy of Nepal | - | S M. Shrestha (Cameraman) |
| | - | B. B. Shrestha (Cameraman) |

JAN LUKE

12 September, 1979

DUTY CLERK

12/9

GUEST LIST FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S TEA
FOR THE KING OF NEPAL IN THE WHITE
DRAWING ROOM AT 10 DOWNING STREET
ON WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER AT 1600

Prime Minister

His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev

Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah

Mr. K. B. Shahi, Foreign Minister

His Excellency Mr. Jharendra Narayan Singha, CVO,
Royal Nepalese Embassy

J.D. Denton Ambassador to Nepal.

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*This is a copy.
The original has been
extracted and closed, 40 years.*

*Original filed
Foreign Policy - Future State
Matters Visits*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 September 1979

Dear Michael,

Prince of Wales' Visit to India and Nepal: King of Nepal's
Call on the Prime Minister, 4.00 pm Wednesday, 12 September

As Lord Carrington told the Prime Minister this evening, in the light of the Indian President's decision that general elections should be held this December, we are advising Buckingham Palace that the Prince of Wales' visit to India from 19 November to 6 December should be cancelled. The Indian election campaign is expected to be bitter and violent: we cannot be confident that the risk to the Prince's security will not be unacceptably increased or that the visit will not be exploited by Indian politicians for their own ends.

In informing the Indians of our decision we are being careful not to commit ourselves to rearranging the visit within any specific timescale. We shall wish to see what kind of government emerges from the elections first.

We have also concluded, with regret, that the visit to Nepal must fall with the visit to India. We cannot justify the expenditure of public money solely on a visit to Nepal

** ~~~~~ **
The King will be disappointed. However, The Queen has approved in principle an invitation for a State Visit by the King at a date during the next two years, most probably 1981. We hope this will reduce the King's disappointment at the cancellation of the Prince's visit.
** ~~~~~ **

The Prime Minister will wish to inform the King that the Government have felt it necessary to advise against the Prince's visit to India and that the visit to Nepal will have to be cancelled too. However, Mrs Thatcher will be able to soften the blow by informing the King of the invitation for a State Visit.

*yours ever
Roderic Lyne*

R M J Lyne

M O'D B Alexander
10 Downing Street

** Passages deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FOI Exemptions.*

*Wayland
4 August 2011*

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 September 1979

Dear Michael,

NEPAL: UNOFFICIAL VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA OF NEPAL

--- Further to my letter of 7 September, I enclose a brief
on the Non-Aligned Summit. The Summit finished on 9 September,
36 hours later than planned. The two final reports from
--- HM Embassy at Havana are also enclosed.

We have not heard that King Birendra played a significant part in the meeting. However the Prime Minister may wish to ask for his personal impressions of it.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY KING BIRENDRA OF NEPAL:
12 SEPTEMBER 1979: NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

POINTS TO MAKE

1 What is your assessment of the outcome? Does it represent a step towards the Soviet Bloc?

2 We respect the original principles on which the Non-Aligned Movement was based and have no wish to interfere in an organisation of which we are not a member. We continue to hope that original non-aligned principles will be reflected in a genuine independence of view on the part of non-aligned countries.

3 It is hard for UK and other Western Governments to get across to public opinion the need for aid and a constructive dialogue with developing countries, when we are the target of mischievous and ill-informed dialectic and condemnation on a highly selective basis.

4 How will the Non-Aligned Summit be followed up at the UN General Assembly?

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CONFIDENTIAL

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY KING BIRENDRA OF NEPAL:
12 SEPTEMBER 1979: NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

BACKGROUND

- 1 King Birendra comes to London from the sixth Non-Aligned Summit, which took place in Havana under Cuban chairmanship from 3-9 September. Cuba takes over from Sri Lanka the chairmanship of the Movement until 1982, when Iraq is due to host the next Summit meeting.
- 2 The main issue facing participants was whether to follow or contest the declared Cuban policy of taking the Movement closer alongside the Soviet Bloc, on the grounds that they are "natural allies". Both the first Cuban draft and a subsequent redraft were strongly criticised by many countries for their Soviet-style jargon and their biased approach.
- 3 The end result in ideological terms was inconclusive, with a reversion to broader general principles of non-alignment rather than Soviet orientation. Yugoslavia saw to it that the final communiqué continued to condemn 'hegemony' - a word aimed at the Soviet Union. But there was continued criticism of Western countries on particular issues (including UK for collaboration with South Africa).
- 4 There was heated debate on Kampuchea (whether the seat should be given to the representatives of the Pol Pot or Heng Samrin regimes or left empty) and Egypt (whether Egypt should be expelled or suspended from the Movement). The outcome on Kampuchea was a resolution providing that the seat be left empty until the Coordinating Bureau (normally meeting in New York) had completed a study of the question and made recommendations to a meeting of Foreign Ministers, possibly in November. 15 countries (including Nepal) recorded formal reservations on this resolution.

/5 No

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

5 No agreement was reached on the suspension of Egypt, but Camp David was condemned and the Coordinating Bureau instructed to consider Egyptian actions and report on their proposed suspension to the 1981 meeting of Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers in New Delhi. (We have no report of reservations on this question, but it is unlikely to have gone unopposed.)

6 The passage on Rhodesia, although re-confirming the Patriotic Front as the sole legitimate, authentic representative of the people of Zimbabwe, included a tolerably constructive reference to the Constitutional Conference. The Patriotic Front were accepted at Havana as full members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

7 Although political issues predominated, there was also considerable discussion of economic questions. Participants displayed frustration at lack of progress in the North/South dialogue and concern at the energy situation, particularly as it affected the least developed, non-oil-producing countries. There was further discussion about cooperation among non-aligned countries over the production and marketing of primary products.

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GR 1000

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM HAVANA 092230Z SEP

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 324 OF 9 SEP 79

INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, BELGRADE, CAIRO,
PEKING, MADRID, RABAT, TEL AVIV, KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN,
BAGHDAD, BUENOS AIRES, DAKAR, DELHI, NICOSIA,
PORT STANLEY (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR) AND BELIZE
(PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR).

MY TELNO 313 (NOT TO ALL):

NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: FINAL PROGRESS REPORT.

1. THE CONFERENCE WAS FINALLY CLOSED BY CASTRO, 36 HOURS LATER THAN PLANNED, AT 9.30 AM ON 9 SEPTEMBER AFTER A ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN A THIRTEEN-HOUR FINAL PLENARY SESSION (A NUMBER OF DELEGATES HAD ALREADY LEFT) THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN TIME TO STUDY THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE AND INCORPORATED RESOLUTIONS IN DETAIL, BUT FOLLOWING ARE THE SALENT POINTS AS WE KNOW THEM

2. ON CAMBODIA, THE CONFERENCE EVENTUALLY APPROVED A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE RADICALLY-TILTED SUMMIT BUREAU AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEAT TO REMAIN EMPTY UNTIL THE (ENLARGED) COORDINATING BUREAU KIMPLETES A STUDY OF THE QUESTION AND MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO A FOREIGN MINISTERIAL MEETING, POSSIBLY IN NOVEMBER. FIFTEEN COUNTRIES (ASEAN, PAKISTAN, NORTH KOREA, COMOROS, NEPAL, SOMALIA, GABON, SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, TUNISIA, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE AND EGYPT) RECORDED FORMAL RESERVATIONS.

3. ON THE MIDDLE EAST IT EVENTUALLY APPROVED A COMPOSITE BUREAU RESOLUTION COMBINING THOSE MENTIONED IN PARA 6 OF MY TUR WHICH:

(I) CONDEMNS THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS AND THE TREATY BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND:

(II) CHARGES THE COORDINATING BUREAU, ACTING AS AN (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) AD HOC COMMITTEE, WITH EXAMINING THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO THE ARAB PEOPLE,

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PARTICULARLY

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PARTICULARLY THE PALESTINIANS, BY THE CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT AND WHETHER EGYPT HAD INFRINGED NON-ALIGNED PRINCIPLES. THE (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) AD HOC COMMITTEE IS TO REPORT TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN NEW DELHI (IN 1981) WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN SUSPENSION. THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH TO THE SECTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE FINAL DECLARATION ALSO NOW REFERS TO "THE INCREASING POSSIBILITY OF A NEW WAR" RATHER THAN THE POSSIBILITY OF AIMED CONFLICT.

4. DURING THE MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSION VICIOUS ATTACKS WERE MADE BY THE PRESIDENTS OF ZAMBIA, BENIN AND MOZAMBIQUE ON THE SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO HAD COMPLAINED IN STRONG TERMS OF AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPT ORGANISED IN MOSCOW. THE ATTACK WAS TAKEN UP BY THE USUALLY SUAVE CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT, CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUES, WHO CRITICISED THE SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN HIGHLY ABUSIVE TERMS.
5. IT WAS AGREED TO EXPAND THE COORDINATING BUREAU AS IN PARA 7 OF MY TUR.
6. THE FINAL DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WAS ADOPTED WITH LITTLE FURTHER DISCUSSION, EXCEPT FOR A FORMAL RESERVATION BY MOROCCO ON THE PASSAGE IN THE WESTERN SAHARA. THE MOROCCAN REPRESENTATIVE SAID MOROCCO DID NOT ACCEPT AND WOULD NOT RESPECT THIS PART OF THE COMMUNIQUE.
7. CASTRO THEN PLAYED THE STATESMAN, IN CONTRAST TO HIS INFLAMMATORY OPENING SPEECH (AS I HAD RATHER EXPECTED HIM TO DO). HE SAID CUBA WOULD NOT BEAR RANCOUR AGAINST SENEGAL AND REPORTEDLY ASKED DELEGATES TO EXCUSE RODRIGUES'S EXCESSES. HE ASSERTED THAT DECISIONS HAD BEEN REACHED WITH ALMOST TOTAL UNANIMITY AND THAT THE MOVEMENT WAS MORE UNITED AND MORE TOTALLY INDEPENDENT THAN EVER BEFORE. BRIEF FORMAL CLOSING CEREMONIES INCLUDED TRIBUTES TO PRESIDENT TITO FROM ALL FOUR REGIONAL GROUPS.
8. THE INTRODUCTORY PASSAGE OF THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE REFLECTS SUCCESSFUL YUGOSLAV AND INDIAN EFFORTS TO HAVE THE MORE TRADITIONAL NON-ALIGNED CONCEPTS REINSTATED. THE PASSAGE ON RHODESIA INCLUDES A TOLERABLY CONSTRUCTIVE REFERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. (SEE ALSO SEPARATE TELEGRAM).
9. THE REFERENCE TO BRITAIN AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF 'COLLABORATION' WITH SOUTH AFRICA REMAINS, WITH THE NAMES OF OTHERS NOW ADDED VIZ JAPAN, BELGIUM, ITALY, CANADA,

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8
AUSTRALIA AND ISRAEL. THE REFERENCE IS NOW EXPANDED TO INCLUDE NUCLEAR COLLABORATION, AND A NEW PARAGRAPH 'RESOLUTELY CONDEMNS' COLLABORATION OF THESE TYPES. THERE IS ALSO A NEW CALL FOR AN IMPROVED FORMULATION OF SC RESOLUTION 418 ON THE MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA (DETAILS IN SEPARATE TELEGRAM).

10. THE PASSAGE ON BELIZE SUPPORT BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE AS PREVIOUSLY, BUT DROPS THE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO GUATEMALA WHICH

WAS ADDED TO THE SECOND VERSION OF THE DRAFT IN RELATION TO EXTERNAL THREATS. THE PASSAGE ON THE FALKLANDS, REITERATING THE ARGENTINE'S RIGHT TO RESTITUTION AND OF SOVEREIGNTY AND CALLING FOR ACCELERATION OF NEGOTIATIONS TO THIS EFFECT, IS UNCHANGED EXCEPT FOR THE USE OF 'MALVINAS' INSTEAD OF 'FALKLANDS'.

11. THE FINAL VERSION OF THE SECTION CONTAINS MOST OF THE SAME MATERIAL AS ITS PREDECESSOR, THOUGH IT IS EVEN LESS POLEMICAL IN TONE THAN THE FIRST DRAFT. HOWEVER IT NOW 'STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE DECISIONS OF SOME GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPLY OIL TO SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL'. IT EMPHASIZES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY ISSUE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS. IT DOES NOT SEEM TO MENTION EITHER THE HAGI OR GEORGETOWN PROPOSALS DIRECTLY, AND I HAVE HEARD THAT THIS WAS A SECRETARIAL ERROR. A CONSEQUENT ORAL PROPOSAL IN THE PLENARY BY MADAGASCAR FOR A FUND TO HELP THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND FOR UNDEFINED ASSOCIATED MEASURES, WAS REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY MOZAMBIQUE, BENIN AND OTHER RADICALS BUT OPPOSED BY IRAQ, KUWAIT AND OTHERS. THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT ADOPTED, BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT THE GEORGETOWN PROPOSALS WILL BE FOLLOWED UP.

JACKSON

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 313 OF 7 SEP 79

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HANOI AND KABUL.

N A M SUMMIT: SIXTH PROGRESS REPORT.

1. THE SUMMIT SHOULD BE OVER BY THE TIME THIS IS GENERALLY READ, BUT THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE LAST FEW DAY'S DEVELOPMENTS MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES.
2. WE CANNOT ALWAYS OBTAIN SPEECHES AT THE SUMMIT (NOW EXTENDED BY ONE DAY), AND THOSE WE CAN GET ARE OFTEN DELAYED. HOWEVER MY GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT DESPITE SUPPORT BY A NUMBER OF RADICALS FOR CASTRO'S OPENING LINE (E.G. MOZAMBIQUE, VIETNAM, BENIN, AFGHANISTAN) AND THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE GONE FURTHER THAN CASTRO IN SUGGESTING THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE THE NATURAL ALLIES OF THE NON-ALIGNED, THE MORE MODERATE LEADERS MAY BE MAKING A CUMULATIVE IMPACT.
3. EVEN SADDAM HUSSEIN (IRAQ), WHILE STRESSING THE EVILS OF IMPERIALISM, TALKED ABOUT FACING UP TO INTERNATIONAL BLOCKS, AND THE PROPOSED IRAQ DEVELOPMENT FUND SPECIFICALLY ASKS FOR A CONTRIBUTION FROM INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. BURNHAM, TOO, WHILE ALSO SPEAKING AGAINST THE EVILS OF IMPERIALISM, ETC. AND DENYING THAT CUBA WAS TRYING TO ALIGN THE MOVEMENT, SAID THAT "IDEOLOGICAL AND TACTICAL PLURALISM SHOULD EXIST WITHIN THE MOVEMENT. ANY ATTEMPT TO ERECT A RIGID IDEOLOGICAL MONOLITH WITHIN IT WOULD FASHION THE MOST EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT OF SELF DESTRUCTION".
4. MOST OF THE YUGOSLAV AMENDMENTS TO THE SECTIONS ON PRINCIPLES AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE ARE ALSO SAID TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
5. I CANNOT GET WHOLLY RELIABLE REPORTS OF WHAT IS HAPPENING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS ON THE MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUES. BUT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE FAILED TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION, DESPITE LONG SESSIONS. THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTEMPTS TO EXPLOIT HIS CHAIRMANSHIP HAVE BEEN CRUDE AND MUCH RESENTED BY THE MODERATES, AS HAVE CASTRO'S BULLYING TACTICS WHEN A MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE (THE 20 VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE SUMMIT PLUS OFFICERS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE'S, IN WHICH THE RADICALS PREDOMINATE) FAILED TO AGREE TO SEAT THE HENE SAMRIN REPRESENTATIVES BECAUSE OF DETERMINED OPPOSITION BY THE HANDFUL OF MODERATES. THE BUREAU EVENTUALLY DECIDED LATE LAST NIGHT TO RECOMMEND THE 'EMPTY SEAT' SOLUTION TO THE SUMMIT FOR ENDORSEMENT.

6. THE POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST IS STILL SIMILARLY UNRESOLVED BY ALL ACCOUNTS. THE ARAB RESOLUTION FOR EGYPT'S SUSPENSION (MY TELNO 295) HAS BEEN TABLED, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH SUPPORT IT IS GETTING. THE ARABS HAVE ALSO TABLED A RESOLUTION BROADLY FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS THEY HAVE TABLED TO THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE PASSAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THESE INCLUDE A NEW PARA 109 CONDEMNING THE U.S. THREAT TO USE THE VETO AGAINST ANY SECURITY COUNCIL DECISION ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND CALLING FOR A SPECIAL SESSION UNDER THE UNITING FOR PEACE RESOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SPEAK ONLY OF A SPECIAL SESSION TOUT COURT. MEANWHILE EGYPT IS SAID STILL TO BE FIGHTING HARD FOR THE DELETION OF CRITICAL REFERENCES IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO HERSELF.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS RECOMMENDED AFTER SOME DISCUSSION THAT THE SIZE OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU SHOULD BE EXTENDED FROM 25 TO 36. THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU WILL BE AFRICA 17-1/2, ASIA 12, LATIN AMERICA 5 AND EUROPE 1-1/2. (EUROPE AND AFRICA WILL SHARE ONE SEAT, AS IN A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT MADE FOR BANGLADESH AND AFGHANISTAN AT THE '76 SUMMIT). THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ENDORSED BY PLENARY, AND THE ASIANS AND LATIN-AMERICANS ARE NOW TRYING TO GET A SHARE OF THE 36TH SEAT. DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC MATTERS (MY TELNO 297) CONTINUES TO GAIN IMPETUS. MANLEY PRESSED HARD FOR CLEAR INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS, AND BURNHAM, AFTER GIVING A LONG ACCOUNT OF THE GEORGETOWN PROPOSALS, SAID "WE MUST SEEK TO GO BEYOND THIS AND TAKE A FIRM POLITICAL DECISION TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE IMPACT OF THE OIL EXPORTERS ON OTHER "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES". ALL THIS APPEARS TO BE THE RESULT OF INCREASING PRESSURES BY THE NON-OIL PRODUCING MEMBERS ON THEIR OPEC COLLEAGUES.

8. NEVERTHELESS WE UNDERSTAND FROM A WELL PLACED SOURCE THAT THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS REVEAL WHAT HE DESCRIBES AS A NEW FEELING OF MILITANCY AGAINST THE NORTH BASED ON A FEELING OF FRUSTRATION WHICH HAS UNITED MANY NON OIL-PRODUCING MEMBERS NOW THAT THEY HAVE FULLY TAKEN IN THE FAILURE OF UNCTAD V (THIS SEEMS BOUND TO AFFECT NEXT WEEKS MEETING OF COW).

JACKSON

[REPETITION TO HANOI REFERRED FOR DEPARTMENTAL DECISION,
REPEATED AS REQUESTED TO OTHER POSTS]

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Five

289
cc: Miss Stephens

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 September 1979

NEPAL: VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA

You asked me in your letter of 6 September whether the Prime Minister would wish officials to attend King Birendra's call on her on Wednesday. The Prime Minister would be content for Mr. Denson to be present.

You told me on the telephone that King Birendra hoped it would be possible for there to be a photocall during his visit. This will be arranged.

The draft invitation enclosed with your letter under reference was despatched to the Nepalese Embassy on Friday morning.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R. M. J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 September 1979

Dear Michael,

Nepal: Unofficial Visit of
King Birendra of Nepal

I enclose briefs for the call by King Birendra on the Prime Minister on 12 September.

We hope shortly to receive from Havana a report rounding up the Non-Aligned Summit, which the King has attended.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'DB Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

E.R.

CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY KING BIRENDRA OF NEPAL

12 SEPTEMBER 1979

List of Briefs

1. Points to make
 2. Essential facts
 3. A background fact sheet
 4. A background political brief
 5. Personality notes on Their Majesties the King and Queen, Mr. Shahi, the Foreign Minister, and Mr. Singha, the Nepalese Ambassador
 6. A copy of our note of arrangements for the King's visit. (The official programme is the responsibility of the Nepalese Embassy).
- [Handwritten signature]*



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister.

The Foreign & Commonwealth
Secretary has told you of his
advice that the Prime of
Wales should not visit the
sub continent this autumn
(Brief No 1, para 6).

Ans
- 11/5

CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY KING BIRENDRA OF NEPAL: 12 SEPTEMBER

POINTS TO MAKE

ANGLO/NEPALESE RELATIONS

1. Welcome close and friendly relations. Over 160 years of unbroken friendship. Value Gurkha connection.

NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

2. Value Nepal's contribution to Third World counsels. What are the prospects for the non-aligned movement following Havana summit?

AID

3. Reduction in Aid Programme for 1979/80 (defensive). Cuts from the previously designed aid programme to Nepal, though regrettable, are part of a programme of public expenditure cuts and other countries have experienced bigger cuts than Nepal. Latest allocation is still between 70% and 100% higher than actual disbursements in 1978/79. The United Kingdom is still one of the largest bilateral aid donors to Nepal. British aid disbursements to Nepal per head of population are higher than for most neighbouring countries.

4. Reduction in Aid Programme for Next Three Years
Allocations have not yet been decided; but Aid must bear its share of cuts in total programme of public expenditure and Nepal must bear its share of total aid cuts.

5. Budhanilkantha School (if point is raised)
We are undertaking no fresh commitments before completion of the public expenditure review. But we shall attach a high priority to meeting His Majesty's wish for an extension of our assistance beyond the dates to which we are currently committed. This can also be done when we have worked out how much is available for aid to Nepal after meeting obligations to other on-going projects.

This is a copy. The original has been extracted and closed, 40 years.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' VISIT TO NEPAL

6. Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemptions.

Wayland
4 August 2011

REFERENDUM (if raised)

7. How does the King see the pattern of political developments before and after the referendum?

CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY KING BIRENDRA OF NEPAL: 12 SEPTEMBER

ESSENTIAL FACTS

ANGLO/NEPALESE RELATIONS

1. The major British interest is in Gurkha recruitment, which also brings direct benefits to Nepal by relieving unemployment and providing remittances (the second most important source of Nepalese foreign exchange after tourism). There are three Gurkha battalions, with supporting arms, in Hong Kong, one battalion in Brunei and one in Britain. The 6,700 Gurkhas provide approximately 10% of our infantry. We have been recruiting Gurkhas since 1816, when a British Resident was appointed to live in Kathmandu. Until 1950 the UK was the only country to have a resident representative in Nepal.

THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

2. Our main concern is to learn from the King his personal views of the proceedings and outcome of the Havana Summit. The Post's assessment of the meeting will be sent forward as a supplementary brief as soon as it is received.

AID

3. Reduction in Aid programme for 1979/80

- a) Approved allocation - £10.5m
- b) Cost of programme designed in March 1979 - £14.8m
- c) Disbursements in 1978/79 - £5.732m

We have recently told the Government of Nepal that we shall have to abandon hopes of carrying out some projects which we had earlier envisaged. Notwithstanding this, we shall still be one of the biggest bilateral Aid donors.

4. At Annex A is a table of possible disbursements over the next few years against agreed identified projects. (Note. These figures have not been released to the Government of Nepal.)

5. Budhanilkantha School

About ten years ago, in response to a request from King Birendra's

/late

This is a copy. The original has been extracted and closed, 40 years.

late father, we agreed to provide £300,000 capital aid to help construct a boys' boarding school and to fill six teacher posts for ten years, financing them out of regional technical co-operation funds. The school has been in existence for eight years. We shall have met our commitment for two of the teacher posts by 31.8.1982 and for two others by 31.8.1981 (although we have tentatively agreed to extend these to 31.8.1982). We ceased filling the other two posts last year (with agreement of the school's board of governors), although short of our ten years' commitment. King Birendra intends sending the Crown Prince to the school next year and Queen Aishwarya has asked for British staff support to be maintained and strengthened beyond our present obligations. There have also been suggestions that some further aid should be provided for the construction of another boarding house.

6. No fresh aid commitments are being undertaken until completion of the present public expenditure review. Existing commitments will pre-empt most of the funds thought likely to be available over the next two financial years, but in view of the personal interest which King Birendra has in this school, we shall do our best to make funds available to meet some, if not all, his wishes.

CONTACTS WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY

7. The Prince of Wales is due to visit Nepal in December, following his planned tour of India in November. *

* Though nothing has yet been said to the Nepalese, the two tours are now being considered again since the Indian tour is dangerously close to Election Day in India. A decision is unlikely before the Prime Minister meets the King.

8. The proposal that King Birendra should be invited to pay a State Visit has been approved by the Prime Minister and has been submitted to Her Majesty. It is not yet known whether the Palace will be able to reply before the Prime Minister meets the King.

9. 

* ~ * Passage deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemptions.

*Wayland
4 August 2011*

THE REFERENDUM

10. Following the student disorders in May, the King announced that a national referendum would be called to determine the future system of government in Nepal. It would offer a choice between a continuation (in a modified form) of the present party-less system of traditional panchayat government, and a form of party political democracy, with the King as a constitutional monarch. The Election Commission is preparing voting lists from scratch and it is unlikely now that voting in the referendum could begin before April or May.

11. The King's views are not known. Those Nepalese who deplore the cloistered Palace atmosphere of recent years, and seek a constitutional monarchy more akin to the British pattern, say that the King himself welcomes the opportunity to break with those advisers who have hitherto cut him off from developments. While this view may be more loyal than accurate, a shift towards a more generally acceptable system indicates a constitutional monarchy. A stable Nepal under a constitutional monarch would be good for British interests.

Possible disbursement pattern as at 16 August 1979 (in 1979 prices)
 £m

| | 1979-80 | 1980-81 | 1981-82 | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1984-85 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. Dharan/Dhankuta Road | 2.600 | 2.720 | 1.000 | 0.180 | | |
| 2. Grain Storage Warehouses | 0.080 | 0.120 | | | | |
| 3. Malaria Eradication | 0.207 | - | | | | |
| 4. Generators | 1.690 | 0.250 | | | | |
| 5. Tea | 0.100 | 0.500 | 0.800 | 0.710 | 0.650 | 0.660 |
| 6. Telecommunications | - | 1.000 | 1.450 | | | |
| 7. Aircraft | 2.960 | | 3.155 ^A | | | |
| 7A. Hanger Aerial Drop Equipmt. Training | - | 0.290 | | | | |
| 8. Food Security | 0.525 | - | | | | |
| 9. KHARDEP I (Rural Development) | 0.011 | - | | | | |
| 9A. KHARDEP II D. | 0.090 | 0.600 | 1.100 | 1.200 | 1.190 | |
| 10. Dabi Bridge | 0.130 | 0.200 | 0.190 | | | |
| 11. Technical Cooperation | 2.140 | 2.500 | 2.100 ^B | 2.100 ^B | | |
| 12. Total disbursements | 10.533 (say 10.500) | 8.180 (say 8.200) | 9.795 ^A 6.640 ^C | 4.190 | | |
| 13. Allocation (provisional apart from 1979-80) | 10.500 | 8.200 | 6.560 | 6.375 | | |

Footnotes:

- A. Assumes that we supply second aircraft.
 B. TC figures not calculated in detail.
 C. Assumes that we do NOT supply second aircraft.
 D. Assumes original programme but spread over 5 years instead of 3 years.

NEPAL: BACKGROUND FACT SHEET

Population: 13 million (mid-1977)

Government: King Birendra holds the real power in Nepal. Ministers, all of whom he appoints, are responsible directly to him. There is no party-political system in Nepal, which is administered on a four tier "Panchayat" system. Of those, only the village panchayat or council is popularly elected. The others are each elected by the members of the successive tiers of panchayat.

Economy: One of the world's poorest countries. Per capita income US\$120 pa.

Economy based on agriculture, which employs 90% of the labour force: accounts for 60% of GDP, and 80% of export earnings.

Real Gross Domestic Products grew by only 2% in 1977/78. Remittances from and UK spending on Gurkhas a valuable form of foreign exchange.))

Aid: Total foreign aid in 1978/79 in region of £63.5m, of which UK aid amounted to £5.7m. UK aid 1979/80 allocated up to £10.5m putting UK among principle donors.

UK/Nepal Trade: Very little trade. British exports in 1978 (mainly machinery, transport equipment, chemicals and manufactured goods) were worth £6.57m, whilst imports (mainly carpets, tea, spices, metal ores, and manufactured goods) amount to £.64 million.

NEPAL: BACKGROUND POLITICAL BRIEF

INTERNAL

1. The Nepalese monarchy has not always exercised supreme power. For 104 years the monarch was a ceremonial figurehead while the country was ruled by a family of hereditary Prime Ministers - the Ranas. King Birendra's grandfather, allied with progressive politicians and with Indian support, regained control of the government in 1951. The Rana family (most of whose members now tend to be advocates of the status quo) continues to wield considerable influence. Most of the army's senior officers are Ranas and the King and his two younger brothers are married to Rana sisters.
2. The country experimented briefly with parliamentary democracy in 1959, when the Nepali Congress Party (NCP), a democratic socialist party then influenced by the Indian Congress Party, easily won a large majority of the seats in the new parliament. Less than a year later, mainly on the grounds of party in-fighting, the present King's father, King Mahendra, dissolved the parliament and jailed most of the leading politicians. In place of the parliament he created a "partyless" democracy - a tier of four councils, or panchayats, of which only the lowest level, or village panchayat, is popularly elected.
3. There have been no significant changes in the panchayat system since King Birendra took power upon his father's death in 1972. In effect, the panchayat system is a rubber stamp. All representatives to the higher councils are elected by the members of the lower groups or are appointed by the King. The King also appoints the Prime Minister and all Cabinet members. Political parties are officially banned, and criticism of the royal family is prohibited.
4. By early April 1979, the lack of movement toward a more liberal political system, increasing government repression of the banned political parties, corruption and inefficiency in government and frustrations over deficiencies in the educational system, led students in Kathmandu to launch demonstrations and strikes that quickly won nationwide public sympathy.

5. Following demonstrations in Kathmandu on 23 May, King Birendra suddenly capitulated to his opponents. He announced a national referendum to determine the future government of Nepal, thus giving the public a choice between the existing panchayat system with some reforms but in which political parties would remain banned, or a multi-party system of unspecified nature. The King's concessions have defused the crisis for the moment, although during the past few weeks there have been mounting demands from the more extreme elements of the Communist Party for the dismissal of the present Government, the suspension of the panchayat system, an amnesty for political prisoners and exiles, and a reduction in the voting age for the referendum from 21 to 18. Some, at least, of the demands have the support of others seeking a return to a multi-party system. A campaign, which is to include student "strikes", has been called for.

EXTERNAL

6. Nepal's main foreign policy preoccupation is in keeping a balance in relations with her two neighbours, India and China. Nepalese suspicions of Indian intentions towards her put a constant strain on relations. Increased contact at the highest levels and the signing of separate trade and transit agreements have helped to relieve the pressure. About 90% of Nepal's trade is with India, and India is one of the largest aid donors. China is also a substantial donor and, somewhat to Indian dismay, has been taking an increased interest in trade and investment.

7. Nepal has good relations with Bangladesh and recently signed an agreement enabling her to use Bangladesh ports as an alternative to Calcutta. Consignments will still have to transit Indian territory and continuing Indian goodwill will therefore be necessary.

8. Nepal is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, and King Birendra attended the Havana Summit Meeting of the Movement in September.

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KING BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV

Born 28 December 1945. Educated in Darjeeling, and then Eton (1959-64). ~~Took part in the 1960 State Visit to the United Kingdom of the late King Mahendra and Queen Ratna.~~ In 1965 he led the Nepalese delegation to the Bandung Conference at Jakarta.

Married in 1970 to Miss Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Rana, daughter of Major-General Kendra Shumsher J B Rana. A son, Crown Prince Dipendra, was born in June 1971. Birendra succeeded to the throne on 31 January, 1972, on the death of his father. He became the tenth king of the Shah Dynasty.

In 1973, accompanied by the Queen, he visited Algeria to lead the Nepalese delegation to the non-aligned conference. The King was crowned on 24 February 1975: the ceremony had been delayed for three years on the advice of the court astrologer who determined the most auspicious date and time. A daughter, Princess Shruti, was born in 1976.

He has visited Europe, including UK, India, China (and Tibet), Yugoslavia, Iran, Jordan and USSR.

He takes a very keen interest in development matters (he is Chairman of the National Development Council) and makes frequent visits to various parts of the country, spending at least a month of each year in a different Region.

He speaks excellent English and is an easy, if quiet, conversationalist with a lively and enquiring mind. He recalls his schooldays in Britain with great affection and remains in touch with some of his tutors and many of his contemporaries at Eton. He is very grateful for British development assistance.

Though he would never express himself on the subject, there is little doubt that he shares some of the inherent Nepalese suspicion of India's intentions towards Nepal. At the same time he does his best to foster relations between the two countries (and between Nepal and its other great neighbour, China). He is a Hindu in public life and is regarded by many of his people as a reincarnation of the God Vishnu. It is probably for this reason that on all state occasions he preserves a serious and remote visage.

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QUEEN AISHWARYA RAJYA LAXMI DEVI SHAH

Born 7 November 1949 in Kathmandu. Eldest daughter of Major-General Kendra Shumser J B Rana. Educated in India and Nepal. Graduated as a Bachelor of Arts from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu.

The Queen was brought up in a household headed by a father who was something of a recluse, mixing in no society outside the family circle and trained not to initiate conversations in the presence of her seniors. She came to the throne at 20 almost devoid of social experience. Her Majesty has however revealed that she has a mind of her own and gradually has taken on more duties. She now carries out a very heavy programme of official engagements. She gives patronage to a large number of organisations especially those concerned with women's affairs and children.

In public she rarely smiles; in private she can display a bright sense of humour though, with foreigners, her conversation is inhibited. She speaks English but not as fluently as the King. She is interested in gardening and flower arranging.

Two children, a son Dipendra born 1971 and a daughter born 1976.

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K B SHAHI

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Communications June 1979
Rastriya Panchayat Member for Nawalparasi, Lumbini Zone.

Born July 1929. 1956: M A (Political Science) Patna University. Once a member of the Smayukta Praja Tantra (United Democratic) Party headed by the former Premier Dr K I Singh, and was an editor of the Party newspaper "Samyukta Prayash" (United Effort in 1957. He was nominated to the Rastriya Panchayat in April 1971 for a four-year term and elected unopposed to the Rastriya Panchayat from Nawalparasi District in 1976. 1976-78 he was twice a member of the Nepalese Delegation to the United Nations.

No previous ministerial experience, but alive to foreign affairs problem.

Married. An intelligent and serious man who speaks English well.

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JADGISH SHAMSHER J B RANA

Foreign Secretary (Permanent Under Secretary) Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Born 1928.

Educated at St Xavier's Patna. BA Benares Hindu University 1949. MA Lucknow 1951.

Joined Nepalese Foreign Service and served in Washington 1959. Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1965. 1972-77 Ambassador to USSR and also accredited to the German Democratic Republic. 1977 returned as Joint Secretary (equivalent to Deputy Under Secretary) responsible for Europe. America and the UN, becoming Foreign Secretary 1979.

A pleasant and forceful personality, brought up by a Scottish nanny. He mixes well, speaks excellent English and is helpful. His only son was killed in an air accident with other members of his family. Subsequently had twin sons and a daughter but is now separated from his wife. One son at school in England.

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JHARENDRA NARAYAN SINGHA

Nepalese Ambassador to London.

Born Kathmandu 1924.

Educated in Nepal and at Allahabad University, India, where he obtained a master's degree in diplomacy and international law. 1950 joined Nepalese Foreign Service. Served Delhi (1951) London (1956). Ambassador to the Soviet Union, (accredited also to Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary) (1961). Ambassador to Delhi (1965) United Arab Republic (1969). 1974 returned to Nepal and served in the Department of Administrative Management until 1976. 1977 appointed Ambassador to London after brief retirement.

Separated from his first wife and married again in Benares in 1967 Rani Bhuwan Rajya Laxmi, divorced wife of Rajah of Khetri and daughter of General Singha Shumshere JBR (qv) and HRH Princess Rama, who firmly opposed the marriage. Speaks and understands English very well. He is suave, personable and friendly and gives an impression of shrewdness and efficiency. He is always impeccably turned out in Western style dress, and keeps up a high standard of home entertaining. He enjoys shooting, tennis and golf.

Awarded CVO during King Mahendra's State Visit to UK in 1960; accompanied King Mahendra on visits to UK, France, and Netherlands 1966/67.

His wife is intelligent and socially graceful. She was a Secretary of the Nepal/Britain Society at its foundation.

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PROGRAMME

HM KING BIRENDRA: VISIT TO LONDON 11 - 15 SEPTEMBER

(Note: This is an unofficial visit and all administrative arrangements, accommodation, transport, etc, for the Royal Party are in the hands of the Royal Nepalese Embassy. This note of arrangements has been prepared by SAD/FCO as background information for those involved in the visit. It is not an official programme.)

Tuesday, 11 September

1900 hrs Arrive Heathrow from Reykjavik by Royal Nepal Airlines Special Flight (greeted on arrival by Lord Somerleyton, Lord in Waiting; Mr Blaker; Maj.General Campbell, Duty Major-General; HE Mr Denson).

Wednesday, 12 September

1030 hrs Visit India Office Library with HM Queen Aishwarya (met on arrival by Mr D F Murray and Mr B C Bloomfield, Director).

1600 hrs Tea with Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, accompanied by Queen Aishwarya, Mr K B Shahi, and HE Mr J N Singha. Photocall.

1930 hrs Dinner with Lord Camoys (Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames)

Thursday, 13 September

1100 hrs Visit Ascot Dog Show (greeted on arrival by Chairman).

? Lunch in country*

? Visit Bracknell Kennels*

*(both to be finalised by Embassy after consulting HM the King)

1730 hrs Reception at Royal Nepalese Embassy

2000 hrs Dinner with the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester at
for 2015 Kensington Palace

Friday, 14 September

/ Morning free.

✓ 1130 hrs Foreign Secretary, Mr J S Rana, to call on Sir Michael Palliser ✓

1245 hrs Lunch with Army Board at Royal Hospital, Chelsea (greeted for 1300 on arrival by Mr B Hayhoe and General Brammall) (Stag)

1800 hrs Lord Carrington to call on HM King Birendra at Royal Nepalese Embassy

Saturday, 15 September

1000 hrs Depart Heathrow (seen off by Lord Somerleyton, Lord in Waiting; Sir Donald Logan, Special Representative of the Secretary of State).

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister:

I have despatched the letter of invitation.

*You may
Agreed*

Can I raise it that you would be content 6 September 1979 for the Ambassador to attend the call? I do not think it will be necessary for an FCO Minister to sit in. The King

Dear Michael, hopes that photographs will be taken. *RMJ 6/9*

Nepal: Visit of King Birendra 11-15 September

In your letter of 22 August conveying the Prime Minister's offer of tea at No 10 on Wednesday 12 September at 16.00, you asked for confirmation that the King could accept this invitation, and asked who would be accompanying the King. We now know that the King will be pleased to take up this invitation and that he will be accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya, the Nepalese Foreign Minister Mr K B Shahi, and Mr J N Singha, the Nepalese Ambassador in London.

The Nepalese are very conscious of protocol and of presenting the London visit appropriately to domestic opinion in Nepal. We are therefore referring to the tea at No 10 as a "call" rather than a meeting for discussions; apparently the entertainment element of the occasion is of importance to the King. Moreover, the Nepalese evidently attach importance to receiving a letter from you inviting the King to No 10. We would therefore be grateful if this could be done and I attach a draft. To have the desired effect the letter should reach the Ambassador on Friday, so that he may take it with him when he flies to meet the King in Iceland on Saturday.

Could you let us know whether you wish officials to attend the call. As I told you, HM Ambassador at Kathmandu, Mr Denson, is on leave in the UK.

Briefs and personality notes will be sent in due course.

*yours ever
Rodrick Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'DB Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

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Nepal

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OSG



Fine

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 August 1979

NEPAL

Thank you for your letter of 16 August about the proposal to invite King Birendra of Nepal to pay a State Visit to the United Kingdom in 1980 or 1981.

The Prime Minister agrees with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary that The Queen should be advised to extend this invitation.

B. G. CARTLEDGE

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to be 'KRG'.

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,

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cc C. ...
BF 7.9.79

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 August 1979

King Birendra's Visit to the UK, 11-15 September

Thank you for your letter of 15 August about the forthcoming visit to the UK by the King of Nepal from 11 to 15 September.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter and accepts the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's recommendation that she should meet King Birendra while he is here. The Prime Minister would like to offer the King tea at No.10 on Wednesday 12 September at 1600. I should be grateful if you would arrange for this invitation to be conveyed to the King and for confirmation in due course that he can accept it.

I should also be grateful if you would arrange for briefing to be prepared for the Prime Minister's discussion with King Birendra; it would be helpful if this could reach me not later than 1700 on Friday 7 September. Perhaps you could let me know at the same time who is likely to accompany the King; ideally, his entourage on this occasion should not number more than two.

B6C

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

16 August 1979

Dear Sir,

Agree?

Sam
17/8

Yes not

Nepal

The Royal Visits Committee have approved in principle a recommendation that King Birendra of Nepal should be invited to the United Kingdom for a state visit. It is proposed that the invitation should be for a visit in 1981 unless a slot becomes vacant in 1980 because other visits tentatively planned for next year fall through.

We know that the King would welcome an invitation. The Gurkhas still make up about 10% of the British Army's front line infantry strength, and as long as recruits continue to be needed, it is important that we maintain our good relations with Nepal and with the King personally. The Prince of Wales will be visiting Nepal in December and we have it in mind that, if Her Majesty the Queen approves an invitation to King Birendra, it would be appropriate for the Prince of Wales to mention this orally to the King when he is in Nepal.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary recommends that the Prime Minister should give her approval for an invitation to be issued.

Yours ever,
Steph

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

B G Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street

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Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 August 1979

Would you like
to offer the King
45 minutes and
tea on 12 September
Dear Bryan, at 1600? *6pm*
15/8

Yes OK

NEPAL: VISIT OF KING BIRENDRA

The King of Nepal is proposing to make a private visit to Britain from 11-15 September. The Nepalese Ambassador has stressed to us on instructions from Kathmandu that, although the visit is a private one, the King intends that it should be a working visit and would like a programme of political exchanges commensurate with the friendly relations existing between Nepal and the United Kingdom. The King has made it clear that he would be very pleased if it were possible for him to call on the Prime Minister.

Lord Carrington hopes to see the Nepalese Foreign Minister, who will be accompanying King Birendra on the visit, on 13 September. He recommends that the Prime Minister should, if possible, see the King.

Gurkhas from Nepal comprise about 10 per cent of our front line infantry strength. Continuing recruitment remains a major British interest. The King and his Minister will just have attended the Havana Non-Aligned Summit, a forum in which there is a tendency to criticise Nepal for providing mercenaries. It would be a useful time to underline our interest in Nepal, particularly as overall cuts in UK aid will require some cut-back in our plans for Aid to Nepal.

We are in touch with Buckingham Palace about the possibility of the King seeing members of the Royal Family but a meeting with the Prime Minister would greatly contribute to solidifying our relations with Nepal. Although constitutional changes are under consideration, we do not see the King's continuing role in Nepal as under any immediate threat from changes. It is currently the King who decides on policy.

Yes even
Steph

(J S Wall)

B G Cartledge Esq
10 Downing Street