

Confidential Filing

Visit of Mr Rajiv Gandhi

INDIA

August 1982

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 October 1982

VISIT OF MR. RAJIV GANDHI

Thank you for your letter of 27 October about the lunch for the above.

With regard to the last paragraph, I am sure that, provided this is acceptable to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Prime Minister would like him to be designated as her representative at the closing concert of the Festival of India, on Sunday, 14 November.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram in the Ministry of Defence.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 October 1982

Dear John,

Visit of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, 14-15 November 1982

We have now received confirmation from Delhi that Rajiv and Sonia Gandhi would be delighted to accept the Prime Minister's invitation to lunch on Monday 15 November. I enclose a draft guest list, as requested in your letter of 29 September. A Private Secretary will of course need to be added.

We have tried as far as possible to suggest guests who, though closely associated with the Festival of India, did not attend the Prime Minister's lunch for Mrs Gandhi last March. Accordingly Mr Swraj Paul and Sir Richard Attenborough, though excellent candidates otherwise, are proposed as reserves only. Sir Michael Walker and Mrs Pupul Jayakar were also present in March but, as the leading officials of the Festival here and in India, their attendance on this occasion is probably inescapable. Similar considerations apply to the Indian High Commissioner. We have suggested Sir Hugh Casson because of the major exhibition of Indian art that is currently being held at the Royal Academy and because of Mrs Sonia Gandhi's personal interest in picture restoration. Sir John Burgh's inclusion balances Mrs Jayakar's and reflects the important contribution made by the British Council, particularly its staff in India, to the Festival's undoubted success.

The Secretary of State for Defence has accepted an invitation to attend the closing concert of the Festival of India on Sunday 14 November. Subject to the Prime Minister's views, we think there would be advantage in advising the Festival Trust that he will attend as Mrs Thatcher's representative. I understand that this would be acceptable to Mr Nott.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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SUBJECT

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 September, 1982

Call on the Prime Minister
by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi called on the Prime Minister on 8 September, accompanied by his Personal Assistant, Mr. Arun Singh, and the Indian High Commissioner.

The conversation, which lasted for about thirty minutes, was of a general nature. Mr. Gandhi congratulated the Prime Minister on the successful military operations in the South Atlantic. The Prime Minister briefly explained some of the difficulties of conducting operations at a distance of 8,000 miles and of dealing with a country, like Argentina, which was not subject to the democratic process.

Mr. Gandhi observed that in India it was the Communists who talked loudest about democracy but who were the chief threat to it. In Kerala the Communists had lost the elections because they had become so unpopular. In the Bengal elections, the Congress Party should have performed better but its organisation was still defective. He was doubtful whether it would be possible to prevent a Communist victory in the Tripura elections. In general, the Communist Party had developed long term programmes of indoctrination in India. They influenced the content of school books and concentrated on securing the allegiance of teachers.

The Prime Minister said that she noticed Mrs. Gandhi's appeal for improved law and order in her Independence Day speech. Rajiv commented that, while disorder was a problem, India had not yet experienced the professional terrorist activities which had developed in Europe. The Prime Minister referred to the wide availability of weapons on the black market. There was some risk that recent events in Lebanon would lead to an increase of Palestinian terrorism in Europe. But she agreed with Rajiv that, if the Palestinians were provided with a home on the lines of the latest American proposal, the problem might be solved.

/The

The Prime Minister enquired about the state of the Indian economy. Rajiv said that progress was fairly good but India still needed foreign assistance. The Government had made efforts to encourage industry but always ran into the problem of a shortage of investment capital.

The present tendency for international sources of cheap capital to dry up was not helpful.

This led to a general discussion of the world recession, the growing problem of international debt and future economic prospects for the United Kingdom.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister asked that her warm regards should be conveyed to Mrs. Gandhi and to Rajiv's wife and said that she was looking forward to meeting Mrs. Gandhi in Delhi on 29 September.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and John Rhodes (Department of Trade).

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

India

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE

1 VICTORIA STREET LONDON SW1H 0ET

Telephone 01-215 7877



From the Secretary of State

John Coles Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

7 September 1982

Dear John

A handwritten signature or set of initials in blue ink, appearing to be 'M' followed by a flourish.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR RAJIV GANDHI

.... I attach a short brief on the Orissa steel plant project for the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Gandhi tomorrow, Wednesday 8 September. This brings up to date the briefing provided for the Prime Minister's meeting with the Indian Finance Minister, Mr Mukherjee, on 1 September.

I am copying this letter to John Holmes (FCO).

Yours sincerely

John Whitlock

JOHN WHITLOCK
Private Secretary



ORISSA STEEL PLANT

Background

The Government of India has indicated that, despite the breakdown in negotiations with Davy for this contract in May, there remains scope for substantial UK involvement in the project on a new basis. Proposals by the UK that the British Steel Corporation might lead a UK offer have found a favourable reaction in India. In addition the Indian Finance Minister, Mr Mukherjee~~es~~ indicated that negotiations might be reopened with Davy for the original full turnkey project. However at his meeting with the Prime Minister on 1 September Mr Mukherjee appeared to rule out the possibility of a return to a turnkey approach. This was confirmed by Mrs Gandhi in talks with the High Commissioner on 4 September although she was generally encouraging about the prospects for UK participation.



Line to take

Reiterate HMG's wish to see substantial UK involvement building on the work already done.

There are a number of possible approaches. The UK would be willing to cooperate with the Government of India on its preferred route.



ORISSA STEEL PLANT

Background

1. Negotiations between Davy and the Indian Government for this £1.25bn (UK content £800m) turnkey project broke down in May, and the Letter of Intent given to Davy was withdrawn. Since then we have been working to secure substantial UK participation, if necessary on a new basis. Recent talks with officials have suggested that renewed UK participation would need more Government to Government involvement, with Davy in a less prominent role. We have been developing proposals for the British Steel Corporation to lead a UK offer, with Davy and others supplying equipment; initial reactions in Delhi were promising.

2. However, last week Mr Mukherjee told our High Commissioner that the Indian Government could be prepared to reopen negotiations with Davy for the full turnkey project, as envisaged in May. Mr Wade-Gery has also discussed the possibility with Dr Alexander, Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet Secretary, who did not rule it out. However he also showed interest in the BSC led alternative. In sum there are now clear signs that the Indians would like to go ahead with substantial UK involvement, but on what basis is uncertain.*

3. When negotiations broke down in May, it was made clear that the UK financial package (£120m of special aid, £50m local cost aid and export credits) was no longer on the table. What could be offered in support of either of these approaches has yet to be considered interdepartmentally (some of the special aid has been reallocated to other programmes); but there is little doubt that if the Indians reopened negotiations with Davy they would expect a comprehensive package on similar lines to be made available.

Line to take

1. Regret breakdown of talks in May. Reiterate HMG's wish to see substantial UK involvement, building on work already done by all concerned.
2. Is it possible to reopen the Davy negotiations which broke off in May? If so we would naturally be pleased. But we would equally be willing to work with the Government of India on any alternative basis preferred.

* On the other hand, Bill Rylie spoke to Malhotra, Mr Mukherjee's Permanent Secretary at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting today and discovered that he had not heard of Mr Mukherjee's conversation with the High Commissioner. Malhotra doubted the possibility of a reversal. 75



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 September, 1982

Dear John,

Rajiv Gandhi's Call on Prime Minister

/ As requested in Caroline Stephens' letter of 31 August I enclose briefing for Rajiv Gandhi's call on the Prime Minister at 10.00 am on Wednesday 8 September. The briefing comprises:

- (a) Points to Make and Background Note.
- (b) Rajiv's Programme.
- (c) Sonia Gandhi's Programme.
- (d) Personality Note.
- (e) Delhi telno 710 reporting Mr Wade-Gery's introductory call on Mrs Gandhi.

Since the primary purpose of Rajiv's visit is to attend Farnborough, his meeting with the Prime Minister might most productively be used to advance our interest in defence sales to India. We have advised the Ministry of Defence and others to avoid making too obvious a commercial pitch at Rajiv this week, but we see value in the Prime Minister engaging him in discussion on some major items of equipment currently under negotiation with India. Sea King and Sea Harrier are the most important of these.

The Department of Trade are providing a separate brief covering the latest developments on the Orissa Steel Plant project.

Rajiv will be accompanied by his personal assistant, Arun Singh, and the Indian High Commissioner, Dr Seyid Muhammad.

I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosures to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and John Rhodes (Department of Trade).

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

CALL BY MR RAJIV GANDHI MP ON PRIME MINISTER:
10.00 AM, 8 SEPTEMBER 1982

POINTS TO MAKE

Mr and Mrs Gandhi's Programme

1. Hope you and your wife enjoying your visit. You will have viewed Farnborough with a professional's eye. Glad your wife was able to pursue her interest in picture restoration.

Mrs Gandhi

2. Enjoyed her visit here in March. Kind of her to invite me to extend my stopover in Delhi on 29 September. Look forward to seeing her again.

Festival of India

3. Having significant impact on India's image in Britain. Delighted you and your wife will attend closing concert on 14 November.

Indian Affairs

4. You have been an active politician for one year. How do you see your career developing?

Sea Harrier and Sea King

5. Understand Indian Government will be deciding soon whether to buy additional Sea Harrier aircraft and Sea King helicopters. You will have gathered from the Ministry of Defence's Falklands briefing on Monday that both were outstanding successes in South Atlantic.

6. Harriers destroyed 27 Argentine aircraft. Only 5 were lost, none in combat.

7. Sea King performance and reliability essential to success of operation. We decided not to deploy French Puma because had doubts about its ship operating characteristics.

8. John Nott will be discussing availability of Sea Eagle missile when he visits India this month.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Festival of India

1. The Festival Finale will be held on Sunday 14 November at the London Coliseum. The programme will be produced by Sir Richard Attenborough and it is hoped that Indian film star Shashi Kapoor will comper the event. The Prince of Wales is unable to attend, but another Royal may attend in his place. Rajiv will represent his mother. He expects to be accompanied by his wife and their son.

Internal Indian Affairs

2. Rajiv has now been an MP for one year. Conventional wisdom in Delhi that his career is slow to take off. He has not delivered what was expected of him. But expectations probably unrealistically high. Could make a mark if he was to attempt to overhaul a rotten and inefficient party organisation. But time is running short. Crucial test will be his ability to select candidates for and win votes at 1985 General Election.

3. On 2 September Mrs Gandhi conducted her sixth ministerial reshuffle since returning to power in January 1980. No Cabinet Ministers sacked and no new Ministers brought into Cabinet. She has simply juggled with portfolios and re-organised certain ministries. Most important change is Mr P C Sethi's move from Railways to Home Affairs, where he takes over from the recently elected President, Giani Zail Singh. Despite earlier speculation there is no place for Rajiv in the ministerial team.

Defence Sales

4. India has already bought 13 Sea King helicopters and 8 Sea Harriers. Decisions on the purchase of a further 20 Sea Kings (value £200 million) and 12 Sea Harriers (£103 million) are expected before the end of the year.

5. Sea King faces stiff competition from French Super Puma, which has been offered with Exocet. Westland's agreement with Pakistan, who met the cost of putting Exocet on Sea King, preclude Westland offering it to India.

/6. MOD

6. MOD believe that Puma, with its high centre of gravity, is not stable enough to be used as a ship borne helicopter. Their view is that Sea Eagle, which also interests the Indians for use on Jaguar, Harrier and Sea King, offers significant advantages over Exocet. Agreement has now been reached within MOD to offer India an export version of Sea Eagle (to a lower standard than for UK Services) in about 1987. Mr Nott will so inform the Indian Government when he visits India 16-24 September.

7. Indian Navy are keen to buy additional Sea Harriers but face opposition from Indian Air Force who have sought to play down the aircraft's achievements in the South Atlantic.

MR RAJIV GANDHI'S PROGRAMME

Monday 6 September

- 1130 Falklands briefing at Ministry of Defence
- 1230 Leave for Farnborough
- 1400 Refreshments and watch flying at Defence Sales Organisation Chalet
- 1630 Return to London
- 1900 Reception at Lancaster House given by HMG

Tuesday 7 September

- 0800 Leave for Farnborough
- 0945-1200 Visit following stands: Westland Helicopters, British Aerospace, Rolls Royce
- 1200 Meet Secretary of State for Defence
- 1300 Lunch given by SBAC President
- 1430-1630 Visit following stands: Smith Industries, Marconi Avionics, Ferranti
- 1630 Return to London
- 2100 Dinner at 1 Carlton Gardens given by Secretary of State for Defence

Wednesday 8 September

- 0930 Call on Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
- 1000 Call on Prime Minister
- 1300 Lunch at 1 Carlton Gardens given by Mr and Mrs Douglas Hurd
- 2000 Dinner at Grosvenor House Hotel given by SBAC President

Thursday 9 September

Private programme, including visit to Albery Theatre to see 'Children of a Lesser God'

Friday 10 September

Private programme

/Saturday

Saturday 11 September

1740

Leave London Heathrow by A1 150

MRS SONIA GANDHI'S PROGRAMME

Monday 6 September

1130 Visit National Gallery to see restoration work
in progress

1300 Lunch at Royal Horseguards Hotel with
Mrs Judy Blofeld, picture restorer, and others
given by Central Office of Information

Tuesday 7 September

Private programme

Wednesday 8 September

1300 Lunch at 1 Carlton Gardens given by
Mr and Mrs Douglas Hurd

Thursday 9 September

Private programme, including visit to Albery
Theatre to see 'Children of a Lesser God'

Friday 10 September

Private programme

Saturday 11 September

1740 Leave London Heathrow by A1 150

RAJIV GANDHI MP

Congress (I) member of the Lok Sabha.

Born 1944. Eldest son of Feroze and Indira Gandhi. Educated at Doon School, a tutorial college in London and Trinity College Cambridge (1962-65) where he read Engineering although failed to get a Degree (his friends say this was lack of work rather than lack of ability but he is very sensitive about it). On return to India he took up flying and subsequently joined Indian Airlines as a commercial pilot. In May 1981 he resigned from Indian Airlines to fight the Lok Sabha by-election for Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, the seat held by his younger brother, Sanjay until his death in June 1980. Rajiv was elected on 14 June 1981 by an overwhelming majority of over 80% of the votes polled.

Rajiv Gandhi has been drawn into the political vacuum created by the death of his brother Sanjay, his mother's only trusted confidant. Once decided upon, his entry into politics has been carefully managed and scrupulously above-board: the style is markedly different from Sanjay's. It is as yet unclear what formal role Rajiv will play in the near future - he himself says he will concentrate on being an effective constituency MP - but informally he already has a say in some urgent policy questions and is likely to become more and more his mother's right hand man. Indeed Mrs Gandhi can be said to be grooming him for succession to the extent that he and probably he alone will have her full trust and that she does not tolerate other political rivals.

Rajiv is quietly spoken, courteous and diffident. He is not an intellectual. This may sound unimpressive but it is worth remembering that it is a good description of the way his mother struck close observers in the mid 1960s. He is a good listener and seems sincerely concerned to get to grips with some of India's big national problems. He knows he has a lot to learn and is ready to work at it. Although withdrawn in some ways, he is mentally tough (you have to be in the Nehru household) and likely to be of fairly independent mind. He will, of course, be influenced by some close advisers, but not unduly so and none of his present group have significantly more experience than he has. His great advantages are that he is his grandfather's grandson, his mother's son, that he is decent and an Indian aristocrat and that he is on the way to acquiring an All-India, not a sectional, image.

Rajiv married Sonia, an Italian girl he met at Cambridge, in 1968. She is good-looking, quiet and while not interested in politics, clearly gives him a feeling of security at home. She gets on well with Mrs Gandhi. They have a son and a daughter.

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TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 71D OF 4 SEPTEMBER.

CALL ON INDIAN PRIME MINISTER

1. I PAID MY INTRODUCTORY CALL ON MRS GANDHI THIS MORNING (4 SEPT-EMBER). IT LASTED ABOUT 20 MINUTES. THE ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT WAS HER FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIVATE SECRETARY, K S RANA (WHOSE TOUR OF DUTY ENDS NEXT WEEK). THE ATMOSPHERE WAS MARKEDLY RELAXED AND FRIENDLY, AND MUCH OF THE TIME WAS SPENT ON AMIABLE GOSSIP ABOUT HOW MY FAMILY AND I WERE SETTling DOWN IN INDIA. WE DID OF COURSE ALREADY KNOW EACH OTHER REASONABLY WELL, FROM EARLIER MEETINGS IN LONDON IN MARCH, AT HEATHROW IN JULY AND WHEN I BROUGHT TWO SEPARATE VISITORS (MR HEATH AND THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON) TO CALL ON HER HERE DURING AUGUST.

2. THE ONLY POINTS OF ANY SUBSTANCE WHICH EMERGED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) SHE MUCH LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING MRS THATCHER AT BREAKFAST HERE AT 8 AM ON 29 SEPTEMBER. SHE ASKED (AND I TOLD HER) WHAT BREAKFAST WOULD BE SUITABLE. SHE AGREED THAT NUMBERS SHOULD BE VERY SMALL AND SAID SHE WOULD BE ENTIRELY HAPPY FOR MRS THATCHER TO COME ALONE OR WITH ONE, TWO OR THREE OTHERS. SPACE IN HER HOUSE WAS LIMITED, THOUGH A SEPARATE BREAKFAST FOR A LARGER NUMBER OF OTHERS COULD BE ARRANGED IN ANOTHER ROOM (I SAID I DID NOT THINK THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY).

(B) SHE GREATLY VALUED HER PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AND PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH MRS THATCHER. THEIR POLICIES MIGHT DIFFER, BUT THEY SHARED A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR STRAIGHTFORWARD DEALING, WITHOUT DIPLOMATIC PERIPHRASIS OR OBFUSCATION.

(C) SHE HAD BEEN GLAD TO HEAR OF MR NOTT'S IMPENDING VISIT AND HOPED TO SEE HIM. RANO EXPLAINED THAT SHE WOULD HAVE LEFT FOR MOSCOW BY THE TIME MR NOTT STARTED HIS MAIN PROGRAMME IN DELHI SEMICOLON BUT THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE FOR HIM TO CALL ON HER EARLIER, ON 17 SEPTEMBER.

(D) SHE WAS DELIGHTED THAT RAJIV AND SONIA WERE GOING TO LONDON FOR FARNBOROUGH NEXT WEEK AND THAT RAJIV WOULD BE SEEING MRS THATCHER.

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/(E) SHE

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(E) SHE REMAINED DEEPLY GRATIFIED BY HOW WELL THE FESTIVAL OF INDIA HAD GONE, AND IN PARTICULAR BY HOW FAR IT SEEMED TO HAVE REACHED OUT TOWARDS THE GRASS ROOTS. HE MAIL BAG HAD BEEN FULL OF KINDLY REPORTS FROM SOME SURPRISINGLY REMOTE PARTS OF BRITAIN. SHE WAS GLAD THAT RAJIV WOULD BE RETURNING FOR THE CLOSING CEREMONIES, ON HER FATHER'S BIRTHDAY ON 14 NOVEMBER.

(F) THESE VARIOUS VISITS WELL HORRORED THE GOOD STATE OF BRITISH/ INDIAN RELATIONS. THE RELATIONSHIP WAS A MODERN ONE, BASED OF MUTUAL CONTEMPORARY INTERESTS AS WELL AS SHARED HISTORY.

(G) SHE WAS GLAD THAT THE RIHAND POWER STATION CONTRACT WAS MOVING FORWARD TOWARDS SIGNATURE ON 30 SEPTEMBER. SHE WAS CLEARLY NOT AWARE OF ANY DETAILS BUT AGREED THAT ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE PRINCIPALS OVER THE FINE PRINT WAS INEVITABLE AT THIS STAGE AND THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD KEEP CLOSELY IN TOUCH TO ENSURE THAT ALL WENT WELL BOTH WITH THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND WITH THE SUBSEQUENT CONSTRUCTION.

(H) SHE WAS CLEARLY BETTER BRIEFED ON ORISSA STEEL. SHE SHARED OUR REGRET THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BROKEN DOWN IN MAY. SHE WAS INCLINED TO AGREE WITH WHAT MY PREDECESSOR HAD TOLD HER, THAT THIS NEED NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF THIS HIGH COMMISSION AND HER OWN OFFICE HAD BEEN KEPT MORE CLOSELY INFORMED. SHE WAS GLAD THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE NOW WORKING TOGETHER TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO CARRY MATTERS FORWARD. SHE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET BACK "COMPLETELY" TO THE PRE-BREAKDOWN BASIS. THAT WOULD INVOLVE TOO MUCH TROUBLE IN PARLIAMENT HERE. BUT WE SHOULD DO THE MOST WE COULD TOGETHER IN THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES. I SHOULD KEEP CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH DR ALEXANDER, AS SHE KNEW I WAS DOING.

WADE-GERY

[THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

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PS/MR HURD
MR GIFFARD
MR DONALD

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India

31

11 August 1982

VISIT OF MR. RAJIV GANDHI

The Prime Minister will be pleased to receive Mr. Gandhi at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 8 September.

Could your brief please reach us by close of play on Tuesday, 7 September.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Miss Marsha Fenwick,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Will try to see him. There are big contracts at stake in India. Also - he is a very important person

Prime Minister:

26 August, 1982

The diary is very crowded. Since you have already seen Rajiv once and are seeing Mr Mukherjee next week

Dear Tim, you may feel we can turn this down if 26/8

The Prime Minister will wish to know that Rajiv Gandhi has accepted an invitation from the Head of Defence Sales and the President of the SBAC to attend Farnborough. His programme is not yet firm but he is expected to arrive on Sunday 5 September, devote the next two days to Farnborough-related activities, leaving Wednesday 8 September free for calls in London. He will be accompanied by his wife, Sonia, and will probably spend one or two days after 8 September privately in Cambridge.

Mr Gandhi will call on Mr Pym at 9.30 am on 8 September and will have lunch with Mr Hurd the same day. He has also been invited to a dinner that Mr Nott is to give for a select number of Farnborough visitors on 7 September.

You will recall that Mr Gandhi was received by the Prime Minister when he came to London last year for the Royal Wedding. It may well be that Mrs Thatcher will wish to see him on this occasion also. Mr Wade-Gery in Delhi has advised that a brief call would be much appreciated by Rajiv and by Mrs Gandhi. We believe there would be value in such a meeting, which might most productively be used to advance our interest in defence sales to India. But we would not wish it to prejudice a claim we hope to make on the Prime Minister's time in November when Mr Gandhi will be here again to represent his mother at the closing concert of the Festival of India. This will be the more significant visit and there will be strong grounds why he should then be received by Mrs Thatcher, as Joint Patron of the Festival, and offered suitable hospitality by HMG. We shall be writing to you shortly about this.

If the Prime Minister wishes to receive Mr Gandhi on this occasion, a suitable time might be either the late morning or the afternoon of Wednesday 8 September or, by reducing the time he spends at Farnborough, the afternoon of Tuesday 7 September.

Yours ever

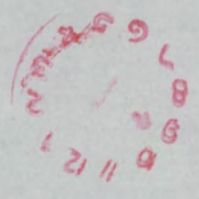
J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

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26 JUN 1982

