

PREM 19/2734

INDIA

JUNE 1983

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
28.6.83							
6.7.83							
18.7.83							
12.6.89							
13.6.89							
19.1.93							
21.1.93							
CLOSED PREM 19/2734							



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नई दिल्ली

VICE-PRESIDENT
INDIA
NEW DELHI

July 8, 1989

My dear Prime Minister,

I am grateful for your gracious invitation to pay an official visit to Britain in November, which I have great pleasure in accepting. I look forward to participating in functions connected with the observance of the birth centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We have noted with appreciation the keen interest you are taking in these celebrations.

Yours Sincerely

S. D. Sharma
(S.D. Sharma)

H.E. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister of the United
Kingdom and Northern Ireland,
LONDON.



file DAS
- Aro

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 June 1989

Dear Mr. Vice-President

I was delighted to hear that you may visit Britain in November in connection with the celebrations of the birth of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I have great pleasure in inviting you to undertake a three-day programme of official engagements around 14 November and I very much look forward to welcoming you as a Guest of the British Government.

Your visit to London in November would be a climax to the centenary celebrations here, in which I have been taking a close interest. If - as I very much hope - you are able to come, perhaps the details could be discussed between your High Commission and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Dr. S. D. Sharma

Kro

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 June 1989

Dear Charles

Possible visit by the Vice President of India:
November 1989

The Indian High Commissioner has raised informally the possibility of a visit to Britain by the Indian Vice President, Dr S D Sharma, around the time of the Nehru Centenary Banquet of 14 November, which the High Commissioner is organising. Rasgotra made clear his hope that the Government would extend an official invitation, indicating that without one Sharma's visit might not take place.

The Nehru Centenary Banquet will be held on Nehru's birthday, and will be the culmination of the celebrations here. The Indians are looking for high level representation on the British side, and are naturally anxious to have a suitable senior chief Indian guest. Normally, we would have hoped that either Rajiv Gandhi himself or one of his most senior Ministers might come. But there is clearly no prospect of this; November will be the climax of the Indian general election campaign, with elections due to be held by the end of the year. Dr Sharma's non-political position and lack of executive functions make him an entirely suitable representative in these circumstances, even though he is not from our point of view the most useful interlocutor. Now that the Indians have asked us to invite him, it would be very difficult for us to refuse.

The Foreign Secretary, who will attend the Nehru Banquet, would therefore be grateful for the Prime Minister's agreement to invite Dr Sharma for a Guest of Government visit for 3-4 days around 14 November and hopes that she will be able to spare the time for a short call (half an hour). I enclose a draft letter to Dr Sharma.

If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall put arrangements in hand to set up a programme for Dr Sharma, whose centenary engagements will take him to Cambridge (to give a Nehru memorial lecture) as well as to London.

I enclose a personality note on Dr Sharma.

Yours ever
Bob

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

PRIME MINISTER
DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

TO:

Copies to:

His Excellency Dr S D Sharma
Vice President of India

88

SUBJECT:

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Your visit to London in November would be a ~~fitting~~ climax to the centenary celebrations here, in which I have been taking a close interest. If - as I very much hope - you are able to come, perhaps ~~the details~~ ^{could} be discussed between your High Commission and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CD

Enclosures flag(s)



SHARMA, DR S D

Vice-President of India since August 1987.

Born in Bhopal, 19 August 1918. Educated at Cambridge, holds a doctorate in constitutional law and taught there 1946-47. A barrister at Lincoln's Inn. A veteran politician and member of Congress and Congress (I). General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee 1968-77; President of the Indian National Congress 1972-74; member of the Lok Sabha (lower house in the Indian Parliament) 1971-77 and 1980-84; Union Minister for Communications 1974-77. Governor of Andhra Pradesh 1984-85, of Punjab 1985-86 and Maharashtra 1986-87. Formerly a loyal supporter of Sanjay Gandhi.

S D Sharma is an old Congress warhorse with extensive parliamentary experience. This should help him in his dual role as Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (upper house in the Indian Parliament). Despite his participation as a student in the Quit India movement in 1942 and his outstanding legal qualifications he has not reached the heights that might have been expected of him. He held the Governorship of Punjab for only 4 months and was undistinguished in that appointment. Although no reason was given for his removal, it is thought that Sharma was not getting a grip on law and order. An affable man with nostalgic recollections of Cambridge and high regard for British institutions.

Married (Vimala). Two sons, his daughter and son-in-law were killed by Sikh extremists.



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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 July 1983

N. B. I. R.

A. J. C. 7.

Dear Sir,

Pakistan and the Commonwealth

In your letter of 6 July recording the call of the Indian Vice-President on the Prime Minister, you asked for a note about the possible re-admission of Pakistan to the Commonwealth.

Having left the Commonwealth in 1972 over the admission of Bangladesh, Pakistan has wanted to rejoin for some years now. India has always resisted this. There is of course no established procedure for rejoining the Commonwealth; in practice, as with an application to join, any decision would have to be unanimous. This means that there can be no progress on Pakistan's re-admittance until there is reasonable certainty that there will be no objection from India. The issue arose at the Melbourne CHOGM in 1981 when Mrs Gandhi, alerted by informal moves on Pakistan's behalf, made it clear in lobbying her colleagues that she was not prepared to countenance any decision in favour of Pakistan's re-admission.

Since then, there has been no tangible progress. Indications last year that India and Pakistan were moving towards better relations did lead to hopes that India would drop her objections, and one or two countries, notably Bangladesh, have made efforts to bring the subject to the fore. But in recent interviews Mrs Gandhi has made it plain that she remains opposed to any such move at this juncture. The Indians' position seems still to be that they would be ready to contemplate Pakistan's re-admission as part of a package which produced an Indo/Pakistan rapprochement, but not as the first measure in such a package. It is of course a card that the Indians can only play once, so no doubt they hesitate to cast it prematurely. For their part the Pakistanis, having been

/rebuffed

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rebuffed at Melbourne, do not wish to risk another public humiliation and for the moment are content to lie low. It seems unlikely that there will be any serious moves at the CHOGM in November.

/ Mr Onslow stated in reply to a PQ on 20 December 1982 (copy enclosed for ease of reference) that we would welcome Pakistan's return to the Commonwealth but that this was a matter for the Commonwealth as a whole.

We believe that for us to take any kind of lead on the issue would simply antagonise Mrs Gandhi, to no good effect.

Mans over,
8

(B J P Fall)

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

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Zimbabwe

Mr. Nelson asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the repatriation of assets from Zimbabwe owned in that country by British citizens.

Mr. Onslow: It would not be appropriate for Her Majesty's Government to make formal representations to the Zimbabwe Government on the question of their exchange controls.

We have, however, continued to take every opportunity to point out to the Zimbabwean authorities the difficulties which the controls are causing, particularly for elderly emigrants and people on low fixed incomes. The Zimbabwe Government have assured us that the restrictions are maintained through economic necessity and that they will relax the controls as soon as financial circumstances permit. We understand that they are still prepared to give sympathetic consideration to cases of genuine hardship.

Nicaragua

Mr. Sheerman asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if Her Majesty's Government have any plans to facilitate European Economic Community aid to Nicaragua.

Mr. Onslow: No. Nicaragua is a recipient of European Community food and financial aid, but Her Majesty's Government have expressed the view that it would not be appropriate to provide additional aid. This position is under review in the light of information coming out of Nicaragua. Meanwhile, the Foreign Affairs Council decided in November that Nicaragua should not receive funds from a special aid programme for Central America. Nicaragua is also eligible for emergency relief assistance and a decision about the provision of such assistance would be taken in the light of circumstances at the time.

Pakistan

Mr. Teddy Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is the policy of Her Majesty's Government towards the re-admission of Pakistan to the Commonwealth; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Onslow: We would welcome Pakistan's return to the Commonwealth, but this is a matter for the Commonwealth as a whole.

St. Kitts-Nevis

Mr. George Robertson asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he is satisfied that a constitution for St. Kitts-Nevis not agreed by the opposition party is an appropriate basis for independence; (2) when he expects to lay the orders granting independence to St. Kitts-Nevis;

(3) if he is satisfied that the constitutional conference on St. Kitts-Nevis sufficiently considered the alternative proposals put forward by the opposition party;

(4) if he will make a statement about the outcome of the constitutional conference on St. Kitts-Nevis;

(8) what was his response to the proposals put forward by local opposition representatives at the constitutional conference on St. Kitts-Nevis.

Mr. Onslow: The constitutional conference for Saint Christopher and Nevis was held in London from 7 to 16 December under my chairmanship.

The purpose of the conference was to seek agreement on the terms of a new constitution for the independent State. The document before the conference was the draft constitution prepared by the Government of Saint Christopher and Nevis. This embodied proposals which were published in July 1982, subsequently discussed fully in the Associated State and approved by the State's House of Assembly in October.

The conference produced a report which is a thoroughly considered basis for a constitution. The report, which was signed at Lancaster House on 16 December, will be published as a White Paper in the United Kingdom and presented to Parliament. I believe it faithfully represents the views expressed by the participants at the Conference.

If the revised draft constitution is approved by the Saint Christopher and Nevis House of Assembly, a draft Order in Council terminating the status of Associated Statehood will be laid before both Houses of the British Parliament for approval before it is submitted to Her Majesty in Council. The timing of the laying of the order will depend on action by the State's House of Assembly but I would expect to present it before the Whitsun Recess. I hope it will be possible to complete the constitutional processes in time for Saint Christopher and Nevis to achieve independence in September 1983.

I regret that members of the Opposition delegation for Saint Christopher and Nevis felt that the proposals which they put before the conference were not adequately discussed and that this led them to leave the conference on two occasions. I believe that their criticisms of the manner in which the conference was being conducted were unjustified. When presented with reasoned, careful and constructive criticisms of their draft constitution, the Saint Christopher and Nevis Government delegation showed that it was prepared to go a considerable way towards meeting the Opposition's point of view. The Opposition had full opportunity to present their own proposals as well as to comment in detail on the draft constitution before the conference.

The Opposition delegation did not sign the conference report. The history of constitutional conferences for Associated States shows that it is not unusual for an Opposition party not to endorse a draft constitution. Such a situation cannot, however, be regarded as amounting to a bar to progress to independence. In the case of the last Associated State to achieve independence, Antigua and Barbuda, the Opposition party participated in the constitutional conference in December 1980, criticized the draft constitution and did not sign the report. In 1978 the St. Vincent Opposition parties did not attend the constitutional conference.

Commonwealth (Membership)

Sir John Biggs-Davison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have special membership of the Commonwealth; and what are the conditions of such membership.

Mr. Onslow: The Republic of the Maldives, Nauru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tuvalu are Special Members of the Commonwealth. Special membership was

INDIA: Visit by Vice Pres of India.
(Mr Bhaugyaathak)

June 1983

18 JUL 1983



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7 July 1983

In my letter of 6 July about the call by the Vice-President of India on the Prime Minister, I said that Ambassador Prithi Singh had promised to send me documents relating to the establishment of the Nehru Trust for Cambridge University.

I have received from him the enclosed Trust Deed.

A J COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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प्रत्ययैव ज्ञायते

SECRETARY

TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI-110011

July 6, 1983

Dear Mr. Coler,

I was delighted to meet you, though briefly, during my Vice-President, and Mrs. Hidayatullah's, Call on your distinguished Prime Minister.

2. I have pleasure in sending you a
Zeroxed copy of the "NEHRU TRUST FOR
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY" which was inaugurated
in New Delhi by the Vice-President, in the
presence of the Prime Minister Smt. Indira
Gandhi on the 28th of June, 1983.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely
Prithi Singh
(PRITHI SINGH)

Mr. Arthur John Coles
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs
No. 10, Downing Street
London

SUBJECT

ce Mar 1983

FUS- S14

India



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 July, 1983

Vice-President of India

Thank you for your letter of 5 July. Mr. and Mrs. Hidayatullah called on the Prime Minister this morning for 30 minutes.

The conversation was of a general nature and I am not circulating a detailed record.

The Prime Minister congratulated the Vice-President on the Indian cricket team's success in the World Cup series. There was some discussion of the floods in Gujarat. The Prime Minister said that she was looking forward with interest and pleasure to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Delhi later this year. This prompted the Vice-President to ask whether we had taken any view on the likelihood of Pakistan renewing its interest in membership of the Commonwealth and seeking an invitation to CHOGM. This has apparently been the subject of speculation in the Indian and Pakistani press recently. The Prime Minister said that she was not aware of any new moves by Pakistan but she was inclined to the view that it might be embarrassing for Mrs. Gandhi if this issue were raised again now. Ambassador Prithi Singh, who was present, said that Mrs. Gandhi had already stated publicly that now was not the right time for this question to be re-opened. (I should be grateful for a note on this matter.)

With regard to the India Nehru Trust for Cambridge, the Vice President said that he would be stating publicly at Cambridge tomorrow that the Trust had been officially constituted. Ambassador Prithi Singh promised to send me some documents relevant to this in the next few days.

A. I. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 July 1983

Dear John,

Vice-President of India

Our High Commission in New Delhi have confirmed that Mr Hidayatullah will be glad to call on the Prime Minister at 0930 am on Wednesday 6 July. He will be accompanied by his wife, Mrs Pushpa Hidayatullah.

//

A brief and a personality note are enclosed.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Number 10 Downing Street



CALL BY INDIAN VICE-PRESIDENT ON PRIME MINISTER:
0930, WEDNESDAY 6 JULY

POINTS TO MAKE

Vice-President's programme

1. Hope you enjoyed night at opera with Prince and Princess of Wales.
2. Will dinner at Trinity College on 7 July mark the launching of the Cambridge Nehru Scholarships scheme?

Indo-British Relations

3. Congratulations on Indian cricket team's splendid success in world cup series.
4. Give Mrs Gandhi my warm regards. Value my relationship with her.
5. Festival of India helped promote greater awareness and understanding of India in the UK. Hope ways can be found of making impact lasting.
6. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh look forward with pleasure to visiting India in November. They last visited India in 1961. Last State Visit to Britain by Indian President was in 1963 (Dr S Radhakrishnan).

CHOGM

7. Have heard widespread tributes to organisation of NAM Summit (March 1983). Sure CHOGM will be as great a success. Much looking forward to being there.

Indian Floods

8. Distressed to hear of floods in Gujarat. We have made an initial donation of £6,000 to Oxfam for the purchase of emergency shelters. They will probably come back to us for more substantial funds once they know precise nature of help required. Anything else we can do to help?

BACKGROUND

Vice-President's Programme

1. Mr Hidyatullah will be in the UK from 3-10 July. He will be staying with his niece, Princess Sarwath, the wife of Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, at the latter's London home.

2. The main purpose of Mr Hidyatullah's visit is to attend a dinner being given by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust at Trinity College, Cambridge on 7 July at which the Prince of Wales will preside. An associated Trust, to be known as the India Nehru Trust for Cambridge, is to be set up shortly with a view to offering up to ten scholarships a year to Indian students. Mrs Gandhi will be patron or chairman of this Trust. Mr Hidyatullah will also be involved, probably as a signatory of the Trust Deed.

3. The Vice-President and Mrs Hidyatullah will have drinks at Kensington Palace followed by a visit to the opera as the guests of the Prince and Princess of Wales on 4 July. Mr Hidyatullah was the Prince of Wales' official host during HRH's visit to India in 1980.

4. Mr Hidyatullah also hopes to see his friends the Lord Chancellor and Lords Denning and Lane during his visit.

Indo-British Relations

5. Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will pay a State Visit to India between 17 November and the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Delhi on 23 November.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

6. The CHOGM is to be held in Delhi from 23-30 November. The Indians made excellent arrangements for the NAM Summit in March and are now moving into top gear in their preparations for CHOGM. Natwar Singh, the senior MEA official responsible for both the State Visit and CHOGM, visited London for discussions last month. Our own reconnaissance team spent a week in India in the middle of June.



Indian Floods

7. Monsoon rains have brought serious flooding to many parts of Gujarat. About 1,000 people are reported dead or missing. While the floods are serious by Gujarat standards, India regularly sees much worse. Our High Commission have recommended that ODA do not offer direct assistance at this stage, but instead channel funds through voluntary organisations such as Oxfam. A message of sympathy from The Queen was delivered to the President of India on 1 July.

Unrest in India

8. Elections in Assam in February provoked considerable violence and a death toll in excess of 1500. There were reports of large numbers of refugees seeking shelter in neighbouring states. Disaffection in Assam stems from a powerful sense of cultural separateness exacerbated by physical isolation and economic backwardness. Agitation leaders demand the deportation or disenfranchisement of Bengali settlers. Secessionism has not played a part except at the extremist fringes. Though violence has ended, the situation remains tense.

9. Mrs Gandhi also faces a continuing threat to public order in Punjab where supporters of the opposition AKali Dal have resorted to violence to further their political and religious demands. Some extremists are pressing for the creation of an autonomous Sikh state, 'Khalistan'.

HIDAYATULLAH, MOHAMMED

Vice President of India.

Born 17 December 1905. BA (University of Nagpur), MA (Trinity College, Cambridge). 1930 called to Bar at Lincoln's Inn, now a Bencher. 1943 youngest ever Advocate General for Madhya Pradesh. 1954 Chief Justice of Nagpur High Court. 1958 Supreme Court Judge. 1968-70 Chief Justice of India. 1969 Acting President for a short period following the death of President Zakir Hussein.

Hidayatullah is Chancellor of both Jamia Miha Islamia and Delhi Universities and was for many years Professor of Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law at Nagpur University. A charming, friendly and an amusing interlocutor. Without direct political experience before assuming his present office, he has taken admirably to the role assigned to him. A shrewd observer of the political scene and a good humoured Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House). One of his first official duties as Vice President was to represent India at Lord Mountbatten's funeral. He was the Prince of Wales' official host during the latter's visit to India in 1980. Has excellent reputation among lawyers in the UK as well as India. Well disposed to the UK where he has many friends. He plays golf and some tennis.

Married 1948. One son.

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 June 1983

My dear Vice-President,

Thank you so much for your kind congratulations.

I am very glad to hear that you are visiting London early next month. I should be delighted to see you.

Would it be possible for you to call at 0930 on Wednesday, 6 July?

Please give my regards to Mrs. Hidayatullah.

Yours sincerely

Rajiv Gandhi

Shri M. Hidayatullah
Vice-President of India

dg



Sub

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 June 1983

VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

You asked last week whether the Prime Minister had received a letter from Mr. Hidayatullah. A letter arrived after our conversation.

The Prime Minister has indicated that she would like to receive Mr. Hidayatullah and we shall be suggesting to him that he calls at 0930 on 6 July for 30 minutes.

A. J. COLES

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

Time pl. (30 minutes)

AJC on 27/6.

930-10.00
on wed 6th July

Prime Minister

Do you want
the India Visa -

New

Incident briefly? M $\frac{24}{6}$

18 June,

Yes not

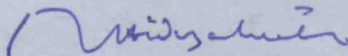
Dear Prime Minister,

May I send you on behalf of my wife and myself our warmest congratulations on your great success in the General Elections.

I shall visit London in the first week of the next month and I do hope that it may be possible for us to meet.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(M. Hidayatullah)

The Right Honourable
Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
P.C.; M.P.

Prime Minister,
London

Grey Scale #13



A

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Colour Chart #13

Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

