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Visit by the President of India, Mr Venkataraman.

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FEBRUARY 1990

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
7-7-90 14-5-00 12-4-90 12-4-90 15-7-93	PPI	am	1	1/30	73	7	

राष्ट्रपति भारत गणनंत्र PRESIDENT REPUBLIC OF INDIA New Delhi, April 30, 1990. Dear Mrs. Thatcher, Thank you for your letter of April 12, 1990. My wife and I have returned to India with the pleasantest memories of our visit to the United Kingdom. The members of the Official Suite accompanying us were altogether delighted, as we were, to be in your country and to meet so many distinguished and talented citizens of your I have no doubt whatever that India and the United Kingdom will see a further and continuing enrichment of their unique ties. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the gracious hospitality extended to us and, especially, for the splendid lunch hosted by Her Majesty's Government at 10, Downing Street. With regards, Yours sincerely, ( Nenkara R. VENKATARAMAN Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P., Prime Minister, United Kingdom, 10, Downing Street, LONDON SWIA 2AA

MVZM



CC FCO.

## 10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SWIA 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 April 1990

You Enulus.

Now that you have returned home I wanted to write to record how delighted we were to be able to receive you in this country last week. We were talking again only yesterday about the enormous success of your visit and of the great pleasure it gave everyone here. It was extremely good to meet so many members of your family and I hope they enjoyed the few days as much as we did.

May I also take this opportunity to thank you for the enchanting Thewa Box. I will greatly treasure this.

Jours sirenely Mayanestalte

His Excellency Shri Ramaswamy Venkataraman

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# SUSSEX POLICE

Chief Constable: R. Birch, C.B.E. Q.P.M.

Police Headquarters, Malling House, Lewes,

East Sussex, BN7 2DZ. Telephone: (0273) 475432

CC/RB/PW
4th April 1990.

La Chimini

Dear Prime Minister,

I have written to the Lord Chamberlain asking him to convey to Her Majesty The Queen the sincere regrets of the Sussex Police at the disruption caused to the State Visit of President Venkataraman of India which followed as a consequence of the discovery of a suspicious object at Gatwick Railway Station.

I have written in similar terms to the Indian High Commissioner asking him to convey a message to the President.

May I extend the same expression of regret to you, for I know you were also inconvenienced.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Constable.

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

ce Backup. PRIME MINISTER cc: Mr. Thatcher Detectives The President of India's return banquet is being held tomorrow evening at the St. James' Court Hotel. The dress is Black Tie and Mr. Thatcher is accompanying you. You have been asked to arrive at the Hotel at 7.45 p.m., so I suggest you leave No. 10 at around 7.35 p.m. I attach a copy of the evening's programme, together with seating plans for the dinner. You will see from the programme that there will be a recital before the dinner. P.P. Amanda Ponsonby 4 April 1990



# BANQUET BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND SHRIMATI VENKATARAMAN IN HONOUR OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH 5 April 1990

#### PROGRAMME

7.15 — General guests arrive at the Banquet Entrance.

7.35 PM:	
7.40 PM:	The President of India and Shrimati Venkataraman arrive.
	Certain distinguished guests arrive at the Banquet Entrance.
	Members of the Royal Family arrive at the Banque Entrance.
8.00 PM:	Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh arrive.
8.10 —	Sitar Recital by Pandit Ravi Shankar.

10.30 PM: Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness (approx) The Duke of Edinburgh depart.

8.45 PM:

9.00 PM: Dinner.

Banquet by the President of India and Shrimati Venkataraman in honour of Her Majesty The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh on 5 APRIL 1990 Administrative Plan Arrival: 7.45 pm - 7.50 pm. (Car labels are enclosed. The chauffeur may be instructed to approach from Birdcage Walk and and Buckingham Gate. After setting down, they will park in Spenser Street.) Reception: The Cocktail Bar. Recital: The Conservatory. (Seating as indicated in the enclosed plan). After the Recital, you are requested to proceed to the Elizabethan Room on the first floor.

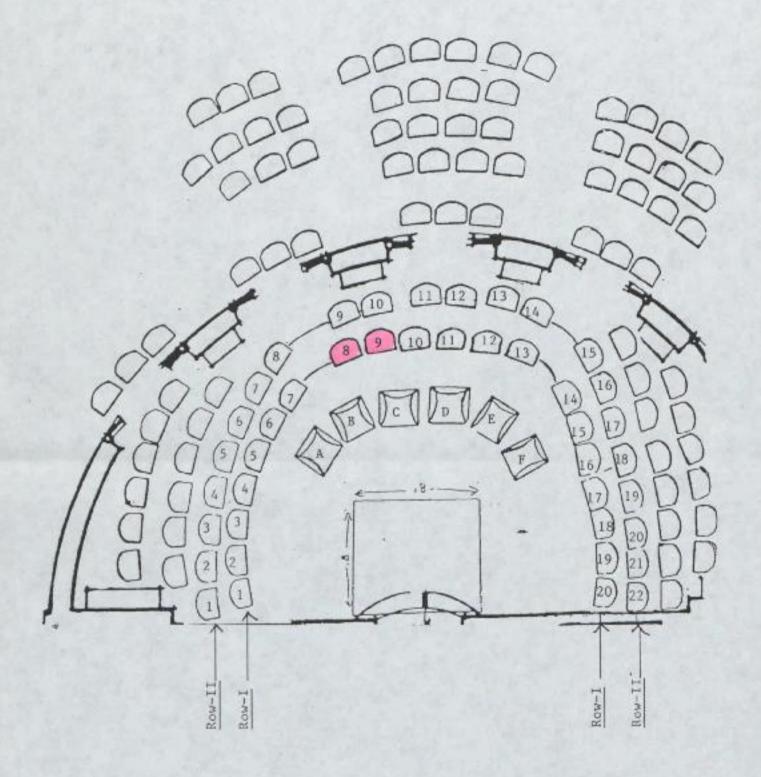
Dinner: The Edwardian Room.

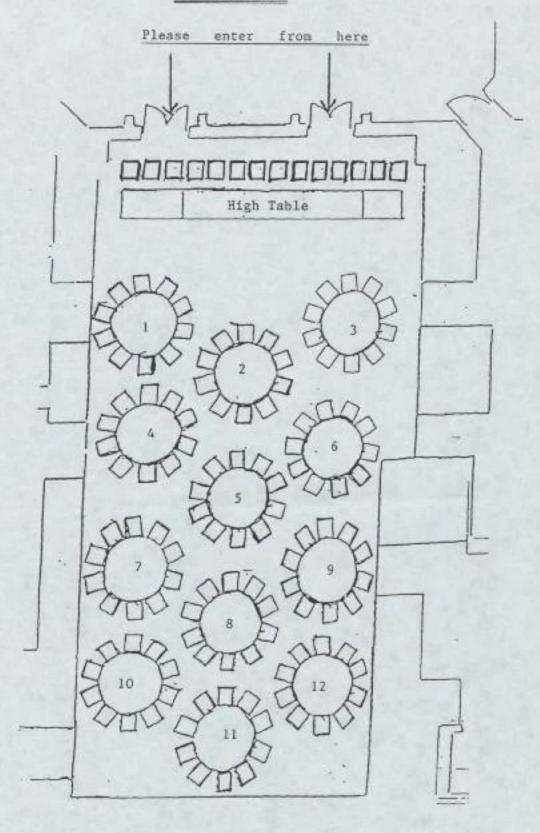
(Seating as indicated in the enclosed plan).

#### Conservatory Seating

Couches

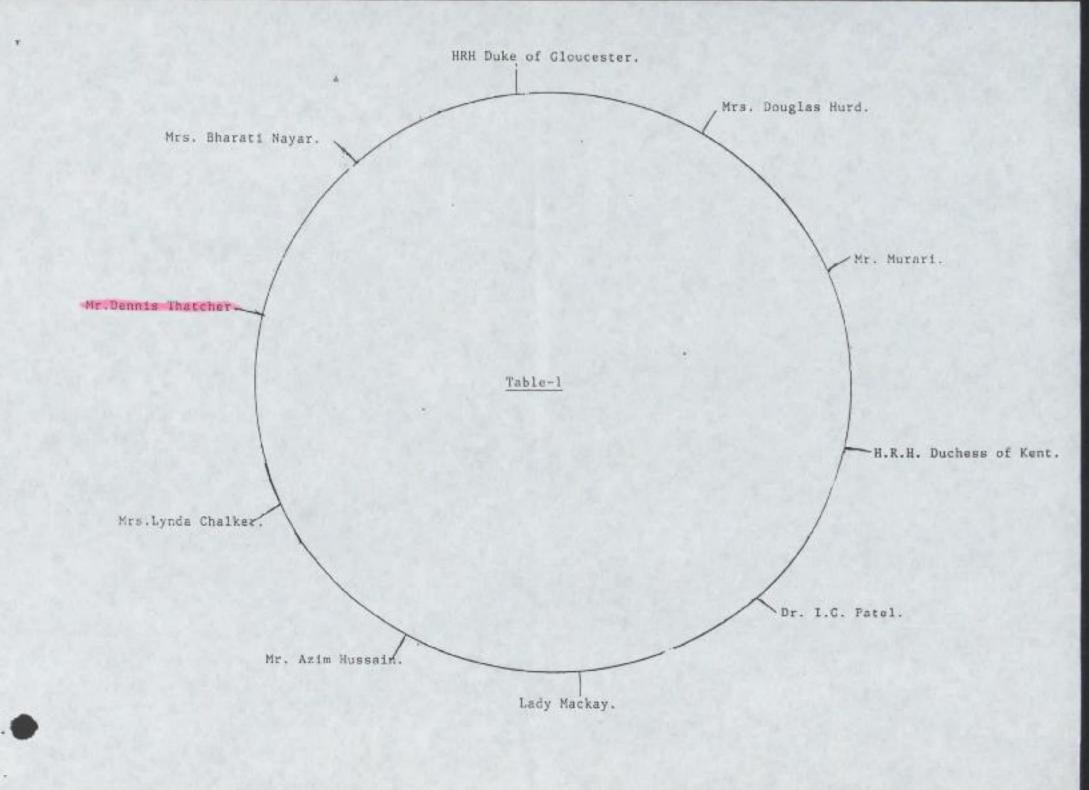
HRH The Prince of Wales -= A. Shrimati Venkataranan - = B. Her Majesty The Queen -- C. President of India -HRH The Duke of Edinburgh - = E. HRH The Princess of Wales - = F. Row - 1 Seat Nos. = 1. Mrs. Nayar -High Commissioner -HRH The Duchess of Gloucester= 3. HRH The Duke of Gloucester - 4. HRH The Princess Margaret = 5. The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe = 6. Shrimati Laxmi Venkatesan = 7. The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher = 8-9. and Mr.Dennis Thatcher The Archbishop of Canterbury = 10-11. and Mrs. Runcie. The Lord Mackay of Clashfern = 12-13. and Lady Mackay = 14. Lady Howe Shrimati Padma Venkataraman = 15. HRH The Duke of Kent and = 16-17. HRH The Duchess of Kent Shri Goswami. = 18. The Rt. Hon. Lynda Chalker = 19. Lord Brabazon = 20. Row - II Mrs.Ravi Shankar & Daughter = 1-2. Mr. Clive Landa The Rt. Hon. Douglas Hurd = 9-10. and Mrs. Hurd High Commissioner of Cyprus = 11-12. and Mrs. Panayides The Rt. Hon. David Waddington = 13-14. and Mrs. Waddington.





# High Table

	The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe.	
-	Shrimati Laxmi Venkatesan.	
-	H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.	
	Shrimati Venkataraman.	
-	H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.	
	H.R.H. The Princess of Wales.	
-	President of India.	, WE
-	H.M. The Queen.	7.1-
-	Shri Dinesh Goswami.	
_	H.R.H. The Princess Margaret.	
	Lord Mackay.	
-	Shrimati Padma Venkataraman.	
	The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher.	
	High Commissioner of India.	



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# 10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA 2AA

From the Private Secretary

4 April 1990

Der Seder.

### PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

The Prime Minister had a talk this morning with the President of India before giving a luncheon in his honour. President Venkataraman was accompanied by Mr. Dinesh Goswami, Minister for Steel and Mines and Law and Justice, Mr. Kuldip Nayar, the new Indian High Commissioner, and Mr. P. Murari, the President's Private Secretary. Our High Commissioner in Delhi was also present.

The Prime Minister expressed our great pleasure and honour at receiving the President on a State visit to the United Kingdom. Many important discussions and decisions affecting India had taken place in No.10 Downing Street and she had therefore thought it right to meet the President in the Cabinet Room, which was part of the history we shared. There was a closeness between Britain and India, which went beyond friendship. We particularly admired India as the largest democracy in the world. The Prime Minister invited the President to give her an account of the state of affairs in India and in the region.

President Venkataraman agreed that there was more than friendship between Britain and India, it was affinity. Even during India's struggle for freedom, there had been respect and an admiration between Indian and British people, and no feeling of bitterness or rancour. The President continued that he would give the Prime Minister a brief account of the situation in India. Some 300 million Indians had voted in the last election, which had resulted in a change of government, but a smooth transition. India's economy had been in an up-swing for the last decade. There was now a surplus of food for export, and industrial development had been rapid. The United Kingdom remained a major investor in India and he personally welcomed close economic cooperation. India's scientific and technological development had also been very rapid: India now lay third, behind the United States and the Soviet Union, in the total number of scientists and engineers. India was grateful for the aid which it received from the United Kingdom.

The President continued that India's main problem lay with violence in the Punjab and Kashmir. The problem in the Punjab was one of terrorism which Pakistan was supporting by supplying

arms. It was made more difficult because there were no leaders with whom India could negotiate. Terrorism was also the problem in Kashmir, once again encouraged by Pakistan. The Simla Agreement had laid down a procedure for settling disputes between India and Pakistan, but unfortunately it was not being implemented. India had hoped for a better response from Pakistan after last year's democratic elections, but unfortunately this had not materialised. The Prime Minister interjected that we wanted to see the Kashmir problem settled peacefully and urged restraint on all sides. The President said he wished to express India's greatest appreciation for the help which Britain had provided in tracking down Sikh terrorists.

Turning to India's neighbours, the President said that the situation in Sri Lanka remained difficult. The Indian peace-keeping force had been withdrawn, but the basic political problems remained unresolved. The Tamil minority in the north still wanted autonomy. The Indian government had negotiated an agreement on this with President Jayewardene, but it had subsequently been put into cold storage. Without autonomy for the Tamils there would be no peace. India's aim was to see a form of government in Sri Lanka which guaranteed everyone their rights and privileges. The Prime Minister commented that India's decision to respond to President Jayewardene's request for help had been right, as was the decision subsequently to withdraw.

The President said that relations with Nepal were improving. There had been problems over renewing the Treaty. But the new Indian government had taken the initiative to restore relations, and he hoped that all problems would be resolved soon.

The Prime Minister spoke about our concern over the spread of missile technology and chemical and possibly even nuclear weapons in the Middle East, allied to the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. She enquired whether such fundamentalism was asserting itself among India's Moslem population. President Venkataraman said that unfortunately there were now some signs of it.

The meeting had to end at this point to enable the Prime Minister to take President Venkataraman to lunch.

I am copying this letter to Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

(C. D. POWELL)

Stephen Wall, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

#### MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

The President of India will come to Downing Street at 1200 tomorrow for talks. His wife arrives at 1245 for lunch, with two of his three daughters.

You have met President Venkataraman before, when he was Minister of Finance in 1981. He was subsequently Minister of Defence and then Vice-President. He is a Brahmin, and comes from Madras. He is now 80, and his eyesight is failing. As President he is above politics; and as a member of Congress Party, is anyway not at all close to the present Government. He has always had a reputation of being a bit anti-British since his days as a leader of the Quit India movement.

The President will be accompanied at the talks by
Mrs. Goswami, Minister for Steel and Mines, and Law and Justice,
by the new Indian High Commissioner (whom you will meet for the
first time today: he has a reputation for being wildly
indiscreet): and his Private Secretary. Sir David Goodall will
also be present. You might like to use the Cabinet Room, to
underline the solemnity of the occasion.

There are no speeches at lunch. But you might like to say a few words before making the loyal toast, referring to the historic decisions affecting India taken in No.10 Downing Street, to the President's own role in securing India's independence, and to the vitality and example of India's democracy.

The matters which you might cover in the talks are:

- your pleasure at the <u>improvement in bilateral relations</u>
   which has taken place in recent years, and our successful cooperation against Sikh terrorism.
- our interest in the measures being taken by the new Indian
   Prime Minister to solve the <u>Sikh problem</u> in the Punjab.

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- the <u>political and economic</u> prospects in India. The
  President would probably be ready to give you an impartial
  account of these.
- our concern over the situation in <u>Kashmir</u>, in regard to which we observe a policy of strict neutrality. We hope that both sides will show restraint.
- our welcome for India's improved relations with Nepal and Sri Lanka (the Indian peace-keeping force has now been withdrawn).
- developments in <u>Europe</u> and <u>East/West</u> relations, on which the President will want to hear your views.

Fuller briefing is in the folder, together with personality notes.

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CDP

3 April 1990

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Foreign and Commonwealth Offic London SWIA 2AH CONFIDENTIAL 2 April 1990 Indian State Visit: Prime Minister's Meeting with President Venktaraman As you know, the Prime Minister will be giving a lunch for President Venkataraman on Wednesday 4 April. This will be preceded by a meeting at which the President will be accompanied by Mr Dinesh Goswami, Minister for Steel and Mines and Law and Justice, Mr Kuldip Nayar, the new Indian High Commissioner, and Mr P Murari, the President's Private Secretary. Sir David Goodall, our High Commissioner in New Delhi, will also attend. I enclose personality notes on the President, Mr Nayar and Mr Murari, together with some notes in case the Prime Minister wishes to say a few words.

President Venkataraman is a lawyer by background and has an interest in scientific developments. He is interested in Indian history, and in Hindu temples. He will be accompanied on this visit by his wife and two of his three daughters.

This is the second Indian State Visit. The first was in 1963 when President Radhakrishnan visited Britain. The Queen has paid two State Visits to India: in 1961 and 1983. President Venkataraman last visited Britain in late 1983 as Minister for Defence, when he met the then Secretary of State for Defence. The Prime Minister met him in 1981 during her own visit to Delhi, when he was Finance Minister. During her visit in 1985, he was Vice President.

The Indian Presidency is a non-executive post, and the President will not expect detailed discussion. He is, however, likely to be interested in the Prime Minister's views on developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, on German unification, and on the future shape of Europe. The Indians have shown some concern about how recent changes will affect their traditional alliances, and particularly the future of their soft currency trading agreement with the Soviet Union.

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The Prime Minister will want to refer to our much-improved bilateral relations. President Venkataraman is not a difficult man, but he was active in the "Quit India" movement, and despite his genuine affection for many things British, he is unlikely to have happy memories of the colonial period. Problems over cooperation against Sikh extremists have receded, with the Indian Government now apparently convinced of our good intentions, which have been underlined by our excellent record of convictions of extremists guilty of violent crimes in Britain, combined with a series of tough ministerial statements on Sikh extremism and other measures of cooperation. The Prime Minister might:

- Recall her meeting with Rajiv Gandhi in Paris last July, and look forward to a meeting with the new Indian Prime Minister when commitments allow.
- Note the considerable improvement in bilateral relations over the past two years.
- Look forward to even closer cooperation between our two Governments, and frequent exchanges in both directions.

Although the President is supposed to be above party politics, he will no doubt be prepared to discuss Indian politics in general terms. Following the General Election in November 1989, the Prime Minister, V P Singh (whom the Foreign Secretary saw in Windhoek), has begun well, and earned credit for his new consensus style of government. He now looks set to govern for at least the next two years. Some limited headway has been made with policy initiatives on Punjab, improving relations with India's neighbours (other than Pakistan) and pursuing corruption cases. The ruling Janata Dal also did respectably in eight State elections on 27 February, winning in one state and forming coalition governments in three others. Their ally, the Hindu supremacist BJP Party, has formed its first ever governments in two states. Congress (I) has managed to retain only two states, having previously controlled all eight.

V P Singh has said he will give top priority to resolving the Sikh issue in <u>Punjab</u>. One of his first public engagements was a highly successful visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar on 7 December, during which he toured Amritsar in an open jeep in defiance of security advice. He has since held all-party meetings on Punjab, intended to improve the atmosphere as well as to make progress on substance. At the most recent meeting, the Indian Government introduced a package of measures to win

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round moderate Sikh opinion. During his second visit to Punjab on 14 March, V P Singh announced the formation of an advisory committee to help the Governor administer the State, consisting of representatives of different political parties, in a move which has been cautiously welcomed in the Indian press.

Internal developments have to a large extent been overshadowed by the situation in <u>Kashmir</u>. The President may be reluctant to discuss this in detail. The public line is to blame Pakistan for interference, but most Indians privately acknowledge that the troubles in Kashmir are home-grown and have been caused by serious Indian neglect and mismanagement over many years. We maintain a policy of strict neutrality, but we have been encouraging both sides to show restraint.

Since Governor's Rule (ie direct rule from Delhi) was imposed on 19 January, curfews have been in force in the towns and the Army has been in action to restore order, which they seem to have done with a heavy hand. A lengthy period of Governor's Rule now seems likely while central government money is spent to try to tackle the underlying problems - including a virtual absence of industrial development, high youth unemployment. On 7 March, V P Singh convened an all-party meeting to discuss Kashmir. A delegation of senior Indian MPs visited Kashmir on 8 March to assess the situation, but achieved little. On 12 March V P Singh appointed a Cabinet Minister for Kashmir and a multi-party committee of MPs to assist him. In discussion, the Prime Minister could ask about Indian policy for settling the disturbances, and take the following line:

- We are concerned by violence in Jammu and Kashmir and heightened tensions between India and Pakistan.
- We have no sympathy with those who use violence for political ends. But we hope Indian Government will be able to handle situation with maximum restraint.
- We believe the dispute is a matter to be settled peacefully between India and Pakistan.

The <u>Indian economy</u> has been growing at a respectable rate of 5% a year. But there is now a large budget deficit, a weak balance of payments, and a rapidly fising roreign debt burden. This will need careful economic management if the gains of the 1980s are not to be lost. Fiscal tightening and structural reform will be needed. The new Government's policies are still vague, but its budget of 19 March was a <u>modest</u> step in the right direction.

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India's relations with her South Asian neighbours have been given high priority under V P Singh's Government. An official round of talks in the dispute with Nepal in late February appears to have gone well. The Indian Foreign Minister is expected to visit Kathmandu early next month, when a settlement may be concluded. The Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka was finally withdrawn on 24 March, a week ahead of schedule. It remains to be seen, however, whether cooperation between the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan government will survive the Indian withdrawal.

I am sending copies of this letter to Tim Sutton (Lord President's Office), Simon Whiteley (Department of Transport), Paul Stockton (Lord Chancellor's Office), Colin Walters (Home Office), Stuart Lord (Department for Social Security), Clive Norris (Department of Employment), Myles Wickstead (Overseas Development Administration) and Andrew Lebrecht (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food).

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(R N Peirce)

Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq 10 Downing Street

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VENKATARAMAN, RAMASWAMY

President of India since July 1987.

Born 1910. A law graduate from Madras, he practised there as an advocate from 1935, and later in the Supreme Court. His active political career began in the "Quit India" Movement. He was imprisoned from 1942-44. In 1946 he was one of a panel of lawyers who defended Indian National Army soldiers charged with treason during the Japanese occupation of Malaya and Singapore. In the late 1940's he developed an interest in trade unionism and labour law, founding the "Labour Law Journal".

A member of the provisional Parliament 1950-2, and of the Lok Sabha (Lower House) 1952-7. Member of the Indian delegation to the UN General Assembly from 1953-61. His ministerial experience began in the Tamil Nadu Government where he was successively Minister of Industries, Labour Cooperatives, Power, Transport and Commercial Taxes 1957-67. During this period he gained much credit for the successful industrial development of the state.

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He became a member of the Planning Commission 1967-71. He split from Congress (I) in 1969 but returned to it in 1976. He was President of the United Nations
Administrative Tribunal 1968-1979. Reelected to the Lok Sabha in 1977, he was Minister of Finance 1980-82 and Minister of Defence 1982-84. He visited London in late 1983 as Minister for Defence when he met the Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP, then Secretary of State for Defence. In 1984 he was elected Vice-President, ceasing to be a Member of Parliament.

He was one of the few ministers under Mrs Gandhi independent enough to make a mark of his own.

Although he now suffers from poor eyesight, he remains very active. Shrewd and friendly to talk to.

Married (Janaki) with three daughters. He is interested in classical music. A Brahmin, he has been active in Hindu temple affairs in Madras and in Delhi. He is a strict vegetarian who does not eat eggs.

MR KULDIP NAYAR

Indian High Commissioner

Born 14 August 1923 in Sialkot (now Pakistan). He qualified in law (LL.B) and then took an MSc in journalism at North-Western University, Evanston, USA in 1947-8. Returned to Delhi to become Research Director for the US Information Service 1952. Between 1954-1964 he was a Government of India Information Officer. From 1964 to 1967 he was editor of United News of India, one of India's two press agencies. From 1967 to 1974 he was Resident Delhi Editor of the Statesman newspaper. From 1975-81 he was Editor of the Express News Service, at the same time writing as correspondent for the Washington Star (1975-80).

Subsequently he set up as a freelancer, working also as correspondent for <u>The Muslim</u> and <u>Nawa-I-Waqat</u>
(1980-87), two Pakistan newspapers. His material was widely syndicated in regional papers. He has been a correspondent for the London <u>Times</u> (1962-88), and has frequently visited Britain. He has written a number of

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books, including Between the Lines; India: the Critical Years; India after Nehru; the Judgement in Jail; Report on Afghanistan; The Tragedy of Punjab.

Mr Nayar was an outspoken critic of the previous Indian government. In his career as a journalist he had a controversial reputation, tending to sensationalise material as well as using off-the-record information without permission.

Married (Bharati) with 2 adult sons, one a businessman in Calcutta and the other a lawyer in Delhi. His father-in-law is Justice Sachar, of the Punjab High Court.

A teetotaller. He had a heart bypass operation in 1988.

MURARI, P

Secretary to the President since December 1989.

Born 1934. Entered the IAS (Tamil Nadu cadre) in 1957.

His previous appointments include Secretary of the

Implementation Committee for 40 years of India's

Independence, Secretary of Food Processing and Secretary

of Information and Broadcasting.

An affable man, he is an expert on the works of P  ${\tt G}$  Wodehouse.

fire Cele Car I attach your programme for the State Banquet tomorrow evening. As you will see, you process in with the Duke of Kent: and at dinner you are seated between him and the Duke of Gloucester.

CHARLES POWELL 2 April 1990

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PRIME MINISTER

STATE BANQUET

#### PRIME MINISTER

#### STATE VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

You have to attend the arrival of the President of India at Victoria Station at 1230 tomorrow. We need to get there before 1215, but not too much before. I suggest we leave about 1205. We could always pause if the horses are manoeuvring into position just outside Victoria.

The forecast is for very cold weather. You will certainly need a coat.

CD)

CHARLES POWELL

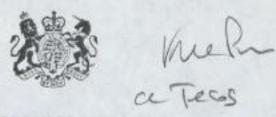
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# The National Archives

Date and sign
19/8/2016 5. Gray



10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SWIA ZAA

The Prime Minister presents her compliments to the Comptroller and has the honour to accept the invitation conveyed by command of Her Majesty to the arrival ceremony of the President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkataraman at Victoria Station on Tuesday 3 April. The Prime Minister will start her journey from No.10 Downing Street.

5 February 1990

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formal Acceptance **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** 2/2 1st February, 1990 Dear Prime naisister STATE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND SHRIMATI VENKATARAMAN Arrival - Tuesday, 3rd April, 1990 I have the honour to inform you that The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will meet The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkataraman upon Their Arrival at Victoria Station at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 3rd April, 1990. 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 and 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 rinewely Comptroller Lord Chamberlain's Office The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP., 10 Downing Street, London. SW1



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