Part 1

Confidential filing

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Annual Conference

CLOSED

COMMONWEALTH

Part 1 : July '83

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
PREM 19/4040							
		PART		CLOSED			

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HMSO Dd8953031 6/88 C60 GP2265 CCN13412 (3932)

SERIES CLOSED

END OF CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION

1 MAY 1997

K: F/SHEPHERD. KW.
cc FCO.

[CF file]

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

16 April 1993

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Colin,

Thank you for your letter of 23 March, in which you invited me to nominate a Minister as my representative at the Annual General Meeting of the CPA on 16 June.

I am glad to tell you that Lynda Chalker has once again kindly agreed to take this on.

Yours Ever,
John

Colin Shepherd Esq MP

AB

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 April 1993

Dear Roderic,

TOP enclosure

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (UK BRANCH): AGM

You asked in your letter of 25 March whether Lady Chalker would be able to represent the Prime Minister at this year's CPA UK Branch AGM on 16 June. Lady Chalker will be glad to do so.

Yours ever,

(J S Smith)
Private Secretary

Roderic Lyne Esq CMG
10 Downing Street

May I see on file pm?

file attr

Rmp.

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

14 April 1993

The Rt Hon John Major MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

attr (Political Office pps)

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CYPRUS 3 - 12 SEPTEMBER

Thank you for your letter of 23 March asking me to lead the UK delegation to the CPA's 39th Annual Conference. I should be delighted to do so. I aim to attend the opening ceremony on Monday 6 September and the first 3 days of the Conference.

Yours ever

Lynda

BARONESS CHALKER OF WALLASEY

file
PICPA-ICW

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

25 March 1993

From the Private Secretary

Dear Stephen,

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION AGM

I attach the annual letter from the Chairman of the UK Branch of the CPA inviting the Prime Minister to nominate a Minister to represent him at the CPA AGM. I see from the file that in the past Lady Chalker has taken this on, as the Minister within the FCO responsible for Commonwealth affairs. I should be grateful to know whether she will be able to do the honours again this year.

Yours ever,

Roderic

RODERIC LYNE

J S Smith Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CHALKER

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 March 1993

Dear Lynda,

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is holding its 39th Conference in Cyprus between 3 and 12 September. I know that you are aware of this and I would be most grateful if you would be willing to lead the UK delegation.

I know that our own UK branch would be delighted if you would.

Yours Ever, John

The Rt Hon Baroness Chalker of Wallasey

Telephone: (071) 219 5373
Facsimile: (071) 233 1202

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

O/F PPS

23rd March 1993

From: Mr Colin Shepherd MP

26/3

Dear Prime Minister

CPA (UK BRANCH) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 16TH JUNE 1993 AT 10.45 AM IN COMMITTEE ROOM 10

I am writing to inform you that the Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (United Kingdom Branch) will be held at 10.45 am on Wednesday, 16th June 1993 in Committee Room 10.

My Executive Committee has asked me to write to you with the request that you nominate a Minister to represent you at the AGM. The Minister would be invited to propose the report of the Executive Committee for 1992.

Yours sincerely

Colin.

(COLIN SHEPHERD MP)
CHAIRMAN OF THE CPA (UK BRANCH) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rt Hon John Major MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A

PRIME MINISTER

The 39th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference takes place this year in Cyprus between 3rd and 12th September.

The delegation to last year's conference was led by Mark Lennox-Boyd. It is customary for the Prime Minister to appoint the leader of the delegation, so Richard Ryder and I thought that you might like to appoint Baroness Chalker this year.

Would you be happy to do so? Yes

Anne

pp **GRAHAM**
18 March 1993

Cabinet Office.

Need to see note.

Government Chief Whip
12 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

15th March, 1993

Dear Graham,

Thank you very much for your letter of 1st March and for the enclosed copy of one from Colin Shepherd concerning the UK delegation to the 39th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cyprus from 3rd to 12th September 1993.

I think Lynda Chalker would be excellent and I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to express a view.

Yours ever
Tim Renton

Graham Bright Esq MP

RYDER

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

11 March 1993

Dear Richard,

I refer to my letter to you dated 1 March, with which I enclosed a letter I had received from Colin Shepherd about the 39th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Cyprus.

Evidently Mark Lennox-Boyd led the delegation last time. However, I note that Baroness Chalker has put herself forward. Do you have a view on this, because we need to get the Prime Minister to agree.

Yours ever,

GRAHAM BRIGHT MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

The Right Honourable Richard Ryder, MP

Phone: (071) 219 5373
Facsimile: (071) 233 1202

CPACONF93/15

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th March 1993

Dear Graham,

39TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, CYPRUS
(3rd - 12th September 1993)

You may remember that Mr Colin Shepherd MP wrote to you about the CPA Conference in Cyprus. A copy of his letter dated 24th February 1993 is enclosed.

When I spoke to Baroness Chalker she said that she would be willing to lead the UK delegation if she were nominated by the Prime Minister. Lady Chalker mentioned that her diary was fairly full and that she would be grateful for early information if she was required for the Parliamentary Conference in Cyprus.

Yours sincerely

Peter Cobb

(PETER COBB OBE)
Secretary

Mr Graham Bright MP
PPS to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A

Pending

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

1st March 1993

Dear Richard,

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received from Colin Shepherd, Chairman of the CPA.

Should I recommend to the Prime Minister that Mark Lennox-Boyd be nominated as the delegation leader again?

Yours ever,

GRAHAM BRIGHT MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

The Rt Hon Richard Ryder OBE MP

Phone: (071) 219 5373
Facsimile: (071) 233 1202

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH
From: Mr Colin Shepherd MP

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th February 1993

Dear Graham

39TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE, CYPRUS
(3rd - 12th September 1993)

I am writing to inform you that the 39th Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference will take place in Cyprus, 3rd - 12th September 1993. The Conference will be attended by a delegation of Members drawn from the House of Lords and the House of Commons representing both Government and Opposition Parties.

The Prime Minister normally appoints a Government Minister to lead the delegation. Last year Hon Mark Lennox-Boyd MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was appointed as the delegation leader.

I would be grateful if you could find out from the Prime Minister who he would wish to nominate to lead the UK delegation visiting Cyprus for this important Parliamentary Conference.

Yours sincerely

Colin.

(COLIN SHEPHERD MP)
CHAIRMAN OF THE CPA (UK BRANCH) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr Graham Bright MP
PPS to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A

CPA

Telephone: (071) 219 5373
Facsimile: (071) 233 1202

SEMGEN93/22

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14th January 1993

Dear Graham,

Many thanks for your letter dated 11th January 1993 and for the good news that the Prime Minister is willing to host a reception at Number Ten for Commonwealth Members who are attending the Parliamentary Seminar. I confirm that Members of my Executive Committee are very pleased to amend the Seminar programme to include the Prime Minister's reception on Wednesday, 10th March 1993. Details of the Seminar delegates including short biographical notes will be sent to your office at the end of February.

With many thanks for your help.

Yours ever,

Peter

(PETER COBB OBE)
Secretary

Mr Graham Bright MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

11th January 1993

Dear Peter,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 27th November regarding the 42nd Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure from 2nd - 13th March 1993.

The Prime Minister would be very pleased to host a reception at Number Ten for Commonwealth Members attending the Seminar. Unfortunately, he is unable to host a reception on 4th March, however, he could do so on Wednesday 10th March from 1800 to 1930.

I would be grateful if you could let me know as soon as possible whether this date is convenient in order that we can confirm it in the Prime Minister's diary.

Yours ever,

GRAHAM BRIGHT MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Peter Cobb Esq OBE

PRIME MINISTER

Diary Request

Request from **Peter Cobb, Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**, for the Prime Minister to **host a reception** for Commonwealth Members attending the 1993 Seminar between **2nd - 13th March 1993** at **Number Ten.**

Notes and recommendations: The annual Seminar, on Parliamentary Business, attracts a large number of Speakers and Presiding Officers and Members from Commonwealth countries with interests in procedure. It is usual for the Prime Minister to host a reception for the seminar each year, and, at the moment, you could do so on the evening of Wednesday 10th March. Accept?

Claire

pp GRAHAM BRIGHT MP
18th December 1992

Can this wait, or add to the attached?
17/12

JANICE

Please can the attached request go on the agenda for the next diary meeting.

Request from **Peter Cobb, Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**, for the Prime Minister to **host a reception** for Commonwealth Members attending the 1993 Seminar between **2nd - 13th March 1993** at **Number Ten.**

Notes and recommendations: The annual Seminar, on Parliamentary Business, attracts a large number of Speakers and Presiding Officers and Members from Commonwealth countries with interests in procedure. It is usual for the Prime Minister to host a reception for the seminar each year, + , at the moment, you could do so on Wed 10 March.

Accept?

Claire

HP GRAHAM BRIGHT MP
16th December 1992

note to PM

Telephone: (071) 219 5373
Telex: 925042
Facsimile: (071) 233 1202

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

27th November 1992

R 2/12

Dear Prime Minister,

42ND SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE
2ND-13TH MARCH 1993

I am writing on behalf of the CPA (UK Branch) Executive Committee to ask if you would be kind enough to receive Commonwealth Members attending the 1993 Seminar at Westminster in Number 10 Downing Street on Thursday, 4th March 1993 or on another evening if that date is not convenient.

The reception at Number 10 Downing Street in March this year was one of the highlights of a very successful Conference. Delegates told me subsequently how much they had appreciated meeting you and your guests on that occasion. The annual Seminar on parliamentary practice and procedure at Westminster is one of the more important activities of the CPA. The Seminar normally attracts a large number of Speakers and Presiding Officers and Members with a special interest in procedure. The CPA arranges a fairly intensive study programme for Seminar delegates and the reception at Number 10 Downing Street provides the highlight in the social programme. My Executive Committee hopes that you will be able to receive Seminar delegates at Number 10 Downing Street in 1993.

Yours sincerely

Might be done
Cabinet Council.

Peter Cobb

(PETER COBB OBE)
Secretary

Rt Hon John Major MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

9P

DCA

cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 May 1991

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 1 May about Ministerial representation at the Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

I have asked Lynda Chalker to take this on and she looks forward to doing so.

Yours Ever,
John

Sir Peter Hordern, D.L., M.P.

NTCF
GR?

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 May 1991

Dear Stephen,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association :
Annual General Meeting

You asked in your letter of 14 May which FCO Minister will represent the Prime Minister at the AGM of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK Branch). It is usual for the FCO Minister responsible for Commonwealth affairs to take this on and Mrs Chalker will be glad to do so this year.

Yours ever,

(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

Stephen Wall Esq CMG LVO
10 Downing Street

HORDERN MP
28/5

FILE SJ

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

14 May 1991

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Peter Hordern asking him to nominate a Minister to represent him at the AGM of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

I should be grateful if you could let me know which FCO Minister will attend this year if that is indeed the normal form.

(J. S. WALL)

Christopher Prentice, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Telephone: (071) 219 5373
Telex: 925042
Facsimile: (071) 233 1202

Peter Cdoo.

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

1st May 1991

From: Sir Peter Hordern DL MP

Ra/5

Dear Prime Minister,

CPA (UK Branch) Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 12th June 1991 at 10.45 am in the Grand Committe Room

I am writing to inform you that the Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (United Kingdom Branch) will be held at 10.45 am on Wednesday, 12th June 1990 in the Grand Committee Room.

My Executive Committee have asked me to write to you with the request that you nominate a Minister to represent you at the AGM. The Minister would be invited to propose the report of the Executive Committee for 1990.

Yours ever
Peter

Sir Peter Hordern DL MP
CHAIRMAN OF THE CPA (UK BRANCH) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rt Hon John Major MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

C:\WPDOCS\FOREIGN\
HORDERN
MRP
cc SP

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 December 1990

You wrote to Peter Morrison on 18 October to ask whether the previous Prime Minister would be able to entertain Commonwealth Members attending the Annual Parliamentary Association Seminar at Westminster, at a No.10 Reception on Wednesday, 6 March.

We have now been able to consult the Prime Minister about this and he would be most happy to host the Reception.

CHARLES POWELL

Sir Peter Hordern, DL, MP

B. R.

MRS RICHARDS

Please could you add this request from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to the agenda for the next Diary Meeting, with the recommendation that it is accepted.

Many thanks.

5/11

AR.

ALICE

30 October 1990

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON – SW1"
Telephone: (071) 219 5373
Telex: 925042
Facsimile: (071) 233 1202
SEMGEN91/1

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6/3

18th October 1990

Amanda - Adrian Beaumont

cc Sue Goodchild

From: Sir Peter Hordern DL MP

Dear Peter,

RECEPTION AT NUMBER 10 DOWNING STREET FOR SEMINAR DELEGATES

The Prime Minister, in her capacity as Chairman of the CPA (UK Branch), normally entertains Commonwealth Members attending the Annual Parliamentary Seminar at Westminster at a Number 10 Downing Street Reception. This is one of the key activities of the Seminar and it is enormously appreciated by our Commonwealth guests. The Reception also provides an opportunity for our delegates to meet Cabinet Ministers, senior Members and Officials from the Lords and Commons and those closely associated with the Seminar.

I understand that Wednesday, 6th March 1991 is the most suitable date for this Reception and I would be most grateful if you would confirm this date once the Prime Minister's programme has been agreed.

Yours ~~sincerely~~ Yours ever Peter

SIR PETER HORDERN DL MP
CHAIRMAN OF THE CPA (UK BRANCH) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rt Hon Peter Morrison MP
PPS to the Prime Minister
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A OAA

A: Tonkin
cc LCD
P Kitcatt
(Speakers Office)

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

7 August 1990

Since you wrote to me about the possibility of a delegation from the CPA to see the Prime Minister, I have spoken to the Speaker's office and have seen the copy of Paul Stockton's letter to you of 25 July.

In the circumstances it seems to us that the best way forward is for the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the UK Branch of the Association to take the matter forward as he sees fit. I understand that that would not be until November.

DOMINIC MORRIS

The Hon. David Tonkin

FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOUSE OF LORDS,
LONDON SW1A 0PW

To go with Tonkin letter to me
CF?

25 July 1990

The Honourable David Tonkin
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
7 Old Palace Yard
Westminster
LONDON
SW1P 3JY

Dear David,

— unnecessary read'd

You wrote to Natalie Collier here on 23 July about the possibility of the Lord Chancellor being part of a delegation from the CPA to see the Prime Minister at the end of August.

I believe that Natalie has explained to you that the Lord Chancellor will be away from London at that time and so would not be in a position to be part of such a delegation, but I thought I ought to make it clear to you that, even if he had been available, he would almost certainly not have regarded it as appropriate for him to form part of a delegation of this kind. I am not quite sure how this misunderstanding has arisen but, as far as I can tell, he has not been asked whether in principle he would willing to be part of the delegation. We rather expected, following the correspondence earlier in the year, that any delegation from the United Kingdom Branch would be led by the Chairman of its Executive Committee, rather than by its Joint Presidents.

I am copying this letter to Dominic Morris and Peter Kitcatt.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Stockton

CCPC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

16 March 1990

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you for your letter of 15 March about the Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Harare in September.

The Prime Minister agrees that Mr. Waldegrave should lead the United Kingdom delegation.

C. D. POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

010

cc PCU

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 March 1990

Prime Minister

Very good

Agree to Mr. Waldegrave?

CDP 15/3

Dear Charles

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
Annual Conference:
Harare, 12-22 September

Mr Tony Durant MP, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA United Kingdom Branch has written to ask the Foreign Secretary who the Prime Minister will nominate to lead the United Kingdom Delegation to this year's CPA Annual Conference in Harare.

Delegations from large Commonwealth countries, including Britain, are traditionally led by Ministers with Foreign Affairs responsibilities. Mr Sainsbury led for the UK in 1989 (Barbados), Mrs Chalker in 1988 (Canberra) and Lady Young in the three previous years. The Foreign Secretary suggests that the Prime Minister should nominate Mr Waldegrave to lead our Delegation. This would ensure authoritative presentation of the Government's case if events in South Africa are discussed, as seems inevitable.

Mr Waldegrave would also hold bilateral talks with the Zimbabwe Government and with other senior Delegates.

Yours ever

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

FILE KK.

bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 August 1989

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you for your letter of 30 August about the leadership of the UK delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Conference in Barbados. I am sure the Prime Minister will be content for Mr. Sainsbury to lead the delegation.

(C. D. POWELL)

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

CPC

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 August 1989

Dear Charles,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Conference: Barbados: 6-15 October 1989

Your letter of 27 February gave the Prime Minister's agreement for Mrs Chalker to serve as leader of the UK delegation to the CPA Conference this year.

Mrs Chalker's new commitments at the Overseas Development Administration mean that she will not be able to lead the delegation on the dates proposed.

Mr Sainsbury will already be in the West Indies for a drugs conference and visits to Belize and Costa Rica from 2-7 October. He is therefore an appropriate alternative to speak in response to a debate, on 9 October, on "The Contribution of Commonwealth Parliament in efforts to achieve complete decolonisation, end of racism and apartheid and foreign occupation". Mr Ramphal should speak in advance of the debate. Mr Sainsbury could correct any slant in his address. The Foreign Secretary therefore suggests that the Prime Minister should appoint Mr Sainsbury as the leader of the delegation in place of Mrs Chalker and that the subsequent leadership should pass to the CPA UK Branch Executive Committee Chairman, Mr Tony Durant MP (who as Vice Chamberlain of the Household is also a Minister). We understand that the CPA would be happy with these appointments.

Yours,

Stephen Wall

(J S Wall)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

COMMONWEALTH:

Commonwealth Relations
May 83

FILE
MRM.

PRIME MINISTER

The Annual General Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is on 28 June. The last ccuple of years Lynda Chalker has read the accounts on your behalf. Unfortunately she will be in Angola this year.

Content for us to arrange for the Foreign Secretary to find another Junior Minister to do it for you?

P. A. BEARPARK
5 MAY 1989

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

1 March 1989

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you for your letter of 27 February about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's annual conference in Barbados. The Prime Minister agrees that Mrs Chalker should lead our delegation.

CHARLES POWELL

R N Peirce Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

22212.
①

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 February 1989

Yes pm

Prime Minister
Agree Mrs. Chalker should lead our delegation?
CDP 20/2

Dear Charles,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Assocation (CPA) Annual Conference: Barbados 4-15 October

Mr Tony Durant MP, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA United Kingdom Branch has written to ask the Foreign Secretary who the Prime Minister will nominate to lead the United Kingdom Delegation to this year's CPA Annual Conference in Barbados (which falls immediately before CHOGM and as he points out overlaps with the Conservative Party Conference).

Most delegations from large Commonwealth countries including Britain are traditionally led by Ministers with Foreign Affairs responsibilities. Mrs Chalker led ours in 1987 (Kuala Lumpur) and 1988 (Canberra) and Lady Young on the three previous years; the 1985 event was similarly close to the timing of CHOGM. The Foreign Secretary suggests that the Prime Minister should again nominate Mrs Chalker to lead our Delegation. This would give recognition to the importance we attach to the event and ensure proper presentation of the Government's case if Southern Africa is discussed, as it has been in the past.

The agenda for the plenary will not be decided until the CPA Executive Committee meet in Quebec from 6 to 12 May.

Mrs Chalker would plan as for her visit to Canberra to be accompanied by one official and a Private Secretary, and to have bilateral talks with the Barbados Government at the same time, other Commonwealth Ministers there and with the senior Delegates.

If the Prime Minister is content with this proposal, Sir Geoffrey Howe will so inform Mr Tony Durant.

Yours ever,

Richard Gozney

for (R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

19 April 1988

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you for your letter of 18 April proposing that Mrs. Chalker should lead the United Kingdom delegation to this year's Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Conference in Canberra. The Prime Minister is content.

(C. D. POWELL)

Robert Culshaw Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

OTQ.

CCPL (1)

Prime Minister
Agree that Mrs. Chalker should lead the CPA delegation?
Dear Charles CDP 18/4
Yes

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

18 April 1988

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
Annual Conference: Canberra: 14-25 September

Mr Tony Durant MP, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA United Kingdom Branch has written to ask the Foreign Secretary who will lead the United Kingdom Delegation to this year's CPA Annual Conference in Canberra. The agenda for the plenary includes: South Africa, the Uruguay Round, and Superpower Disarmament. Smaller panel sessions will cover narcotics and AIDS, among other topics.

The Foreign Secretary suggests that as for the 1987 Kuala Lumpur Conference the Prime Minister should nominate Mrs Chalker to lead the Delegation. This will ensure a fair presentation of the Government's case on Southern Africa in a session also likely to be addressed by Mr Ramphal. She would plan to be accompanied by one official and a Private Secretary, and to have bilateral talks with the Australian Government at the same time.

If the Prime Minister is content with this proposal, Sir Geoffrey Howe will so inform Mr Tony Durant.

Yours ever
Robin Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

BRW
cc Trevor Woolley (CO)

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary 23 November 1987

The Chief Whip mentioned to me the other day that Mr. Tony Durant, a Lords Commissioner in the Chief Whip's Office, wished to stand for election as Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

As I told the Chief Whip this morning, the Prime Minister is content for Mr. Durant to stand for election to this post.

(N. L. WICKS)

Murdo Maclean Esq
Chief Whip's Office.

BRW

Prime Minister
Content with x ?

1

N.L.W.
20.11

Ref. A087/3278

MR WICKS

Yes m

Thank you for your minute of 18 November.

2. Sir Robert Armstrong sees no reason why Mr Tony Durant should not be permitted to stand for election as Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

X

Trevor Woolley

T A WOOLLEY

20 November 1987

cc PC

8/5/87

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

8 May 1987

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you for your further letter of 6 May about representation at the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of Malaysia's Independence. It was helpful to have this background and I think the Prime Minister will be content with the arrangements for our representation which you have already proposed.

(C. D. POWELL)

Robert Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CCPC
(2)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister
CDP
6/5

6 May 1987

Dear Charles

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Conference
Kuala Lumpur : 27 August - 5 September

Thank you for your letter of 22 April. The Prime Minister asked whether the Malaysian Government would expect a representative of Cabinet rank at the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of their Independence.

The High Commission in Kuala Lumpur has reported that the Malaysians still have no clear idea what form the annual Independence celebrations might take this year. It is therefore difficult to predict what Malaysian expectations for any foreign representation are likely to be. At the celebrations in 1982, the 25th anniversary, we were not represented at Ministerial level. We believe that representation this time at Minister of State level will almost certainly meet any requirements.

Yours ever

Robin Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

SOW

cc PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary 22 April 1987

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, KUALA LUMPUR: 26 AUGUST-5 SEPTEMBER

Thank you for your letter of 16 April conveying the Foreign Secretary's recommendation that Mrs. Chalker should lead the United Kingdom delegation to this year's Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Conference in Kuala Lumpur. The Prime Minister is of course content with this proposal but has asked to be assured that the Malaysian government will not expect a representative of Cabinet rank at the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of their independence. I should be grateful if you could reassure me on this point.

BF

(C. D. POWELL)

Robert Culshaw, Esq., M.V.O.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

R 21/4 (1)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 April 1987

Prime Minister
Agree to
appointment of Mrs. Chalker?
CDP
21/4

Dear Charles,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
Annual Conference, Kuala Lumpur: 26 August-5 September

The Deputy Chairman of the CPA United Kingdom Branch, has written to ask the Foreign Secretary whom he proposes to recommend to the Prime Minister as Leader of the United Kingdom Delegation to this year's CPA Annual Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Sir Geoffrey Howe suggests that the Prime Minister should appoint Mrs Chalker, and has advised the Deputy Chairman of this proposal.

The CPA Conference coincides with the Thirtieth Anniversary of "MERDEKA" (Malaysian independence). The Foreign Secretary proposes that Mrs Chalker should also be the senior British representative at this occasion.

If the Prime Minister is content with these proposals, Sir Geoffrey Howe will so inform Mr Carlisle.

Yours ever,

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

I think Malaysia will take it amiss if we are not represented at Cabinet level and

C D Powell Esq
No 10 Downing St

R26/11 RM.

32ND COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE LONDON 1986

Prime Minister
CDS

FROM: RT HON. MARK CARLISLE, QC, MP

25th November 1986

Dear Margaret,

The CPA Sub-Committee which organised the programme for the 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference has asked me to write to you expressing their grateful thanks for your support during the Conference.

The Opening Ceremony in Westminster Hall was undoubtedly the highlight of the Conference. The presence of Her Majesty and Prince Philip, together with yourself, the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker and the Leaders of our Political Parties and prominent Commonwealth Parliamentarians in the significant setting of Westminster Hall made this an historical and a memorable occasion.

The UK Branch has received dozens of letters of thanks from Branches, delegations and Members who attended the Conference. The Conference delegates were particularly grateful for their warm and hospitable welcome at the Opening Ceremony, and your speech on that occasion was greatly appreciated. They were delighted that you were able to meet so many of them at the Royal Reception following the Opening Ceremony and at the Government Dinner in the Grosvenor House Hotel.

There is no doubt that the London Conference was an outstanding success in that it brought together a large number of influential Commonwealth Parliamentarians who were able to discuss issues of the greatest importance in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding.

The UK Branch Executive Committee is very conscious that without your personal support, the Conference would not have been the success that it was, and they are particularly grateful to you for your major contribution and your continuing interest in the CPA.

Yours ever
Mark

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
United Kingdom Branch

Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (United Kingdom Branch)
Westminster Hall
Houses of Parliament
London, SW1A 0AA

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32ND COMMONWEALTH
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
LONDON 1986

PAB
cc
Wed 8th Oct 86

James Batten.

Dear Mr Powell.

Just a brief line of very sincere thanks for all your help towards the success of the two days when the Prime Minister was with the C.P.A — 25th Sept & 1st Oct.

I was particularly grateful to you for your understanding when I telephoned not long before the HMG dinner. Mrs T's greeting to all was, as you could see, vastly appreciated & she would have sensed this. Also of course the special minutes with Spkr Mutasa & others. Much good can flow from these

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little things. I do hope you
was able to enjoy the evening too &
your table was not one with gaps.
Alas our Indian friends were not too
good at telling us they would not be
present! And several others too alas.

It was a good conference (that it
went according to plan – apart from a scatty
Lord Chancellor on the rampage at the opening –
pleased us as organizers of course) in
that there was this continuing sense
of family & discussion within family
even when people had very different views.

Please do let Andrew Scarpark know
how very greatly I appreciated his help.
& indeed Caroline Ryder in the earlier
planning stages. All most patient & kind.

Yours sincerely James Batten.

& course
This does NOT need an acknowledgment. (I am now taking a little leave).

MR. POWELL

CPA Dinner on 1 October

Just in case its of some use, I attach the GHF Instructions for the dinner tomorrow evening.

Sue

30 September 1986

GHF RUNNING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CPA DINNER ON WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER AT GROSVENOR HOUSE

30 September

Table plans to be completed by DRC at 1200 hours. Name slips to be affixed in Function Section. Amendments to be made as necessary. Menus received from printers by 1200 hours; place cards to be checked and packed to table order.

1 October

1500 hrs	Place cards, menus, table plans, matches, chair stickers, to be taken to Grosvenor House (GH). Stationery to be put down by GH staff and checked by GHF. Coloured sticker to be affixed to back of hosts chairs by GHF staff after check.
1800	Orchestra from Welsh Guards arrive and set up in Great Room.
1830	Great Room to be ready for formal check. (Orchestra have supper and change.)
(by no later than 1915)	All GHF staff to be in position ready for guests arrival (Guests to be held pending arrival of PM).
1925	Host arrives at the Park Lane Entrance. Received by the Speaker, by the Rt Hon Mark Carlisle and Mr Peter Cobb. Escorted to the receiving point where Brigadier Cowan and Mr Burrough will be waiting.
1930 - 2000	Guests received. Reception waiting staff to work in "line across" moving slowly forward as area fills. Music played from 1930 to about 1955. CPA Photographer Mr George Rolls will be in attendance initially at the receiving line.
2000	Dinner is announced by Toastmaster, "Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Mr President, Ministers, Distinguished Guests, My Lords Ladies and Gentlemen, dinner is served"

As guests descend to Great Room, Orchestra play "The Roast Beef of Old England". Guests on tables A, B and C remain on balcony as advised by slip inside table plan.

When guests are in place, and on signal initiated by toastmaster and to be discussed on the evening, Orchestra will play 'Scipio' and tables B and C followed by A will descend to Great Room.

Grace will be said by Canon Beeson; Toastmaster knocks and says "Pray Silence for Grace by Canon Beeson" (No preamble).

Dinner is served.

While the sweet course is being eaten GH staff will serve port from decanters. When the sweet course has been eaten plates, condiments, cutlery etc but not glasses will be cleared; tables crumbed down; coffee cups placed on table. The orchestra depart.

Toastmaster knocks up for the Head of State Toast ("Pray silence for the Prime Minister") (No preamble) After the PM has proposed the Toast ("The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth and other Heads of State here represented") all sit while coffee, brandy, liqueurs, cigars and cigarettes are served. Waiting staff leave the room.

Toastmaster knocks up for PM's speech "Mr Speaker, Mr President; Ministers Distinguished Guests, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, Pray silence for the Prime Minister" which concludes with a toast to the CPA.

After a brief interval Toastmaster calls "Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Mr President, Ministers, Distinguished Guests, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen Pray silence for the Hon Sir Joshua Hassan KCMG, CBE, LVO, QC, JP, LLD, MHA, Chief Minister of Gibraltar" who will respond to the PM. No toast will be drunk.

After an interval of about 3 minutes Toastmaster calls "Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Ministers, Distinguished Guests, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, Pray silence for the Hon Dato' Shahrir bin Abdul Samad MP, Minister for Welfare Services, Malaysia" who will speak and propose the toast "Our hosts" inviting overseas delegates to rise to drink to their British hosts.

(Note: the two CPA Speakers will be seated on either side of the host)

After 5 to 10 minutes Toastmaster will call "Mr Speaker, Mr President, Ministers, Distinguished Guests, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen Pray silence for the Prime Minister" who will say a few words and draw the proceedings to a close.

(Second coffees will not be served, and there will not be a late bar)

2230 (approx)	PM and Mr Thatcher lead guests from the Great Room, Departing by Park Lane door.

B C Burrough
Head of Functions

Distribution:

GHF	Brigadier Cowan
	Miss Lawrence
	Mr Simmonds
	Mr Reeves
10 Downing Street	
	Mrs Goodchild
FCO	Mr J Edgerton
CPA	Mr Batten
Orchestra of the Welsh Guards	
	Captain Hannam
Grosvenor House	
	Mr F Green
	Toastmaster

PRIME MINISTER

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION: DINNER

You are to host the closing dinner of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference on Wednesday.

The dinner is at the Grosvenor House Hotel. You are asked to arrive at 1930 to receive the guests. Dinner is at 2015.

You will be seated between Sir Joshua Hassan and Dato Shahrir, Malaysian Minister for Welfare Services and newly elected President of the CPA. I attach notes on current issues in relations with both countries.

The order of events is:

- after coffee is served, you propose the toast "The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth and other Heads of State here represented".

- about five minutes later, you rise to give your speech

- shortly after Sir Joshua Hassan and Dato Shahrir will be called to speak. Dato Shahrir will propose a toast to "our British hosts".

- five or ten minutes later, you would rise and say that many of those attending have an early start the next day, and that you are drawing the proceedings to a close

It would be helpful if you could make a point of talking to the leaders of the Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania delegations. They were disappointed not to meet you at the reception.

CDP

Charles Powell
30 September 1986
MJ2CKA

cc B/CP

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 September 1986

Prime Minister
CDP
30/9.

Dear Charles,

CPA Dinner, 1 October

As requested in your letter of 29 September, I enclose some brief notes on points which might arise between the Prime Minister and Sir Joshua Hassan at the CPA dinner tomorrow evening.

The Foreign Secretary believes it would be particularly useful if the Prime Minister could take this opportunity to stress the generosity of UK aid to Gibraltar in recent years, and to leave the clear impression that the colony will now increasingly have to stand on its own two feet. That will of necessity involve growing cooperation, on a mutually beneficial basis, with Spain.

I also attach, for ease of reference, a copy of the Foreign Secretary's minute of 29 September about his forthcoming meeting with Sir Joshua.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SIR JOSHUA HASSAN: 1 OCTOBER

Points to Make

1. Commitment -No change, as firm as ever. Removal of ceremonial guard has no implications for this commitment.

2. Cooperation - Hope cooperation on mutually beneficial basis with Spain will develop positively. Spanish bound to press sovereignty claim but you can be sure of our stance. Spain 1986 very different from Spain 1966. Country emerging as important European nation from shadows of Franco era. We must look forward, not back.

3. Commercial - Glad to hear of tourist boom (2.5 million in 1985 compared to 150,000 in 1984). Any new major tourist related projects getting underway? Where is major commercial interest coming from - UK companies and hoteliers or other European countries? Spaniards?

4. British Aid - UK aid generous - some £60 million committed since 1982, against background of closed border. Equivalent to £420 per head per annum (cf Yorkshire and Humberside £9, Hull £17 and Wales £52). Now important to build on opportunities offered by border re-opening, to assist return to economic self-sufficiency. Our recent £6 million offer of further capital aid should also help Gibraltar's development plans.

5. Gibraltar Ship Repair Limited (if raised) - Original £28 million grant and extra recent £2.4 million is HMG's final contribution. UK shipping industry also having difficult time.

6. Spanish Pensioners (if raised) - Understand pensions problem being studied by Gibraltar/UK officials. Will consider issue further after their report.

7. Hassan's future - Thinking of retirement? [he is 71]. Likely successor? Capacity of opposition? How do you read character of Joe Bossano [Leader of Opposition]?

GIBAHX

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION DINNER, 1 OCTOBER 1986 : MALAYSIAN MINISTER OF WELFARE SERVICES

Points to Raise

1. Delighted to meet again. Recall enjoyable visit to Bandar Tun Razak housing project during April 1985 visit (Datuk Shahrir was then Minister for Federal Territory).

2. Enjoying new portfolio ? Aware of major rural water supply project recently concluded with British company (Biwater). (Biggest ATP grant ever (£60m). 174 schemes to provide potable water in villages in all states.) Glad to help in this vital area. Hope there will be further projects involving British companies.

3. British CPA delegation to visit Malaysia in November. Certain will enjoy visit.

4. Interested in your assessment of General Election (Election 2/3 August. Barisan coalition won handsome majority but lost Chinese votes/seats to Opposition Democratic Action Party). Implications for national unity ? How do you propose to reconcile policy of positive economic discrimination in favour of Bumiputras (Malays) through New Economic Policy with need to reassure Chinese and attract new foreign investment ?

DATUK SHAHRIR BIN ABDUL SAMAD, DPMJ PIS

MINISTER FOR WELFARE SERVICES

Born 1949 in Johore. Educated University of Malaya (Statistics). Political Secretary Ministry of Trade and Industry 1973. Member of Parliament for Johore Bharu 1978, and became Parliamentary Secretary to the then Prime Minister in the same year. 1980 Deputy Minister of Finance. Became Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry in July 1981. Promoted to Minister for the Federal Teritory in 1983. Youngest ever Cabinet Minister.

Sahrir, has a long political life ahead and has youth and talent on his side. Personable interesting. Reasonably well disposed towards the UK, he made a COI sponsored visit in 1981. He has travelled widely in Europe, Asia and America. Elected Vice-President of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for 1985-86 in October 1985.

Married to Datin Shahrizan (she is Chinese, which may cause problems for Shahrir's long term prospects). One adopted child.

PM/86/062

PRIME MINISTER

1. I shall be seeing Sir Joshua Hassan (who is in London for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) on 1 October. Given the sensitivities in our relations with Gibraltar, you may wish to be aware of the line I plan to take.

2. In the light of the discussion in OD of 11 June, I shall try to impress on him the need for responsibility on Gibraltar's part when dealing with fiscal and budgetary matters. I will also stress our hope that Gibraltar will think positively about how she might exploit the opportunities provided by the open border to improve her economic performance and develop mutually beneficial and practical cooperation with Spain.

/3.

3. As you know, our economic support to Gibraltar has been particularly generous in the recent past. Since 1982 we have committed almost £60m to Gibraltar; £28m to establish Gibraltar Shiprepair Ltd (GSL); £13m for their 1982-86 development programme; £16.5m towards the costs up to the end of 1988 of pensions for Spaniards employed in Gibraltar before the border closed and about £0.3m a year for technical cooperation programmes. Earlier this year we offered an additional £2.4m as a final contribution to GSL and up to £6m for priority projects in their 1986-90 development plan. Official level discussions are just starting on the question of HMG's contribution to the Spanish pensions after 1988 - we estimate the total liability to be some £170m in current prices over the next 40 years or some £8m a year on a tapering basis.

4. The more Gibraltar has to face the new reality of our reducing financial support, the more she is likely to open her eyes to the real opportunities for further economic expansion which would be afforded by increased cooperation with Spain. Not least amongst these would be the opening up of Gibraltar's airport to flights to and from Spain, which would contribute to the development of Gibraltar's tourist trade and offshore financial sector. I shall press the Chief Minister to take a more positive view of cooperation with Spain in this and other fields.

/5.

5. There will be three specific opportunities for me to underline our financial policy at the meeting. The first concerns GSL. The Chief Minister fully understands that we regard the £2.4m additional aid as our final contribution to that project. But he has made it clear that he nevertheless intends to ask for more, once a consultancy study he has commissioned into the dockyard's future is completed this autumn. On present projections GSL will be unable to pay its bills from early next year, not least because the Gibraltar Government took over management negotiations and awarded recent GSL strikers with pay settlement packages of some 8%, despite ACAS' recommendation of around 2.5%. But I shall emphasise that the responsibility for GSL now lies with the Gibraltar Government and that HMG's funds have come to an end.

6. The second area concerns the Spanish pensions. There are some indications that the bill up to the end of 1988 will be about £3-4m more than Gibraltar expected when we agreed to contribute £16.5m against Gibraltar's £4.5m. So far they have not asked us to increase our aid. If the Chief Minister does so, I shall make it clear that we cannot contribute more, given the substantial amount we have already committed. It is too early to take a definite line on our post 1988 contribution to their Spanish pensions obligations, although we shall obviously want to keep it as small as possible. But our room for manoeuvre may be limited. Gibraltar holds a good card - if she refused to pay a pension and the claimant went to the European Court, it would be the UK and not Gibraltar which would be found to be in breach of Community law.

/7.

7. Finally, if the Chief Minister asks for more money for his current development programme or for our £6m to be spent on projects other than the higher priority ones we have identified, I shall make it clear that Gibraltar's improved financial circumstances make the £6m a more than generous offer, but that we should be willing to consider on their merits Gibraltar Government proposals to finance from the £6m projects other than those we currently have in mind.

8. The meeting will also be a good opportunity to let the Chief Minister know where we stand on our talks with Spain and to invite him to attend my meeting with the Spanish Foreign Minister later this year or early next.

on 1 August, I shall underline yet again that HMG's commitment to respect the wishes of the Gibraltarian people on their future remains as firm as ever. Fears that HMG intends to push Gibraltar into the arms of Spain are totally unfounded, as any examination of our record shows.

9. OD agreed on 11 June that Ministers should be provided with briefing material on the facts about Gibraltar's economy and our past and current support so that Parliament and public opinion can be prepared for our proposed changes in financial support to Gibraltar. I attach a fact pack which I think will meet that end. Earlier versions of it

/have

have already been used in discussions Janet Young and Timothy Raison have had with members of the Gibraltar lobby in Parliament. Interestingly they have found that lobby more receptive than they had expected to the view that HMG had done well by Gibraltar and that she must now shoulder more of her burden than in the period when the border was closed. If you are content with it, I shall circulate it to our OD colleagues.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

29 September 1986

GIBRALTAR: FACT PACK

ECONOMY

- GNP per capita: $4240 (1984, World Bank estimates) cf Spain ($4470), Portugal ($1970), Ireland ($4950) and Greece ($3740).

- Unemployment: 3%.

- Growth: 2-3% in 1985; 2% pa forecast in next two years.

- Inflation: 4%.

1986 BUDGET

- April Budget showed higher boost from border opening than originally anticipated.

  i. income exceeded forecasts by £4.5m;
  ii. their estimated deficit in 1985/86 of £3.4m turned into £0.7m surplus.

Budget therefore:

  i. altered tax structure to increase average net pay by 5.4%;
  ii. reduced water and electricity charges, did not increase rents on Government housing or telephone charges;
  iii. Government subvention to electricity and housing £3.1m in 1986/87; the true subsidy is much higher largely because capital costs funded by UK aid are not passed on to the consumer.

CIVIL AVIATION

Increased use of the airport would further develop Gibraltar's tourist and offshore financial sector potential. At present air travellers can only arrive from, or via, UK. The resumption of the Gibraltar-Madrid route would open up 24 West European destinations served from Madrid. Incorporation of Gibraltar into a regional air service in Southern Spain would further attract both tourist and business travellers.

PENSIONS

- Pensions are tax free, and linked to average earnings, not prices as in the UK.

- April budget made no provision for post 1988 payments to Spanish pensioners

AID

- Some £60m committed since 1982: £28m to GSL; £13m for 1982-86 Development Programme; £16.5m for Spanish pensioners; £2.3m for Technical Cooperation programmes.

- Disbursements 1983-85 equivalent to about £420 a head per annum: cf £9 in Yorkshire and Humberside, £17 in Hull and £52 in Wales.

LATEST UK AID OFFER

- Up to £2.4m as contribution to Gibraltar's Dockyard (GSL). (Gibraltar bid £3.5m.)

- Up to £6m for 1986-90 Development Plan. (Although no fixed figure was requested Gibraltar wanted substantially more.)

GSL

- After a strike, Gibraltar Government agreed to estimated 8% pay increase for weekly paid employees. (ACAS recommended 2.5%). Similar levels have recently been agreed with the remainder of the workforce.

- Gibraltar Government funded consultancy examining future of Yard. Report due by November 1986.

COMPARISON WITH BRITISH SHIPYARDS

In the past 1o years total employment in British shipbuilding and shiprepair yards has fallen by 43,000. Further redundancies seem most likely. HMG has not provided assistance similar to that given to Gibraltar, which will have totalled £30.4m since January 1985.

For meeting folder for Wednesday night CDP.

MR. POWELL

CPA Dinner on 1 October

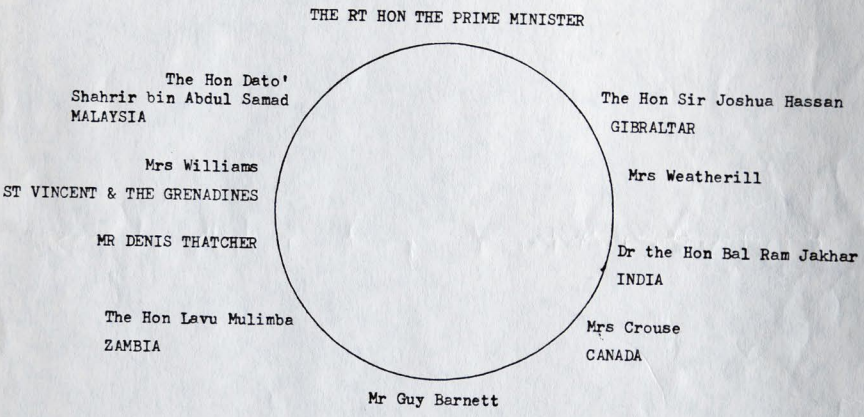
I attach a copy of the seating plan for the Prime Minister's table for the CPA dinner on 1 October.

Sue Goodchild

29 September 1986

cc Mr. Denis Thatcher

TABLE A


THE RT HON THE PRIME MINISTER
The Hon Dato' Shahrir bin Abdul Samad MALAYSIA
The Hon Sir Joshua Hassan GIBRALTAR
Mrs Williams ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
Mrs Weatherill
MR DENIS THATCHER
Dr the Hon Bal Ram Jakhar INDIA
The Hon Lavu Mulimba ZAMBIA
Mrs Crouse CANADA
Mr Guy Barnett

The Hon Dato' Shahrir bin Abdul Samad, MP
(Minister for Welfare Services, Malaysia)

Mrs Williams
(Mr Williams is Speaker of the House of Assembly, St Vincent & the Grenadines)

Mr Denis Thatcher

The Hon Lavu Mulimba, MP
(Minister of State for Finance and Development Planning, Zambia)

Mr Guy Barnett, MP

Mrs Crouse
(Mr Crouse is the leader of the Canadian Delegation)

Dr the Hon Bal Ram Jakhar
(Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India)

Mrs Weatherill

The Hon Sir Joshua Hassan

OPENING OF THE THIRTY-SECOND COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

by

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

in

WESTMINSTER HALL

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1986

WESTMINSTER HALL

WESTMINSTER HALL is the oldest surviving building of the ancient Palace of Westminster which, from the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-66) to the early years of Henry VIII (1509-47), was the principal residence of the Kings of England. The Hall was built to its present dimensions (240 feet by 69 feet) by William Rufus in 1097-99. Its construction marked a northward extension of the Confessor's original palace, the main courtyard of which came to be known from then onwards as the 'Old' Palace Yard (where the main road now divides the Palace from the Abbey). The courtyard at the northern (Big Ben) end of Westminster Hall became the 'New' Palace Yard, where, in a garden surmounting the Members' underground car-park, stands the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fountain, reflecting in its design the areas of the world associated with the modern Commonwealth.

At first the Hall was an aisled building, with two rows of columns supporting a lower, lighter and simpler roof, an arrangement which continued for 300 years. Between 1394 and 1399, in the reign of Richard II, the Hall was transformed, its Norman walls being heightened and buttressed to enable them to carry the weight of a great new roof of oak, designed to cover the building in a single span, without the need for supporting columns. This roof, which we see today, and which is at once the glory of Westminster and the greatest surviving achievement of mediaeval English timberwork, was the creation of Hugh Herland, the King's master carpenter. It is constructed on the cantilever or 'hammerbeam' principle, and is the earliest as well as the most extensive roof of this type in existence. The windows and the new stonework were by Henry Yevele, the master mason.

With its carved angels the roof has twice been in danger of destruction by fire. In 1834, the Hall almost alone survived the fire which destroyed the remainder of the Palace of Westminster, resulting in the building of the present Houses of Parliament designed by Sir Charles Barry. In 1941, during an air raid, the choice was made to save the Hall in preference to the Commons Chamber itself. The central roof lantern which had already burned out by the time the fire was brought under contol, is a fine example of contemporary craftsmanship, as also is the Memorial Window (destroyed the same night) with its armorial bearings or initials and Service Badges of the Members and Staff of both Houses killed in the 1939-1945 war.

The derivation of judicial authority from the person of the King early led to the use of the Hall for holding the King's Court. By the fourteenth century the north-west, south-east and south-west corners had become the established meeting places of the Courts of Commons Pleas, King's Bench and Chancery respectively. From the twelfth century the Exchequer had sat in an adjoining Chamber to the north-west. As can be seen in Rowlandson's drawing of the Hall in 1809, this usage continued until late in the nineteenth century when new Law Courts were built in the Strand. More than any other building the Hall has watched over the growth of the English legal system. Though not the normal meeting place of Parliament, gatherings of Lords and Commons of high constitutional importance, notably those which witnessed the deposition of King Edward II in 1327 and King Richard II in 1399, have met from time to time within its walls. It also witnessed many state trials and impeachments, including those of William Wallace (1305), Sir Thomas More (1535), Guy Fawkes (1606), Strafford (1641), Charles I (1649) and Warren Hastings (1788-95).

With few exceptions every sovereign since William the Conqueror has been crowned in Westminster Abbey, and Westminster Hall, the Great Hall of the King's Palace, was from its beginning closely associated with the Coronation ceremonial. 'Here' wrote John Stow in the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth 'have they in the great Hall kept their feasts of Coronation especially, and other solemn feasts, as at Christmas and such like, most commonly' (the last of the Coronation Banquets was that of George IV in 1821). It was here that Sir Winston Churchill, on his eightieth birthday, was presented with his portrait as a gift from both Houses.

Westminster Hall has a special significance for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, its formation having followed a meeting of representatives of Dominion Parliaments at the Coronation Luncheon of 1911 in the Hall. The opening ceremonies of subsequent Conferences of the Association held in London took place here in 1948, 1961 and 1973, as again today in 1986. The rooms of the United Kingdom Branch are established in the west side of the Hall overlooking Parliament Square. It is in this historic setting that are held the annual Parliamentary Seminars and Visits with Commonwealth Members that, over a quarter of a century, have become part of the pattern of the Parliamentary year at Westminster.

WESTMINSTER HALL by Rowlandson 1809

This ancient building, which has come to symbolise the evolution through nine centuries of British Law and of British parliamentary institutions, is the setting for the opening of the Thirty-second Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference by Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

9.45 a.m. Guests admitted to Westminster Hall.

10.00 a.m. The Band of the Welsh Guards begins the programme of music.

10.40 a.m. All guests will have been seated.

10.45 a.m. Entry of the State Trumpeters at the Memorial Window. The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard and Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms enter by the North Door of Westminster Hall.

10.50 a.m. The two Processions of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association enter from the East Door, followed by the Processions of the Speaker and of the Lord Chancellor entering from St Stephen's Hall.

11.00 a.m. ARRIVAL OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be received by the Marquess of Cholmondeley, Lord Great Chamberlain, and Rt Hon. Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, at St Stephen's Entrance.

A Fanfare of Trumpets will herald the entry of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh into Westminster Hall.

The assembled company will rise.

On entering Westminster Hall, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will proceed down to the middle platform where they will be received by the Joint Presidents of the United Kingdom Branch of the Association, the Lord Chancellor, The Rt Hon. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, and the Speaker of the House of Commons and President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Rt Hon. Bernard Weatherill, by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch, the Vice-President of the Association, Hon. Dato Shahrir bin Abdul Samad, the Chairman, Dr the Hon. Bal Ram Jakhar, and the Treasurer, Senator R R Jeune, of the Executive Committee of the Association and the Deputy Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch, Rt Hon. Mark Carlisle.

ORDER OF PROCESSIONS
AND SEATING PLAN
at the
Opening of the Thirty-second Commonwealth
Parliamentary Conference
by
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
in Westminster Hall

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 1986

Remaining Members of the Platform Party and their Ladies, followed by all Conference Delegates will leave by St Stephen's Entrance at the South end of Westminster Hall for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

Guests with chauffeur driven cars will then leave by St Stephen's Entrance. Remaining guests will leave by the North Door of Westminster Hall.

FIRST PROCESSION

Left

Dr the Hon. David Tonkin, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Hon. Pierre Lorrain, M.N.A., President of the National Assembly, Quebec

Hon Ivan Charles Buchanan, M.N.A., Speaker of the National Assembly, St Christopher-Nevis

Mr Ted Garrett, M.P., United Kingdom

Hon. Dato' Syed Zain bin Idros Shahab Alhaj, D.S.I.J., P.I.S., A.M.N., J.P., M.L.A., Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Johore, Malaysia

Dr the Hon Najma Heptulla, M.P., India

Mr Rene Harris, M.P., Nauru

Hon. Arthur Donahoe, Q.C. M.L.A., Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Nova Scotia

Mr Lee Yiok Seng, M.P., Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development and Government Whip, Singapore

Mr John Beattie, M.H.A., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees, Tasmania

Hon. L. Mulimba, M.P., Minister of State, National Commission for Development Planning, Zambia

Right

Mr Peter Cobb, Secretary, United Kingdom Branch, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Hon. Lloyd Crouse, P.C., M.P., Canada

Hon. Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd. Yassin, S.M.J., P.I.S., M.P., Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Malaysia

Hon. Natwarlal C. Shah, M.L.A., Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Gujarat, India

Hon Matthew Ramcharan, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives, Trinidad and Tobago

Mr B. C. Humphreys, M.P., Government Whip, Australia

Hon. Harry T. T. Williams, M.P., Sierra Leone

Hon. L. A. Douglas Williams, M.P., Speaker of the House of Assembly, St Vincent and the Grenadines

Hon. Wijayapala Mendis, M.P., Minister of Textile Industries, Sri Lanka

Hon. E. G. Lowey, J.P., M.L.C., Chairman of the Tourist Board, Isle of Man

Hon. J. M. Shikuku, E.B.S., M.P., Kenya

SECOND PROCESSION

Left

Rt. Hon. Mark Carlisle, Q.C., M.P., Deputy Chairman, United Kingdom Branch, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Right

Mr Guy Barnett, M.P., Joint Honorary Treasurer, United Kingdom Branch, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Rt. Hon. James Molyneaux, J.P., M.P., Leader Ulster Unionist Party

Rt Hon. Dr David Owen, M.P., Leader of the Social Democratic Party

Rt Hon. David Steel, M.P., Leader of the Liberal Party

Rt Hon. Neil Kinnock, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Rt Hon. Viscount Whitelaw, C.H., M.C., Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords

Rt Hon. John Biffin, M.P., Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons

Senator R. R. Jeune, O.B.E.
President of the Finance and Economics Committee, Jersey.
Hon. Treasurer of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Dr the Hon. Bal Ram Jakhar, M.P.
Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India.
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Hon. Dato' Shahrir bin Abdul Samad, M.P.
Minister of Welfare Services, Malaysia.
Vice-President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch,
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

THIRD PROCESSION

Left *Right*

Mr C. E. Gray
Doorkeeper

Rt Hon. Bernard Weatherill, M.P.
Speaker of the House of Commons.
Joint President, United Kingdom Branch
and President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Mr. D. J. Lord
Trainbearer to the Speaker

Mr W. A. Beaumont, C.B., O.B.E., A.E.,
Secretary to the Speaker

Sir Kenneth Bradshaw, K.C.B.,
Clerk of the House of Commons

FOURTH PROCESSION

Left *Right*

Mr R. Moy
Pursebearer to the Lord Chancellor

Rt Hon. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, C.H.
Lord Chancellor,
Joint President, United Kingdom Branch,
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Mr L. L. Boor
Trainbearer to the Lord Chancellor

Sir John Sainty, K.C.B.,
Clerk of the Parliaments

Mr R. C. Stoate,
Private Secretary to the Lord
Chancellor

(Doorkeeper to the Speaker)

THE MARQUESS OF CHOLMONDELEY, G.C.V.O., M.C.
(Lord Great Chamberlain)

HON. ARTHUR DONAHOE, Q.C., M.L.A.
(Nova Scotia)

MR LEE YIOK SENG, M.P.
(Singapore)

MR JOHN BEATTIE, M.H.A.
(Tasmania)

HON. L. MULIMBA, M.P.
(Zambia)

RT HON. MARK CARLISLE, Q.C., M.P.

RT HON. JAMES MOLYNEAUX, J.P., M.P.

TRAINBEARER TO THE SPEAKER

MR. RENE HARRIS, M.P.
(Nauru)

DR. THE HON. NAJMA HEPTULLA, M.P.
(India)

HON. DATO' SYED ZAIN BIN IDROS SHAHAB ALHAJ, D.S.I.J., P.I.S., A.M.N., J.P., M.L.A.
(Johore, Malaysia)

MR TED GARRETT, M.P.
(United Kingdom)

HON. IVAN CHARLES BUCHANAN, M.N.A.
(St Christopher-Nevis)

HON. PIERRE LORRAIN, M.N.A.
(Quebec)

RT HON. DR. DAVID OWEN, M.P.

RT HON. VISCOUNT WHITELAW, C.H., M.C.

SENATOR R. R. JEUNE, O.B.E.
(Treasurer)

HON. DATO' SHAHRIR BIN ABDUL SAMAD, M.P.
(Malaysia)

RT HON. BERNARD WEATHERILL, M.P.
(President)

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

RT HON. LORD HAILSHAM OF ST MARYLEBONE, C.H.

RT HON. MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.

DR. THE HON. BAL RAM JAKHAR, M.P.
(Chairman)

RT HON. JOHN BIFFEN, M.P.

RT HON. NEIL KINNOCK, M.P.

DR. THE HON. DAVID TONKIN

MR. W. A. BEAUMONT, C.B., O.B.E., A.E.

SIR KENNETH BRADSHAW, K.C.B.

THE MARCHIONESS OF ABERGAVENNY, D.C.V.O.
(Lady-in-Waiting)

RT HON. SIR WILLIAM HESELTINE, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.
(Private Secretary to the Queen)

MAJOR HUGH LINDSAY
(Equerry-in-Waiting to the Queen)

SIR JOHN SAINTY, K.C.B.

MR R. C. STOATE

MR PETER COBB

HON. LLOYD CROUSE
(Canada)

RT HON. DAVID STEEL, M.P.

MR GUY BARNETT, M.P.

HON. J. M. SHIKUKU, E.B.S., M.P.
(Kenya)

HON. E. G. LOWEY, J.P., M.L.C.
(Isle of Man)

HON. WIJAYAPALA MENDIS, M.P.
(Sri Lanka)

HON. L. A. DOUGLAS WILLIAMS, M.P.
(St Vincent and the Grenadines)

RT HON. NICHOLAS RIDLEY, M.P.
(Secretary of State for the Environment)

HON. MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD. YASSIN, S.M.J., P.I.S., M.P.
(Malaysia)

HON. NATWARLAL C. SHAH, M.L.A.
(Gujarat, India)

HON. MATTHEW RAMCHARAN, M.P.
(Trinidad and Tobago)

MR B. C. HUMPHREYS, M.P.
(Australia)

HON. HARRY T. T. WILLIAMS, M.P.
(Sierra Leone)

Trainbearer to the Lord Chancellor

Pursebearer to the Lord Chancellor

PLATFORM PARTY SEATING PLAN

Memorial Window

steps

Hall

X microphone

steps

HRH Respeaker.

X X X PM

9.45

10.00

10.40

10.45

10.50

11.00

Her
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Secret
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Presid
cellor,
House of Commons and President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Rt Hon. Bernard Weatherill, by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch, the Vice-President of the Association, Hon. Dato Shahrir bin Abdul Samad, the Chairman, Dr the Hon. Bal Ram Jakhar, and the Treasurer, Senator R R Jeune, of the Executive Committee of the Association and the Deputy Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch, Rt Hon. Mark Carlisle.

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01-437 2843

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be conducted to their seats on the lower platform, followed by those who have received Her Majesty and His Royal Highness.

The assembled company will be seated.

The Speaker as President of the Association will invite Her Majesty to declare the Conference open.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

HER MAJESTY'S SPEECH

THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

On conclusion of the Vice-President's speech, a Fanfare of Trumpets will be sounded.

The assembled company will rise.

The National Anthem will be played.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, escorted by the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Secretary of State for the Environment and accompanied by the Speaker as President of the Association and by the Lord Chancellor, the Prime Minister, the Vice-President of the Association, the Chairman and the Treasurer of the Executive Committee and the Deputy Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch, will proceed down the Central Aisle of the Hall to the North Door.

11.35 a.m. A Fanfare of Trumpets will be sounded as Her Majesty leaves the Hall.

The Band will re-commence playing.

The assembled company will be seated.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms and the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard will leave by St Stephen's Entrance.

Remaining Members of the Platform Party and their Ladies, followed by all Conference Delegates will leave by St Stephen's Entrance at the South end of Westminster Hall for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

Guests with chauffeur driven cars will then leave by St Stephen's Entrance. Remaining guests will leave by the North Door of Westminster Hall.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

to be given by

THE BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS

Director of Music

CAPTAIN PETER HANNAM, B.E.M., p.s.m.

10.00–10.55 a.m.

March	THE BOND OF FRIENDSHIP	*Mackenzie Rogan*
Overture	HAMPTON COURT	*Phillips*
Contrasts	CHANSON DU MATIN	*Elgar*
	SARABANDE	*Jacob*
Suite	FOLK SONGS	*Vaughan Williams*
Entracte	SOUND THE TRUMPET	*Purcell*
Waltz	WESTMINSTER	*Farnon*
March	LONG LIVE ELIZABETH	*German*

11.35–11.55 a.m.

March	FROM THE LITTLE SUITE	*Arnold*
Suite	WATER MUSIC	*Handel*

Designed and produced by McColl Design Limited
01-437 2843

CC Miss Neville-Jones (Head of Planning Staff, FCO)

1226 WORDS

SPEECH

By

THE RT HON EDWARD HEATH, MP, PRIME MINISTER

As Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch of our Association I express the thanks of all our members to Your Majesty for opening the conference, and for the speech which we have just heard.

All of us present in this hall know the deep interest which Your Majesty takes in the Commonwealth. Your Majesty's wide knowledge of every member state and so many of the dependencies as well as Your Majesty's extensive acquaintance with their personalities.

The Queen as Head of the Commonwealth is the symbol of our unity. It is therefore most appropriate that Your Majesty should speak to us today. We are deeply grateful to Your Majesty and we much appreciate Your Majesty's gracious words to us this morning.

It is appropriate too that we should meet in this Hall, the scene of so many events in our constitutional history. Both chambers have met here throughout the centuries, on occasions of special importance. For hundreds of years our courts worked under this great roof: coronations were celebrated: and (if I may mention it) a gathering of Lords and Commons in Westminster Hall twice decided on the deposition of Your Majesty's predecessors. I hasten to add that that was in the 14th Century. And it was here in 1911 that representatives of the Dominion Parliaments decided to establish our Association.

I expect that most of you present here, delegates to the conference, will have reflected in the last few days, as you prepared for this meeting, about the changes which have taken place in the Commonwealth during our lifetime. I have been doing so, and I would like to share my thoughts with you.

My first reflection is about the intentions of British Governments as they negotiated the transfer of power over a period of years to independent Commonwealth countries. It is true of successive Governments, which were of very different political outlook in other ways, that they all wished to ensure for each nation of the Commonwealth, as it became independent, parliamentary institutions on the Westminster model. That was the view of more than a generation of British statesmen. They believed that these institutions—as they had evolved in this country from their earliest beginnings in this Hall—were the most precious possession in our gift, the strongest safeguard of liberty, independence, prosperity and democracy.

So much has happened since, that it is worth recalling the objectives which existed here in Britain at the time. Of course it was understood that every nation was free to change its institutions after independence.

Many Commonwealth countries—as we know—have introduced such changes. Some have established one-party systems, others do without parliamentary systems at all, judging these more appropriate to their circumstances.

In truth, we have to recognise that a parliamentary system on the Westminster model is no longer one of the characteristics common to every Commonwealth country. Some are not represented here today. The constitutional link which unites us all is not the tie between Parliaments, but the position of The Queen as Head of the Commonwealth.

Looking back, we can legitimately ask whether the emphasis placed by our predecessors on parliamentary democracy in the transfer of power was right in the circumstances.

Should the British Governments of 30 and 40 years ago have concentrated on other aspects of national life in the young Commonwealth nations? Should they have placed more emphasis on improving conditions at the grass roots—by raising the standards of education and culture, or by building more roads?

What more could they have done to render societies and institutions more prosperous and stable?

What more should have been done to encourage harmony between the races?

Would our predecessors have possessed the economic resources to act in this way throughout the Commonwealth?

Is it possible that they could have thought and acted in the ways I suggest, given the mental climate of their day and the constraints of the international scene.

I do not know the answers to these questions, and indeed, I am not sure that they can yet be answered. But that is all over note. And it will be for the historians of the future to tell us their conclusions—and if past experience is anything to go by their views will be many and varied.

The great majority of us assembled here today are the practitioners who do still operate the Westminster system, though as one who profoundly believes in the system of parliamentary democracy, I would be the first to admit the difficulties of making that system work.

Representing the oldest independent country in the Commonwealth, I convey my warm welcome to you all, the delegates from the Commonwealth who are here today.

My colleagues and I in the British Government, and the members of our Parliament, look forward to our meetings and discussions. I am sure that our deliberations will be fruitful.

The view which we shall represent in the conference is simply defined.

When we discuss political questions, we shall seek to achieve understanding. On economic matters, we hope to reach agreement on a basis advantageous to both sides. On social questions, we seek to learn from each other.

In all cases, we shall be positive, and constructive. This was the spirit of the Heads of Government meeting in Ottawa last month, it was to that it so largely owed its success and I am confident that the same spirit will animate our discussions at this conference.

I end these remarks with a personal note.

Twenty years ago, as a fairly new Member of Parliament, I attended the CPA Conference in Nairobi. That made an unforgettable impact on my mind. O. opportunity to see the life of other Commonwealth countries, the discussions in the Parliamentary Chamber and above all perhaps the innumerable talks we had with each other, often far into the night, gave me an understanding of our Common interest, as well as of the differences which exist between us for which I have been ever grateful. And the friendships forged in this way have often been renewed in the capitals of the Commonwealth and are regularly refreshed at Christmastide and New Year.

Twelve years ago, at the last meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in London, I was invited to address you on the effect of our negotiations to join the European Economic Community on the Commonwealth. This is the first meeting of the Association since our accession to the Community—and since we joined another Parliament, the European Parliament at Strasbourg. In this new role we are pledged to the growing unity of the Community. We are also equally determined to ensure that the Community acts in a way both helpful and understanding towards the real and abiding interests of the members of the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the British Government I can assure you of our full support in your work at the Conference. I extend to you our best wishes for the success of your deliberations. I hope you will also have the opportunity of seeing something of our country while you are here, and that when you return to your own you will do so with old friendships renewed, new friendships made and with happy memories of Britain and the British people.

The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 4040 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: Draft of the Queen's Speech at the opening ceremony of the 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference undated (circa 20 September 1986)	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	5/3/18
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Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.
This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

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Extract details: Letter from Bill (Heseltine) to Wicks dated 20 September 1986	
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Extract details: letter from Heseltine to Wright dated 20 september 1988	
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CCPC

Mr Speaker

Speaker's Office House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

17th September 1986

Please keep these three speeches in file.

Dear Nigel,

I enclose a copy of the speech which the Speaker will make at the Opening by the Queen of the Commonwealth Conference on 25th September.

I understand that the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has submitted it to the Palace.

Yours Ever,

Bill

Nigel Wicks Esq CBE
10 Downing Street
London SW1

SPEECH FOR OPENING OF 32ND COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 1986

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, Lord Chancellor, Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my very pleasant duty as President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to welcome you all, honoured guests, observers and delegates, to the opening of this 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

It is appropriate that we should be gathering in Westminster to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Association's founding, and even more fitting that our Opening Ceremony should be held in this great Hall which has figured so largely in the history of Parliamentary democracy.

Most significant of all, your Majesty, is your most gracious presence here today.

The Coronation of your grandfather, King George V, was the occasion which inspired the formation of this Association in 1911.

When Your Majesty first did us the honour of opening our Conference in London, in 1961, reference was then made to the way in which your travels throughout the Commonwealth had brought you closer to us all.

This has even greater truth today.

You are held in the greatest esteem and affection throughout the Commonwealth and we thank you for all that you have done for it - and for this Association.

...../.....

The Earl of Rosebery first used the phrase, "Commonwealth of Nations," in an address to Parliamentarians in South Australia in 1884. He was the Chairman of a Committee of Members of the Lords and Commons which invited representatives from the Parliaments of the self-governing Dominions to meet together at Westminster at the time of the coronation of King George V in 1911.

From those meetings here in the Palace of Westminster came enthusiastic support for the establishment of an Empire Parliamentary Association.

In summary, it was reported that:

> ".... The successful establishment of Branches of an Association in the various Parliaments will go far to dispel the possibility of misunderstandings and to reconcile any divergence of interests between those engaged in forming the policies and conducting the affairs of the legislatures in the great sister-nations.".

And so it has proved, for more than 75 years.

Today, we meet again in Westminster. It is an inspiring thought, that in this Hall and in old St Stephen's Chapel a few paces behind us, were tested over the centuries all those very dilemmas of policies - and also those great acts of Reconciliation - which are the very basis of Parliamentary democracy.

...../.....

Your Majesty,

Our Association has grown steadily in size and stature as more and more nations have become autonomous and independent; and in 1948, as the Empire became the Commonwealth, so the EPA became the CPA - The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

In 1961, our 50th Jubilee year, there were 61 Parliaments represented in London. In 1973 there were 94, and in this 75th Jubilee Year there are 109 active members - representing one quarter of the world's population.

The original aims of the Association have been admirably met, and today the CPA is recognised throughout the world as the leading authority on Parliamentary democracy.

It has provided a most valuable and influential forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences between members of Commonwealth Parliaments, while its seminars on Parliamentary practice and procedure have enabled a long succession of Speakers, Presiding Officers and Members to bring both knowledge and confidence to the service of their own Parliaments.

Through Conferences, Seminars, meetings and inter-parliamentary visits at local, regional and Commonwealth levels, and by means of its various publications, the CPA has succeeded in generating understanding, mutual respect and friendship among Commonwealth Parliamentarians.

One of its greatest strengths is that it is an Association of Parliamentarians, and not of Governments.

It has been said that "Democracy is a hard core of argument surrounded by political disagreement."

...../.....

Even if Governments may disagree, the CPA can still provide a Commonwealth forum where Parliamentary representatives may discuss and debate contentious issues in a Parliamentary fashion, relying on the atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding which has grown up between them over the years.

Your Majesty,

I conclude with some words which are 30 years old - but will be familiar to you.

> "The Commonwealth bears no resemblance to the Empires of the past. It is an entirely new conception - built on the highest qualities of the spirit of men: friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom. To that new conception of an equal partnership of nations and races I shall give my heart and soul every day of my life."

That extract from Your Majesty's Christmas Day broadcast in 1953, the year of your Coronation, expresses a commitment which you have discharged with great dedication throughout your reign. We need look no further for inspiration on how to pursue our own tasks.

Your Majesty, we are pleased and greatly honoured that you have consented to be with us today, and it is my privilege to invite your Majesty to declare open this 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 4040 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: Minute and attachments from Macan to Reeve dated 11 September 1986	
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bc: PC

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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 June 1986

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, LONDON:

21 SEPTEMBER - 2 OCTOBER

Thank you for your letter of 9 June about the leadership of the UK delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Annual Conference in London. The Prime Minister agrees that Lady Young should again be invited to serve.

Charles Powell

R. N. Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

010

CCPC
①

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 June 1986

Prime Minister
Agree that Lady Young should lead?
CDP
9/6.

Dear Charles,

Yes ms

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Annual Conference, London: 21 September - 2 October 1986

This year's Annual Conference of the CPA is due to be held in London from 23 September to 2 October. The conference will be opened by Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, at 11.00 am on 25 September in Westminster Hall. The UK delegation has recently been selected by the Speaker and the Selection Committee. It is for the Prime Minister as Chairman of the UK Branch to appoint the Leader of the UK Delegation.

Much of the agenda at these conferences is concerned with international affairs, and an FCO Minister therefore normally leads the delegation. In view of her responsibility for Commonwealth affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe suggests that the Prime Minister should again appoint Lady Young as Leader of the Delegation (she led the UK delegation to the 1984 conference in the Isle of Man and the 1985 one in Saskatchewan). Sir Geoffrey has mentioned the proposal to the Rt Hon Mark Carlisle (Deputy Chairman of the UK Branch of the CPA) whose reaction was that the Branch would be delighted to have Lady Young as Leader.

Yours ever

Roger Culshaw

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DCABET

Original on GR file

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

CPA CONFERENCE ON 25 SEPTEMBER AND DINNER ON 1 OCTOBER

The CPA Conference will be attended by The Queen and the Speaker as well as the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor. A full security operation will no doubt need to be provided, and it seems inappropriate to seek to keep the Prime Minister's attendance secret.

The CPA Dinner is to be given by the Government, and the Prime Minister will in a sense be hostess. But having spoken to the CPA, I think they would be willing not to mention the Prime Minister's attendance on the invitation, though one could nonetheless expect that, through the CPA Committee and the membership, her attendance would become quite widely known in advance. Subject to the agreement of the security meeting, I suggest that we ask the organisers not to mention the Prime Minister's name on the invitation, but not to press this if they argue it would cause them serious difficulties.

(Mark Addison)

9 May 1986

The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 4040 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: Letter from Wicks to Batten dated 15 April 1986	
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TEMPORARILY RETAINED	5/3/18
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Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.
This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 4040 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: Letter from Heseltine (Bill) to Wicks dated 1 April 1986	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	5/3/18
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

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The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES PREM 19 PIECE/ITEM 4040 (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: letter from Wicks to Heseltine dated 27 March 1986	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	5/3/18
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
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The National Archives

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Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

0.10

2

32ND COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE LONDON 1986

FROM: RT HON MARK CARLISLE, QC, MP

1, CDP CDP
2, Prime Minister 25th March 1986
for information I assume

MT

Dear Margaret.

26/3

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the United Kingdom Branch CPA to inform you that Members of the Committee met today for the first time since it was announced that Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, would be opening the 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. They also learned that the Queen would be able to attend the Reception in the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre which immediately follows the Ceremonial Opening and at which it is hoped Her Majesty would be able to meet many of the three hundred Commonwealth Parliamentarians invited to the Conference. Members of the Executive Committee expressed the greatest pleasure at this news, and they hoped that you would be kind enough to convey the expression of their gratitude to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness.

Members of the Executive Committee also expressed their very great pleasure that you had kindly agreed to take part in the Opening Ceremony on 25th September and to preside at the Government Dinner to be held in the Grosvenor House Hotel on Wednesday, 1st October 1986.

Your Executive Committee is determined to make sure that the 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (23rd September - 2nd October 1986) will be a memorable event and one which we confidently believe will strengthen the bonds of friendship between Parliamentarians and encourage the supporters of Parliamentary Democracy throughout the Commonwealth.

The CPA is most grateful to you for your continuing support.

Yours ever

Mark.

(Deputy Chairman)
United Kingdom Branch

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (United Kingdom Branch)
Westminster Hall
Houses of Parliament
London, SW1A 0AA

Telegrams: EMPARLASSO LONDON SW1
Telephone: 01-219 5373 (National)
: +44 1 219 5373 (International)
Telex: 925042

10 DOWNING STREET

CF.

JR/CF

would you ensure that pgs are copied onto the CF GPA file FCO please.

MEA 30/1

Th U Henwood W.

cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 November 1985

Thank you for your letter of 7 November about the Parliamentary Seminar to be held from 4 - 21 March 1986.

You asked whether the Prime Minister could give a reception at No. 10 which would be paid for by the CPA. The Prime Minister has, as you know, already agreed to be involved in a number of functions connected with the Annual Conference in September. She has, therefore, asked the Foreign Secretary to host the reception in March on her behalf. Sir Geoffrey Howe would be happy to do so on 12 or 19 March. I suggest you get in touch with his office (233 4650) about the arrangements.

(C.D. Powell)

Peter Cobb, Esq.

ea

GK

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 November 1985

Dear Charles,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Thank you for your letter of 11 November enclosing one from the Secretary, CPA UK Branch asking if the Prime Minister would give a reception at 10 Downing Street for participants in the 35th Parliamentary Seminar to be held from 4-21 March 1986. Mrs Thatcher wished to know if Sir Geoffrey Howe would be able to give the reception in her stead.

The Foreign Secretary would be glad to give such a reception. The best dates from his point of view would be 12 or 19 March. I enclose a draft letter to the Secretary, CPA UK Branch.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised)

Bernadin

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

PS/10 Downing St

DEPARTMENT: **TEL. NO:**

Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

TO:

Peter Cobb Esq
Secretary
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
UK Branch
Westminster Hall
Houses of Parliament
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Your Reference

Copies to:

SUBJECT:

Thank you for your letter of 7 November about the Parliamentary Seminar to be held from 4-21 March 1986.

You asked whether the Prime Minister could give a reception at No 10 which would be paid for by the CPA. The Prime Minister has, as you know, already agreed to be involved in a number of functions connected with the Annual Conference in September. She has therefore asked the Foreign Secretary to host the reception in March on her behalf. Sir Geoffrey Howe would be happy to do so on 12 or 19 March. I suggest you get in touch with his office (233 4650) about the arrangements.

CDP

Enclosures—flag(s).....

CDP

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

FROM: RT HON MARK CARLISLE, QC, MP

CDP
21/xi

18th November 1985

R21
C/F PPS

Dear Margaret,

I am writing to thank you for your letter dated 4th November and for kindly agreeing to attend the Opening Ceremony for the CPA Conference in Westminster Hall, followed by the Reception, on Thursday 25th September 1986 and the final Dinner on Wednesday 1st October. We are planning, with your approval, to call this dinner, as in 1973, Her Majesty's Government Dinner and we hope that a number of Ministers will be able to attend. I know that the Branch Secretary discussed this dinner with your staff, and it was agreed that the cost of it would be met from the Conference's Treasury Grant.

As I mentioned to you in my letter dated 24th October 1985, the Government Dinner is a reasonably relaxed occasion, but it is nevertheless an important part of the Conference, since our Commonwealth guests will depart the following day carrying with them messages of good will from their friends and colleagues in London.

My Executive Committee are delighted that you and we hope Denis, plan to attend these important occasions during the Conference. Your presence will be very much appreciated by all our Commonwealth guests and set the seal on what we expect will be a most successful gathering.

Yours sincerely

Mark.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
(UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH)

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

C.P.A.
25/11

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 November 1985

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the United Kingdom branch of the CPA in which he asks whether the Prime Minister would give a reception at No 10 for the participants in a Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure.

The Prime Minister has agreed to be involved in various functions connected with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Conference in September. She would much prefer not to have to take on this reception as well. She would be grateful to know whether the Foreign Secretary would be able to give a reception instead.

C D POWELL

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

PC/DR

7th November 1985

Dear Mark,

We spoke yesterday about the 35th Parliamentary Seminar, which is programmed to be held in London from 4th March until 21st March 1986. The Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure is held each year, and 25 Members of Commonwealth Legislatures are invited to London as guests of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

One of the highlights of the Seminar is traditionally an invitation from the Prime Minister for delegates and spouses together with a few members of staff to be invited to a reception at Number 10, Downing Street. The Prime Minister normally invites Government Ministers and Members and Clerks connected with the Seminar. The total number attending is usually about 75, and the reception which normally lasts from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm is paid for by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Tuesday 11th

The preferred dates for the Prime Minister's Reception would be 10th - 14th March or 17th - 19th March. You kindly agreed to let me know if the Prime Minister is able to invite Seminar delegates to Number 10 during the 1986 Seminar and which date would be most convenient.

With many thanks for your help,

Yours sincerely

Peter Cobb

(PETER COBB)
Secretary

Mark Addison, Esq,
Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

RM

file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary 7 November, 1985

CPA CONFERENCE: LONDON 1986

Thank you for your letter of 6 November.

I have spoken to the CPA and they will relay a message to Mr. Carlisle regarding the funding of the dinner.

(Caroline Ryder)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

10.R.

NOTE FOR THE FILE

CPA CONFERENCE AND DINNER: AUTUMN 1986

Peter Ricketts (FCO) rang this morning to say that the CPA had promised to finance the Dinner themselves, so it is not necessary for the Foreign Office to look into this as per our letter to the FCO of 4 November.

CR.

Caroline Ryder

6 November 1985

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

6 November 1985

Dear Caroline,

CPA Conference: London 1986

Many thanks for your letter of 4 November to Len Appleyard about this Conference. It was very useful to know about the commitments which the Prime Minister has accepted in connection with the Conference.

We had a word on the 'phone about the question of funding the dinner on 1 October. We agreed that since the CPA offered in their letter to fund this dinner (and are themselves funded by HMG!) there was no need for us to seek to pay for this ourselves. Mr Carlisle will I suppose be expecting some follow up to the Prime Minister's letter. Could someone in No 10 have a word with him? We will do so if you would prefer.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Mrs Caroline Ryder
10 Downing Street

COMMONWEALTH: CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 1983

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary 4 November 1985

CPA CONFERENCE - LONDON 1986

I enclose self-explanatory correspondence between the Prime Minister and Mr Mark Carlisle MP and I would be grateful if you could arrange for the question of funding for the dinner to be considered by your Secretary of State.

(Mrs. Caroline Ryder)

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Prime Minister. (2)

Your involvement in a short speech at the opening ceremony and another at the ~~closing~~ closing dinner. You could still make a short foreign trip between the two.

CDP 31/X

MR POWELL

The attached letter from Mark Carlisle, Deputy Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, is self-explanatory. It is regarding the London-based Conference in 1986.

We knew about all these engagements and they are already in the Prime Minister's diary. But before replying to Mark Carlisle do you wish just to remind the Prime Minister of her commitments, particularly as they will put pay to any overseas trip at that time.

CR.

30 October, 1985

Mrs. Ryder to cc

CDP. 1/XI

FILE

Bo7

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 October, 1985

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 24 October. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

(Caroline Ryder)

The Rt. Hon. Mark Carlisle, Q.C.,M.P.

Caroline

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

CS

FROM: RT HON MARK CARLISLE, QC, MP

24th October 1985

Dear Margaret,

CPA CONFERENCE LONDON 1986

As Deputy Chairman of the UK Branch I am writing to let you know with what pleasure the 250 Delegates recently attending the 1985 Annual CPA Conference in Canada welcomed the invitation from Her Majesty's Government to hold the CPA Conference in London next year. As you know, the dates of the Conference are 23rd September to 2nd October 1986. We are hoping that Her Majesty will graciously consent to open the Conference at the Opening Ceremony in Westminster Hall on the morning of Thursday 25th September 1986. We understand that it will be some time before the Palace will be making an announcement after consulting with No 10. The main Conference will be preceded by a Conference of Small Countries and meetings of the CPA Executive on 22nd and 23rd September.

I also have pleasure in being able to tell you that at the meeting of the General Assembly of the CPA on 10th October Jack Weatherill was unanimously elected President of the Association for the year 1985-86; he will therefore preside over the Conference itself between 25th September and 2nd October 1986. It had earlier been Geoffrey Howe's hope to be able to serve as President during 1985-86 after his period this year as Vice President of the Association.When it was found that the Conference period,including the Ceremonial Opening in Westminster Hall,would coincide with important sessions at the United Nations Assembly he was obliged to withdraw. The Speaker was able to take his place as Vice President before being elected President of the CPA 1985-1986, and he attended the recent Conference in Saskatchewan.

Following the precedents of the three previous occasions,in 1948, 1961 and 1973 when the Conference was held in London, we hope that you as Prime Minister and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the host Branch, will find it possible to be present on the three most important official occasions, namely: the Opening Ceremony in Westminster Hall on Thursday 25th September at 11.00 am, the Reception which follows immediately afterwards which we are planning to hold in the new Government Conference Centre in Broad Sanctuary, when we hope the Queen and Prince Phillip will be present; and the Farewell Dinner on the final evening, Wednesday 1st October in Grosvenor House Hotel.

In Wesminster Hall on 25th September at a gathering of some 1600 people, Jack Weatherill as President of the Association will invite the Queen to open the Conference and after Her Majesty's speech, it is hoped that you would then make a speech, thank the Queen and welcome the delegates. The Vice President of the Association (Datuk Shahrir, Minister for the Federal Territory, Malaysia) would add his thanks in conclusion. The Dinner on the final evening of the Conference, Wednesday 1st October will be attended by some 500 people including the Delegates, High Commissioners and Members.

CONT/D...

Whilst of course the CPA would be responsible for the funding of the dinner, we would like very much to programme the dinner as being given by Her Majesty's Government, and if you agree to this proposal we would like to invite you to preside and hope very much that Denis would be able to come with you. We would also invite other Ministers. On past experience the final dinner is a reasonably relaxed occasion not calling for a major speech but one on which we hope you would be willing to make a few valedictory remarks.

There will be other occasions and official functions in London which we hope you might find it possible to attend but these engagements would be much less important and my Committee appreciate that you may be unable to attend. I feel sure that you would wish to know, before we can hear from the Palace, how our plans for this major Parliamentary occasion are progressing and how these may affect you as Prime Minister and Chairman of the host Branch. If later on you would like me to discuss any particular aspect of the programme with you, I would be delighted to do so.

Yours sincerely

Mark.

Deputy Chairman
(UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH)

Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1.

B/F 18.10.85
See Below

TIN

OK / Wellington file

FCO explained that this subject is a Parliamentary Association matter. They are going to prepare a draft for the P.M to send to the QUEEN. However, they do not think that the PM approached the queen for the 1984 Isle of Man conference. The last time ~~[illegible]~~ this approach was made to the queen was in May 1972 for the 1973 CPA conference. FCO will ring back when they have any further information. CF

15/10

18-10 - WTb.

B/F 14.10.85

10 DOWNING STREET

CF

PPTS ?

Caroline

James Batten (219 5376) of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association wants to know when the Prime Minister should formally approach the Queen about opening their annual conference in London on 25/9/86.

H/10 urgs - by Thurs

David.

Rang FCO to ask if PM opening approached the queen for the 1984 CPA conference at the Isle of Man. They will ring back. When will she have to ask the queen to open the 1986 conference?

Graham
11/10

file BEM
A2L

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 October 1985

The Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of 1 October which she saw before her departure to Blackpool.

I very much regret that it is not going to be possible for her to attend the Reception given by the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, following the opening of Parliament on Wednesday 6 November. Mrs. Thatcher will be attending, briefly, the Reception given by the Speaker before continuing with the preparations for her speech in the afternoon.

I am sorry to bring you this disappointing reply.

The Right Honourable Mark Carlisle, Q.C., M.P.

h

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 1 October.

I am grateful to you as Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for inviting me to a reception in the CPA Rooms in Westminster Hall following the Opening of Parliament on 6 November.

It is a very busy day for me not least because of my speech in the House. But can I leave it that my office will ring the CPA that morning to indicate whether I can come or not. It simply depends on how the preparation for my speech is going. I am sorry not to give you a more satisfactory reply but I know you will understand only too well.

The Right Honourable Mark Carlisle, Q.C., M.P.

PRIME MINISTER

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCATION RECEPTION: 6 NOVEMBER

I took advice from both Charles and Nigel and they said that it would be a good idea to do this if you can. However, it entirely depends on how the preparations go for your speech in the evening.

Could you kindly sign the attached letter to Mark Carlisle. If your speech is not finished we will simply have to ring and send your regrets.

CR.

4 October 1985

Carol. - we always go to the Speaker's reception, not

1. MR POWELL Desirable if it can be done CDP

2. MR WICKS Say - "will try, but cannot promise"? NLJ 3.10

Advice on the attached please. The Prime Minister would be free to go if you thought it was a good idea.

CR

(CAROLINE RYDER)

3 October 1985

FROM: RT HON MARK CARLISLE, QC, MP

Acko 3/10

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

RZ 1/10

1st October 1985

Dear Margaret.

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday 6th November 1985

The United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be holding a short and informal Reception in the CPA Rooms in Westminster Hall immediately following the State Opening of Parliament by Her Majesty The Queen on Wednesday 6th November.

ie late morning

I hope that you will be able to find time to look in at the CPA even if you are only able to stay for a moment, to meet the Commonwealth High Commissioners, Agents-General, visiting Commonwealth Members of Parliament and Members of our own Executive Committee. The State Opening is a great occasion for the CPA and your presence on that day would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mark.

(DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH)

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minster
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

PERSONAL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 June 1985

CPA CONFERENCE : OCTOBER 1985

Thank you for your letter of 30 May noting that Mr. Renton will not be able to lead this year's delegation to the CPA Conference.

The Prime Minister agrees that, in the circumstances, Lady Young should lead our team.

(CHARLES POWELL)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

PERSONAL

CDP o/r.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 May 1985

Prime Minister
Agree that, in the circumstances, Lady Young should lead?
Yes
CDP 16

Dear Charles,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference: October 1985

Thank you for your letter of 24 May recording the Prime Minister's view that Mr Renton should be given a chance to lead this year's delegation to the CPA Conference.

Unfortunately, Mr Renton has to enter hospital in September for an operation on his hip. He will have to convalesce at home for about a month, although he hopes to be fully operational again in time for the new Parliamentary season.

Mr Renton will not therefore be able to take on the leadership of the CPA delegation this year. In the circumstances, Sir Geoffrey hopes that the Prime Minister would agree to Lady Young leading our team again this year.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PERSONAL

PERSONAL

DA

File

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 May, 1985

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE : OCTOBER 1985

Thank you for your letter of 23 May conveying the Foreign Secretary's suggestion that Lady Young be invited to lead the UK delegation to this Conference.

The Prime Minister thinks it would be a good idea to vary the Chairman and, since Lady Young led the delegation last time, suggests that Mr. Renton should be given a chance. I should be grateful if you would put this idea to the Foreign Secretary.

(C. D. POWELL)

L. V. Appleyard Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PERSONAL

RG

CCPC

①

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 May 1985

Could we not give Tim Renton a chance. He would be very good.

Prime Minister
Agree to Lady Young nominate?
CDP
23/5

Dear Charles,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Executive Committee and Annual Conference, Saskatchewan: October 1985

The Foreign Secretary has been invited as Vice-President of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to attend the Annual Conference and Executive Committee meeting of the CPA, which will be held in Saskatchewan in early October. It is already clear that other commitments, notably a visit to the UNGA and a day of talks in Ottawa, will make it impossible for him to attend.

He therefore proposes to ask Lady Young to lead the United Kingdom delegation, as she did in 1984 when the Conference was held in the Isle of Man. I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister, who is formally responsible for nominating the leader, would be content with this.

Subject to the Prime Minister's approval the Foreign Secretary would propose to ask Lady Young to attend only a part of the proceedings, from 7-9 October.

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

C/f file

file BN
cc Mr Alison
Sir P. C.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 November 1984

Ms Goodchild

Dear Peter,

Thank you so much for your letter of 30 October in which you ask if I would receive the delegates attending the Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in March 1985.

I should be happy to give a Reception, following the normal pattern, on 13 March. It is an occasion which I always enjoy.

Yours ever

Margaret

Sir Peter Mills, M.P.

Do

FROM: SIR PETER MILLS, MP

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

30th October, 1984.

Dear Prime Minister

THIRTY-FOURTH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR
5th-23rd March, 1985.

I am writing to ask if you would kindly again be able to receive the delegates attending the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar in March, 1985. The Reception at Number 10 is unquestionably one of the most important and enjoyable occasions during the Seminar. In the past delegates have told me how much they appreciate the opportunity of meeting the Prime Minister. The fact that you are prepared to spare time to talk to each Commonwealth Member and to listen to their problems is always remarked upon with the greatest pleasure.

I understand that should you be able to hold the Reception the most convenient date during a very busy period might be Wednesday, 13th March. Mr Peter Cobb, Secretary of the United Kingdom Branch, would be in touch with your staff concerning detailed arrangements for the Reception and also with our proposals for the guest list which normally includes Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers, Shadow Ministers concerned with the Commonwealth, and Members and Clerks connected with the Seminar.

The CPA Executive Committee would be most grateful if you were able to receive the visiting delegates on this occasion.

as ever
Peter

(DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)
United Kingdom Branch,
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
No. 10 Downing Street,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1.

From: Sir Robin Vanderfelt, KBE

CC PC

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Headquarters Secretariat

Palace of Westminster 7 Old Palace Yard London SW1P 3JY Telephone 01-219 4666
Telegrams 'Comparlas Parl London' Cables 'Comparlas London SW1'

RVV/ak/C.22

22 August 1984

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

NBPM
N 24/8

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 30 July. I shall table it at the meeting of our Executive Committee in Douglas, Isle of Man, on 24 September.

The members of the Executive Committee will, I know, be delighted to accept your kind invitation for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to hold its 1986 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in London between 23 September and 2 October. They were told by Mr Tony Durant, MP, British Isles and Mediterranean Regional Representative, at their meeting in Malawi in May that an invitation could be expected. Your letter confirming this will give them the greatest pleasure.

It is just possible that, by the end of this year, the Association will have received invitations for the rest of the 80s.

Please forgive my apparent discourtesy in not replying to your letter more promptly, but I have only just returned from visits to Canada and the South Pacific.

Yours sincerely

Robin Vanderfelt

Robin Vanderfelt
Secretary-General

C/F?. SH file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

July 1984

Thank you for your letter of 25 July.

The Prime Minister was pleased to sign the letter as drafted and I have pleasure in returning it to you.

Caroline Ryder

Peter Cobb, Esq.

Co

SLH

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 July 1984

Dear Sir Robin

I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to convey to the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association the greetings of the United Kingdom Branch and an invitation for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to hold the 1986 Annual Conference in London.

I understand that it is the wish of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association that, in future, Annual Conferences should be reduced in length to about 10 days. Following the wishes of the Association the CPA UK Branch invites Members attending the 1986 CPA Conference to arrive in London on 23 September 1986. The Conference will end officially at mid-day on Thursday 2 October.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Thatcher

Sir Robin Vanderfelt, KBE

LPO

881

~~CALLS in~~

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 July 1984

Thank you for your letter of 25 July.

The Prime Minister was pleased to sign the letter as drafted and I have pleasure in returning it to you.

Caroline Ryder

Peter Cobb, Esq.

PP's

ms: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON–SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

25th July, 1984

Dear Mrs. Ryder

The Prime Minister kindly agreed in her letter dated 30th May, that the dates for the CPA Annual Conference in 1986 which would be most suitable are 23rd September until 2nd October. I would be most grateful to you if you would kindly arrange for the enclosed draft letter to be signed by the Prime Minister. The letter sets out the formal invitation to the Executive Committee of the CPA for the 1986 Conference to be held in London.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Cobb

(Peter Cobb)
Secretary

Mrs C. Ryder,
Private Secretary to
Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

FROM: RT HON. MARGARET THATCHER, MP

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

25th July 1984

Dear Sir Robin

I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to convey to the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association the greetings of the United Kingdom Branch and an invitation for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to hold the 1986 Annual Conference in London.

I understand that it is the wish of the Commonwealth Parliamentry Association that, in future, Annual Conferences should be reduced in length to about 10 days. Following the wishes of the Association the CPA UK Branch invites Members attending the 1986 CPA Conference to arrive in London on 23rd September 1986. The Conference will end officially at mid-day on Thursday 2nd October.

Yours sincerely

(Chairman of the Executive Committee)
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, United Kingdom Branch

Sir Robin Vanderfelt KBE
Secretary General
CPA Headquarters Secretariat
7 Old Palace Yard
London SW1

file ECL

bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 July 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 28 June. She was glad to receive the list of the newly elected Executive Committee. The Prime Minister is very willing to continue to support the work of the UK Branch as ex-officio Chairman.

Charles Powell

Peter Cobb, Esq.

file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 June 1984

CPA Annual Conference

Many thanks for your letter of 28 June. I am sorry that there was some confusion about dates. The date mentioned in your letter, the one that we mentioned on the telephone, namely Thursday 25 September is now entered in the 1986 diary.

With best wishes.

Caroline Ryder

Peter Cobb, Esq.

Pte

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 June 1984

You should be aware that the Prime Minister has agreed in principle to give the opening address at the CPA Annual Conference in London on Thursday 25 September 1986. Mrs Thatcher has not yet decided whether or not she will entertain some of the delegates here to dinner at Downing Street or whether she will attend a formal dinner given by the Government on Wednesday 1 October.

Caroline Ryder

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RN

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

CF have papers

28th June, 1984.

Prime Minister
Agree to X?
If so, I will write on your behalf.
CD? 2/7.

Yes MT

Dear Prime Minister,

CPA (UK BRANCH) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A list of the newly elected Executive Committee is enclosed. You may be interested to see that there are four new Members on the Committee:

Lord Auckland
Mr Bryan Gould, MP
Mr Peter Hordern, MP
Mr Bowen Wells, MP

X The Executive Committee of the CPA (UK Branch) very much hopes that you will continue to support the work of the Branch in your capacity as ex-officio Chairman.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Cobb.

(PETER COBB)
Secretary

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

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION
UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

E X E C U T I V E C O M M I T T E E

Mr Donald Anderson, MP
Lord Auckland
Mr Guy Barnett, MP
Miss Betty Boothroyd, MP
Rt Hon. Lord Bottomley of Middlesbrough, OBE
Mr Peter Bottomley, MP
Sir Bernard Braine, DL, MP
Rt Hon. Mark Carlisle, QC, MP
Mr Lewis Carter-Jones, MP
Mr Tony Durant, MP
Sir Edward Gardner, QC, MP
Mr Ted Garrett, MP, (Joint Hon. Treasurer)
Mr Bryan Gould, MP
Lord Harmar-Nicholls
Mr Peter Hordern, MP
Rt Hon. Lord Irving of Dartford, DL
Sir Anthony Kershaw, MC, MP
Sir Peter Mills, MP, (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Fergus Montgomery, MP
Rt Hon. Gordon Oakes, MP
Rt Hon. Merlyn Rees, MP
Mr James Tinn, MP
Baroness Vickers, DBE
Mr Bowen Wells, MP

27th June, 1984.

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON–SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

28th June, 1984.

Dear Mrs. Ryder,

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON IN 1986

I am writing to thank you for your letter dated 26th June, and to confirm our telephone conversation today. We agreed that the date for the Official Opening Ceremony of the CPA Annual Conference would be Thursday, 25th September, subject to The Queen's availability. I know that the CPA (UK Branch) Executive Committee would hope that the Prime Minister would be able to attend the Opening Ceremony and to welcome delegates formally to the Conference.

We agreed that Wednesday, 24th September, might well be a suitable date for the Prime Minister's Dinner Party at No. 10 Downing Street but that this date, as with the other details in the Conference programme, would have to be discussed by the CPA (UK Branch) Executive Committee before a formal request is put to the Prime Minister. I will, of course, keep you informed of the progress with the Conference programme.

With many thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Cobb

(PETER COBB)
Secretary

Mrs Caroline Ryder,
Private Secretary to
Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON SW1.

Commonwealth : CPA : 7183

file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 June 1984

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON IN 1986

Very many thanks for your letter of 22 June.

I have noted your points about the possible difficulties regarding the Prime Minister's offer to give a dinner at Downing Street. I have, however, kept the date in the Prime Minister's diary, i.e. Wednesday 24 September in case there is a change of mind. Tuesday 23 September is firmly noted for the Prime Minister's Opening Address to the Conference.

As regards the Prime Minister's attendance at the Government's Farewell Dinner on Wednesday 1 October, you will understand when I say that this can be a provisional acceptance only. Mrs. Thatcher may have all sorts of other commitments by then, and having made a speech at the Opening Ceremony, it may be difficult for her to take on anything more. But all this I know you appreciate.

Caroline Ryder (Mrs)

Peter Cobb, Esq.

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

22nd June, 1984

Dear Mrs. Ryder,

CPA Annual Conference in London in 1986

You will remember that the Deputy Chairman of the CPA (UK Branch), Sir Peter Mills, MP, wrote in May to the Prime Minister about the 1986 CPA Annual Conference. In her reply, dated 30th May, 1984, the Prime Minister let us know that of the two alternative periods suggested she would prefer the Conference to be held during the period 23rd September - 2nd October, 1986. The Prime Minister was good enough to say that she would be glad to attend the Opening of the Conference and to give a dinner at No. 10 Downing Street.

As I have been able to explain to you, the Conference programme has not yet been agreed in detail by my Executive Committee. The details of the programme are dependent on a number of factors, including the availability of H.M. The Queen, the number of delegates attending the Conference, the financial resources which we are able to deploy and the availability of special facilities such as the Guildhall and the new Conference Centre. As you can imagine, the Sub-Committee which is responsible for the Conference arrangements is endeavouring to establish what facilities will be available and they are trying to produce the best possible programme within the allocated budget. As soon as the suggested programme has been prepared, I will of course keep you informed.

You should know that we are expecting 250 Commonwealth delegates to attend the 1986 CPA Conference in London probably representing some 110 Commonwealth Legislatures. From past experience, we would expect that about 100 of the delegates may be accompanied by spouses. Furthermore, in order to entertain all these Commonwealth guests, we need a minimum number of hosts - possibly 100/150 depending on the event. This means, in effect, that the social programme must be arranged to cater for 350 guests plus about 100/150 hosts depending on the event.

The Prime Minister, in her reply to Sir Peter Mills, MP, kindly offered to give a dinner at No. 10 Downing Street, on 24th September. This is a very generous offer and one which my Executive Committee would normally wish to accept. However, there are one or two problems. The first problem is that with the number of delegates and spouses attending the Conference, quite clearly they could not all attend a dinner at No. 10. The problem therefore, is to decide which of the delegates might be honoured by the invitation from the Prime Minister. My Committee's concern is that we may, in the event, cause unhappiness amongst those delegates who were not able to be invited to No. 10 and this might outway the pleasure given to those who were fortunate enough to have been asked. It might be possible for the Prime Minister to entertain a relatively small group of delegates (possibly delegation leaders or the International Executive Committee) but we would like to defer any firm suggestion at this stage until our Committee have been able to consider all aspects. I know that such an invitation would be enormously appreciated by the CPA and it would help to demonstrate the Prime Minister's interest in the Commonwealth and in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Cont/d ...

The social programme might include two dinner parties (for about 500), one hosted by the Government and one by the Lord Mayor. Naturally, we would hope that the Prime Minister, as Chairman of the CPA (UK Branch) Executive Committee, would be able to attend one of the official dinners, ideally the Government Dinner which might best be held towards the end of the Conference period and be combined as a Farewell Dinner on Wednesday, 1st October, 1986, in the Grosvenor House Hotel. A dinner at the Guildhall could then be in the nature of a welcome to London earlier on.

I know that the CPA as a whole will welcome the Prime Minister's intention to attend and speak at the Opening Ceremony in Westminster Hall, probably on Thursday, 25th September and I know my Committee would hope also at the Government/Farewell Dinner possibly on Wednesday, 1st October, 1986.

As I say, as soon as we have a more detailed suggested outline programme to put to you I will immediately be in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Cobb

(Peter Cobb)
Secretary

Mrs C. Ryder,
Private Secretary to
Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
10 Downing Street,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1.

pe vsc
bc Sir P.C.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 June 1984

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Annual Conference, Isle of Man, 25 September to 5 October 1984

Thank you for your letter of 13 June on this subject. The Prime Minister agrees with Sir Geoffrey Howe's suggestion that Baroness Young should be appointed as leader of the UK delegation.

C.D. POWELL

Len Appleyard Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

(1)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 June 1984

Prime Minister
Agree that Lady Young should lead?
C.D.P. 14/6
Yes

Dear Charles,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CAP):
Annual Conference, Isle of Man,
25 September to 5 October 1984

This year's Annual Conference of the CPA is due to be held in the Isle of Man from 25 September to 5 October. The Conference will be opened by Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, on 28 September and will as usual be preceded by a short tour to enable delegates to see something of the island. The UK delegation has recently been selected by Mr Speaker and the Selection Committee. It remains for the Prime Minister as Chairman of the UK Branch to appoint the Leader. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary normally offers advice on this appointment. I attach a list of the UK delegation, together with a list of our delegation leaders since 1966.

Much of the agenda at these Conferences is usually concerned with international affairs, and an FCO Minister therefore normally leads the delegation.

In view of her responsibility for Commonwealth affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe suggests that the Prime Minister should appoint Baroness Young as Leader of the delegation. There are plenty of precedents for a leader from the House of Lords. Sir Peter Mills (Deputy Chairman of the UK Branch of the CPA) has told Sir Geoffrey that the Branch would be delighted if Baroness Young were to lead the 1984 delegation.

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PAST LEADERS OF UK DELEGATIONS TO CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCES

1966	OTTAWA	Rt Hon Arthur Bottomley, Minister of Overseas Development
1967	KAMPALA	Rt Hon George Thomson, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs
1968	NASSAU	Rt Hon Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1969	PORT OF SPAIN	Rt Hon George Thomson, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
1970	CANBERRA	Rt Hon Joseph Godber, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1971	KUALA LUMPUR	Mr Anthony Kershaw, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1972	BLANTYRE	The Baroness Tweedsmuir of Belhevie, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1973	LONDON	Rt Hon Lord Balniel, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1974	COLOMBO	Rt Hon Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal
1975	NEW DELHI	Rt Hon Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal
1976	PORT LOUIS	Mr Evan Luard, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1977	OTTAWA	Rt Hon Lord Peart, Lord Privy Seal
1978	KINGSTON	Rt Hon Baroness Llewelyn-Davies of Hasloe, Government Chief Whip in the House of Lords
1979	WELLINGTON	Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

/1980

1980	LUSAKA	Mr Neil Marten, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Overseas Development Administration
1981	FIJI	" " "
1982	BAHAMAS	" " "
1983	NAIROBI	Mr Ray Whitney, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

file

da

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 May 1984

Dear Peter.

Thank you for your letter of 24 May about the CPA Annual Conference in London in 1986.

Depending on the comments you eventually receive from Buckingham Palace about the convenience of any proposed dates for Her Majesty The Queen, I should prefer that the Conference take place from 23 September until 2 October (rather than the earlier period). I prefer to keep the first part of September available in case there is a need for me to travel abroad.

If you eventually decide on these dates I would be glad to attend the official opening of the Conference on 23 September and give a dinner at 10 Downing Street on 24 September.

Yours ever

Margaret

Sir Peter Mills, M.P.

ecl

010.

FROM: SIR PETER MILLS, MP

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

24th May, 1984

Dear Margaret

I am writing to you in my capacity as Deputy Chairman of the UK Branch of the CPA to inform you that the necessary funds required to cover the cost of holding the CPA Annual Conference in London in 1986 have been approved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and for this we are most grateful. The Annual Conference was last held in London in 1973 on the occasion of the 19th Conference - 1986 will be the 32nd Conference.

The UK Branch Committee, at a recent meeting, discussed the two alternative dates for the Conference - 16th to 25th September, 1986 and the 23rd September to 2nd October 1986.

The Committee agreed that while both dates would probably be suitable for the Conference from the point of view of the visiting Commonwealth Parliamentarians it was thought the latter period 23rd September to 2nd October, 1986 might be preferable to Members of the UK Delegation and of Her Majesty's Government. It was, however, stressed that it was of the first importance that the period chosen should be that which was most convenient to Her Majesty the Queen and to the Prime Minister.

We are anxious that, subject to your approval, a formal invitation could be issued to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association during the 1984 Annual Conference which is to be held in the Isle of Man between 25th September and 5th October.

The Executive Committee hope that the Queen will again be prepared to open the Conference, but we understand that the Royal Programme will not be finalised until much nearer the date. Enquiries to Buckingham Palace have therefore not been able to reveal any preferance for dates. It was therefore the wish of the Committee that I should let you know, in your capacity as Chairman of the UK Branch Executive Committee, about the alternative dates for the 1986 Conference and to seek your advice as to which would be most convenient from your point of view.

.../Contd.

Traditionally the Prime Minister has taken part in the official opening by Her Majesty the Queen (this could be either on Thursday, 18th September or Thursday, 25th September, 1986). The Prime Minister has also been host to the delegates at their Government Dinner towards the end of the Conference. In 1986 the Government Dinner would possibly be on Wednesday, 24th September or Wednesday, 1st October.

We would be most grateful for your guidance.

With kind regards

as ever

Cyril

(Deputy Chairman)
United Kingdom Branch

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

6.28

(2)

Prime Minister.
As you wanted.
A. J. C. 8/5.

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SWIP 3AG
01-233 3000

8 May 1984

Len Appleyard Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

Dear Len

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA): ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

The Chancellor has seen a copy of John Coles' letter of 16 April setting out the Prime Minister's views on the financing of the CPA's Conference.

Treasury officials have recently received the details of the CPA's revised estimate of £0.5m and it is clear that our doubts on the original scale and expense of the proposed Conference were fully justified.

Having seen the CPA's revised estimate, the Chancellor is prepared to agree to the Treasury funding the 1986 Conference up to a maximum of £0.5m. He has written to Sir Peter Mills accordingly and a copy of his letter is attached.

I am copying this letter to John Coles at No.10.

Yours ever
David

D L C PERETZ
Principal Private Secretary

6.27

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

8 May 1984

Sir Peter Mills MP
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Westminter Hall
Houses of Parliament
LONDON
SW1

Dear Peter

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON

Thank you for your letter of 26 April.

I understand that you have reconsidered your original estimate of £1,125,000 for the 1986 Conference and have been able to reduce its overall cost to a maximum of £500,000. On this basis I am prepared to agree to the Treasury funding the cost of the Conference within this maximum.

I note that you will make every effort to reduce the overall cost and that further savings may be possible once final costings have been prepared. No doubt your officials will be in touch with mine about the details in due course.

Yours
Nigel

NIGEL LAWSON

Commonwealth: CPA July 83

File

(W)

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 April, 1984

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 11 April and has also seen the minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, dated 23 March.

Mrs. Thatcher hopes that the Chancellor will agree to provide the £0.5 million required to finance the CPA Conference, particularly since the precedents suggest that it has been a Treasury responsibility in the past to provide the necessary financing. The Prime Minister does not consider that the sum in question is worth a lengthy controversy in Whitehall.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Peretz (HM Treasury).

A. J. COLES

P. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

NR

There must be a precedent to be followed. This kind of sum is not worth arguing about.

PRIME MINISTER

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION:
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

There is a disagreement between the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor about the financing of this Conference.

We told the organisers that we could not meet their bid for £1.25 million. They have now reduced the cost to £0.5 million.

In the attached letter, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary argues that he cannot find the £0.5 million from ~~their~~ his existing PES allocation. Moreover, the funding of Inter-Parliamentary Associations has never been an FCO responsibility and he believes that the responsibility should continue to lie with the Treasury to provide the funds.

The Chancellor (letter attached) argues that the FCO should try to find the money from its existing PES provision.

If we refuse to fund the Conference there is bound to be a major Parliamentary row. And I expect that we should have to give in.

Yes Are you prepared to say that you hope the Treasury will find the money? Or would you like to discuss this with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Chancellor?

A.J.C.

13 April 1984

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 April 1984

Dear John,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Annual Conference 1986

Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Chancellor have exchanged minutes about the proposal that the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association should host the 1986 CPA Conference in this country. The correspondence rests with the Chancellor's minute of 23 March (copied to the Prime Minister) which suggests that the FCO should find the cost of the 1986 Conference (£0.5m) from within our existing PES provision. Sir Geoffrey would like to have a word with the Prime Minister about this problem. I am, therefore, writing in advance to let you have the background.

The funding of the CPA, and other inter-parliamentary associations has always, according to our records, been a Treasury responsibility. This reflects the fact that these associations have never been seen as an arm of British foreign policy but rather as an extension of the role of the "mother of Parliaments". The Chancellor is ex officio an Honorary Treasurer of the UK Branch of the CPA (the Prime Minister likewise is ex officio chairman of its Executive Committee).

The question of hosting the 1986 Conference in this country first arose in 1982, when the then Minister for Overseas Development (Sir Neil Marten) seems to have indicated at the Bahamas Conference that the UK Branch hoped to be able to act as host in 1986. At that stage there had been no consideration of official funding, and Mr Ray Whitney made clear at the following year's conference in Nairobi that no express commitment had been given. But the fact remains that there is a widespread expectation in the CPA that the UK will host the 1986 conference.

Sir Geoffrey has been in correspondence with Sir Peter Mills MP on this question since his time as Chancellor, when the matter was regarded - as in the past - as a Treasury responsibility. (The correspondence should strictly have been redirected towards Mr Lawson when he took over as Chancellor.)

/Sir Geoffrey

Sir Geoffrey entirely understands the Chancellor's wish to keep costs to a minimum. Last summer, after consulting the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey wrote to tell Sir Peter Mills that HMG could not provide the costs of the 1986 Conference for which they put in a bid for £1.25m: this was calculated partly on the basis of an indexation of the grant provided in 1973. A delegation from the UK Branch of the CPA called on Sir Geoffrey in October to express their anxiety about our refusal to make funds available. At Sir Geoffrey's prompting they have since made major efforts to reduce the cost and have now put forward revised proposals for a shorter and smaller conference costing £0.5m (this is less in real terms than the grant of £150,000 they received in 1973).

The CPA has strong all-party support in Parliament. Sir Geoffrey is in no doubt that if we maintained our refusal to fund the 1986 Conference despite the UK Branch's determined efforts to cut costs there would be a major parliamentary row. I enclose a letter to Lady Young from Mr Mark Carlisle MP which gives a foretaste of the criticism which would be levelled at the Government.

For all these reasons Sir Geoffrey believes that we should enable the UK Branch to host the 1986 Conference. He considers that it could do serious damage to the CAP - and to the Government - if the UK Branch were to back out at this stage. We are not, however, able to find £0.5m from our existing PES allocation for this purpose. Quite apart from that, the funding of inter-parliamentary associations has never been an FCO responsibility and Sir Geoffrey believes that the responsibility should continue to rest with the Treasury to provide the funds in this case, on which a decision is now needed quickly.

The whole question of funding inter-parliamentary associations may need to be looked at afresh thereafter. One possibility might be to transfer them to the votes of Parliament. But the priority is to resolve the immediate problem of funding the 1986 Conference.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

The Rt. Hon. MARK CARLISLE, QC, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th March, 1984.

PERSONAL

C.L.S. for draft reply please (11)

cc. Private Secretary
Mrs Lightfoot
Parliamentary Unit
Sir John Leahy
Mr Squire
Protocol Dept.
Mr Houston.
Future Dept.

Dear Janet.

I am very concerned over what is happening about the holding of the 1986 CPA Conference in London. I gather that there is a serious intention by the Government to say that they are now unwilling to have this Conference.

I just want you to know, in my capacity of Treasurer to the CPA, that I think that any such decision would be a total disaster, and I cannot believe that Ministers can have applied their minds to it with any seriousness.

I was present in the Bahamas in 1982 when Neil Marten issued the invitation, as a then member of the Government and Minister in the Foreign Office, and it is of course recorded in the Minutes of the CPA and in the Minutes of the Executive. For the UK now to renage on that invitation would, I believe, do untold harm to the CPA.

Is it seriously being suggested that I as Treasurer, together with Sir Robin Vanderfelt, should now approach some country like Sri Lanka and say that unfortunately the UK does not feel it can afford to hold the Conference - and "perhaps you would like to have it in your country instead?" I fear that any decision to renage on the invitation would only be taken by critics as the expression of lack of interest in the Commonwealth by this Government, and when it is learned that such a decision is based on economic grounds, it will look frankly laughable and incredible when compared to the economic situations of other Commonwealth countries.

I do not believe it is putting too strong a point of view to say that Britain's withdrawing from holding the 1986 Conference could well mean there would not be a Conference in that year, and could possibly see an end to CPA Conferences on an annual basis.

I am writing this to you personally since at the moment it is being taken up with Geoffrey Howe by Peter Mills, as Chairman of the UK Branch, But I do not want you or Geoffrey in any way to under estimate what I believe would be the seriousness of an adverse decision.

With kind regards, and hoping you are not being kept too busy.

Yours ever
Mark.

COMMONWEALTH: CPA Annual Conference
July 83

2.17

CONFIDENTIAL

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

Await further comment from Foreign Secretary.

FOREIGN SECRETARY

A.J.C. 3/4.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA): ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1986

You minuted me about this on 15 March enclosing a copy of Peter Mills' letter to you of 5 March.

2. I note that the CPA have managed to reduce the expected costs of the Conference by over 50 per cent. I am afraid, however, that I would still be unable to meet the revised costs of the Conference within the existing Treasury PES programme. Nor, in the current public expenditure climate, would I feel justified in making additional bids for this purpose.

3. I acknowledge that the CPA have achieved a significant reduction in their costs, and I also recognise that you attach importance to the UK hosting the Conference in 1986. In view of these two facts, you might perhaps wish to reconsider the possibility of funding the Conference within your own existing PES provision.

4. A copy of this minute goes to the Prime Minister.

N.L.

N.L.
23 March 1984

(2)

OK - Yours!

Prime Minister.

A.J.C. 4/3.

FCS/84/84

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Annual Conference 1986

1. In my minute of 9 September 1983 I expressed the hope that it might be possible for you to find the necessary funds to enable the UK Branch of the CPA to host a Conference in London within the next few years.

2. Peter Mills and other CPA representatives called on me in October, to express their anxiety over our refusal to fund the Conference in 1986. In the light of their arguments, I told them I could make no commitment, but would look at the question again, after they had let me have their proposals for reducing the costs of Annual Conferences.

3. I have now received revised estimates from Peter Mills which reduce the grant they are seeking from £1.25 million to £500,000. I attach a copy of his letter, from which you will see that the reduction has been achieved by reducing the number of delegates from 300 to a more realistic 250 and the length of the Conference from 14 to 9 days. They also propose to use less expensive hotels. Peter Mills's letter reflects the strong conviction of the UK Branch of the CPA that the Conference should be held in London in 1986, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the CPA.

4. Ray Whitney led our delegation to the 1983 CPA Conference in Nairobi and has since told me that in his view the CPA could be put in serious jeopardy if we refused to hold the 1986 Conference.

/5. I think

5. I think we are agreed that the CPA is a very useful institution which could serve British interests still better. Hosting the 1986 Conference would give us an excellent opportunity to move it in the direction we wish.

6. You thought the UK was doing more than its fair share of hosting CPA Conferences. I have looked again closely at the history, and do not believe that this is in fact the case. Moreover, the CPA has made a determined effort to cut costs, and I am sure that we can expect strong party pressure on us to agree to host this Conference. I therefore hope that you can agree that a grant of £500,000 can be found as usual from Treasury resources for this purpose.

7. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister.

GEOFFREY HOWE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
15 March, 1984

FROM: SIR PETER MILLS, MP

Telegrams: "EMPARLASSO, LONDON–SW1"
Phone: 01-219 5373

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Dear Geoffrey

5th March, 1984

Further to my letter dated 21st February, I now understand from Tony Durant, who recently attended a CPA Meeting in New Delhi, that it is unlikely that the UK Branch will receive a subvention from the Headquarters towards the cost of the Conference. It seems that the view of the CPA is that a subvention should only be offered to less affluent countries to enable them to meet the expense of holding the Conference.

You will remember that £80,000 had been taken off the total estimate of the cost of Conference on the understanding that this sum would be provided by the CPA Headquarters. As it now seems unlikely that any subvention will be forthcoming, I am writing to ask if you will agree to the estimate being raised from £420,000 to £500,000.* In my letter I suggested that £500,000 be granted rather than the estimated cost of £420,000 "to allow for unforseeable costs". It seems that the additional cost has already arisen.

I assure you that every effort will be made to reduce the overall cost of the Conference. Commonwealth delegates will be warmly welcomed and there can be no doubt that a successful Conference will help enormously in strengthening the bonds of friendship which exist between Commonwealth Members together and make this unique institution into a force for good in the world. However, no unnecessary expense will be incurred and it is possible that substantial savings will be made in the final analysis.

I very much hope that you will be able to recommend to the Treasury that funds should be made available for this important Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

(Deputy Chairman)

① Act
② CCD for dft reply for s/s by 14/3
cc PS
PS/Lady Young
PS/PUS
Chief Clerk
Sir J Leahy
Mr Squire 7/3

* Still very below the original figure!

Rt Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP,
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street,
LONDON SW1.

CPA file

Telegrams:
"EMPARLASHO, LONDON-SW1"
Telephone:
01-53

WESTMINSTER HALL
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH

18th November 1983

Rt. Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
House of Commons.

C 19/11

DOR 24/11

Dear Prime Minister,

The CPA sends you best wishes for your visit to India and for CHOGM. You may be interested to read about the preparations which are being made for your visit to Goa.

We wish you all success in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Peter Mars.

Secretary.

Sat, day November 19 1983

The Overseas Hindustan Times

leaders count on an electoral coalition with the Akalis. One result of this uncertainty about the

Legal Perspectives

SC & Tihar Juveniles

IT seems that everyone involved in the petition concerning the Tihar juveniles, 10 of whom were released on October 28 by the Supreme Court, has forgotten the children among them and the salutary provisions of the Children Act, 1960. The Act defines a child as one who is not yet 16 in the case of a male and not yet 18 in the case of a female. Neither the District Judge in his report nor the portions cited in that report of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) examination of the juveniles at the instance of the Supreme Court, mention anywhere an attempt to determine the age of the juveniles. One would have thought that this should be the first task of any judge in the district court, the High Court and the Supreme Court, so that adequate protection could be provided to those juveniles who are children under the Act. Even for the non-children juveniles a classification has to be made under the Punjab Jail Manual of those below and above 15.

All effort seems to have gone into making an enquiry about the alleged sexual assault on the juveniles lodged in the juvenile ward of the Tihar Jail. This was done by the High Court when the judges personally examined the children. The Supreme Court at the first hearing ordered their examination on a writ petition, filed and heard subsequent to the High Court's orders, and examined the High Court order itself at the second hearing only. The net result was that the juveniles, some of whom had been described as 14 or 15 in the proceedings before the High Court and in the District Judges' report, were subjected to a third medical examination by the Supreme Court. The first medical examination was ordered by the Delhi Administration at the Maulana Azad Medical College, the second by the High Court at the

"parallel" proceedings to those in the High Court and that it is disturbing its "constitutional duty" even though the High Court Judges had determined for themselves conditions in the juvenile ward of the jail by interviewing the prisoners and on the Supreme Court's subsequent direction the District Judge has submitted a report on the same topic.

The High Court judges, after interviewing the juveniles, had told the Inspector General of Tihar, about the inadequacy of food, its bad quality and that none of them had stated that they had been sexually assaulted. The IGP had given a personal assurance about the food. The District Judge's report to the Supreme Court states that sexual assaults on juveniles have been going on without check in the Tihar Jail. His report, made subsequently to the Inspector General of Prisons' assurance before the High Court, states that jail kitchen meals were alright. One hopes that the further discharge of the "constitutional duty" by the highest court does not result in another trauma for the juveniles, especially the children amongst them, of being subjected to the witness box directly or through affidavits concerning the truth of their statements before the High Court judges vis-a-vis their statements before the district judge.

We mention this because scant regard seems to have been paid to the necessity of keeping the names of the children amongst the juveniles secret. The District Judge in his report states twice that he had "assured" all those who made statements before him that their names will be kept secret.

However, not only have the names been mentioned in the report of the District Judge to the Supreme Court but the highest court has in its order of October 28 thought that it would not be ...

Mr Nath is a prolific and fa-
ole writer who holds the rea-
interest through compil-

happens to be sanity who
... their blind fol-

never cared to determine the age of the juveniles for finding out which one of them were children and anyhow made their names public vis-a-vis the several advocates in the case, it was made impossible for the Press on its own to observe this prohibition under Section 36 of the Act.

It is also surprising that so far no prayer has been made or order passed to seal the record of the jail authorities and of the magistrates before whom the juveniles were produced. One would have thought that this should form an inherent part of the "constitutional duty" of the highest court.

We say this because under the Punjab Jail Manual which applies to the Tihar Jail, the Superintendent of the Jail or its officers under Clause 442 are supposed to admit only those prisoners concerning whom a "lawful warrant or order of commitment" has been passed by a competent authority. Under the Children Act no child is to be kept in a police station or a jail. Children are to be kept in a "place of safety" and that under the Act specifically excludes a police station or a jail. Further, in terms of the Supreme Court judgement in Sunil Batra's case duties are cast on the district judiciary and specific recommendation made for setting up complaint boxes in Tihar Jail.

The report of the District and Sessions Judge, Delhi, who under the Jail Manual is a visitor with specific duties concerning jail conditions, nowhere mentions Sunil Batra's judgement and instead recommends that complaint boxes be set up in the juvenile ward. One would have thought that the report would show how the directions already given several years ago by the Supreme Court in the Sunil Batra judgement concerning Tihar Jail had been implemented. All this necessitated the sealing of records for examination by the highest court.

This also points out the piquant situation of the Supreme Court having to give a finding on the discharge of duties by the District and Sessions Judge vis-a-vis Tihar Jail and its juvenile ward in terms ...

The Overseas Hindustan Times

Death sentence in dowry case quashed

THE Delhi High Court has acquitted three members of a family who had been sentenced to death by the Sessions Court for murdering a 21-year-old pregnant bride by burning her on Dec. 1, 1980. Reversing the verdict of the Additional Sessions Judge S. M. Aggarwal, which had created a sensation as it was the first case of bride burning where the extreme penalty had been awarded, the court directed the immediate release of the three — Laxman, his brother Subhash and their mother Shakuntala — from the Tihar central jail where they had been lodged ever since their conviction.

The judgment was on a reference made to the High Court by the Additional Sessions Judge for the confirmation of the death sentence awarded by him and on appeals filed by the three accused.

The High Court's two-member bench in their judgment running to 74 pages noted that their verdict was "bound to cause a flutter in the public mind, more particularly amongst women's ... cial bodies and organisations since the case had beg ... at all to the ... wide publicity by the ... and international med ...

The judges ... "flight of ... Tihar ... asy" the ...

The courts

LOK Dal leader Charan Singh and 26 other members of Parliament have filed an application in the Supreme Court that all the 17 judges should sit to hear their petition challenging the election of Giani Zail Singh as President of India. They have made this plea because, according to them, vital constitutional issues have to be determined before the main petition is heard. Under the Supreme Court rules, such an election petition has to be heard by a bench of five judges.

Counsel for Mr Charan Singh and others has stated three issues in his application praying that all the judges should hear the election petition. According to him, Section 18 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Act is ultra vires of Article 71 of the Constitution because the Section curtails the grounds on which President's election could be challenged, while the Article does not provide for such a diminution of Wes ... tradition to ... new ... New ... ment. ... ment? And ... Whore, one ... Nokhalil? Wh ... Tihavali.

correspondence between the East and the West began with Raja Rammohun Roy (1774-1833)) who wanted to create a new synthesis between Indian and Western ...

The Overseas Hindustan Times

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19 1983

HOPEFUL SIGNS

The present round of talks between India and China in New Delhi on the boundary dispute seems to have broken some fresh ground although difficulties remain. China has advanced one significant step in agreeing to a sector to sector discussion. The "inadvisability of the use of force" in settling boundary disputes has also been agreed upon. Thus, a fund of goodwill and trust has been created and if K. S. Bajpai, the Indian representative for the talks, and Gong Defei, his Chinese opposite number, can keep this spirit alive there is no reason at all why an amicable settlement should not be reached.

China was under some misunderstanding about Indian intentions and policies in the initial stage of relations between the two countries. In the first place they were misled by the formulation of the then Communist Party of India that continued to be a "semi-" under joint Anglo-

practically unadministered. China and India inevitably met at these points when both countries were filling the gaps.

Unfortunately, the Chinese developed a set of reasons that were specious to say the least. Historical events can only be cited up to a point. One cannot go back several centuries. China was perfectly right in contending that the McMahon Line had not been signed by the Chinese representative Ivan Chen. But the fact remains that the frontier is based on sound geographical principles accepted in international law. It is also backed up by tradition, usage and custom. The position is much the same in the middle sector. Demarcating these two sectors should not be difficult.

The western sector has been complicated by the Chinese building a military road through Aksai Chin connecting Tibet with sensitive Sinkiang where the Chinese usually conduct their nuclear experiments. It is here that the two parties to the dispute must exercise their greatest diplomatic skills and ingenuity. But it is not an impossible task. [illegible] acceptable to both [illegible] will have [illegible] evolv-

People and politics

Punjab: A Chance For Sani

By N. C. Menon

PUNJAB is now more than likely to get back on the road to recovery for a simple reason: psychologically, the crisis has reached its nadir and just cannot get any worse; the only change possible is for the better And change there will be, because a surcharged situation, as it exists in Punjab today with agitations, violence and terrorism liberally laced with religious fundamentalism, cannot remain static.

The Akali Dal is fast becoming a hybrid, composed of the combined spawns of religion, regionalism and extremism. Many of its stances are generated in the venomous passions of disappointment and revenge, without any definite character. They only render the party unabashedly autistic.

The Akali agitation and the terrorism by extremists who exploit the stir had become a festering sore eating into the vitals of Punjab. When the usual remedies failed to work, there was nothing left but to lance the wound and cauterise it before applying the soothing balm. The take-over by the Centre and the crackdown on extremists and terrorists represent the more painful part of the healing process. The balm will presumably be applied after the terrorists are eliminated and the extremists isolated.

There is an aspect of the whole imbroglio in Punjab which has been inadequately appreciated Until recently, most of the victims of extremists had been Sikhs. (The case of Lala Jagat Narain was a special one; without in any way condoning

tune for a fresh effort at finding a solution. The government and the ruling party have no monopoly of such sane elements whose numbers cut across party lines and ideological cleavages. And even those in the Akali Dal who had so far tended to support a rather militant approach have now begun to realise that they might be drifting too far out on the tide of terrorism. With the firm ground of fair politics fading farther away in the distance, they are now decidedly uneasy about their prospects of getting back to the security of *terra firma*.

PM's Proposal

All that makes Mrs Gandhi's recent visit to Chandigarh a masterpiece of timing. The Prime Minister's intervention at this juncture is just the catalyst that could settle the seething Punjab cauldron and set it on a more meaningfully controllable course that will eventually put the State back on the road to being the most progressive unit in the Union. Perhaps the people of Punjab did suffer more than most during the partition. But they bounced back with resilience, courage and determination, aided by that rare quality — the ability to adapt to changing circumstances They have raced so far ahead of the rest that it would be a pity if they were to slow down merely to quarrel over the colour of their track shoes.

Mrs Gandhi has offered the Akalis a choice which it will be unwise for them to ignore: Either negotiate directly with the

"Dictator" in real terms, mean that he concurs with views of Jarnail Singh Bhi wale? And if Mrs Gandhi h control, how does he expe to give the Akalis what want?

It had been hoped at on that associating the Opp parties with the Centr parleys would make it eas the Akalis to obtain a n outlook. It seemed to work while, but the exercise seqquently fell apart. of the Opposition opted to run with the and hunt with the hound best illustration would b occasion when they demar certain solution for the tangle in talks with the and at the same time, Haryana Chief Minister Lal that if the same de were implemented, all Opp legislators in the State wou sign. No wonder Mrs Gand proposed talks with the but strictly without the tion parties. According the Opposition parties only the problem more intractat

One of the ridiculous c that have gone round has i the Centre is not interested immediate solution of the jab crisis because a state o sion will help the Congres crease its (presumably H vote bank. But that must like a specious argument t right-thinking person. Which ernment in its right senses wish for continuance of a pr likely to bring it down in esteem?

Apathetic Centre?

Beef Tallow Issue

The Fat Is In The Fire

By Sitanshu Das

ONE hundred twentysix years after 1857 when animal fat on cartridges was the grievance of the rebellious Bengal Army sepoys, extraordinarily it is once again an emotive issue in north Indian villages.

Needless to add, Opposition leaders know when they are on to a good thing and what it can yield in electoral benefit at the General Elections due in a year. The allegations of impure animal fat in vanaspati, taboo to Hindus and Muslims, are spreading. From UP village shops vanaspati signs are disappearing. Small-town eating places no longer display signs proclaiming vanaspati as the cooking medium. Jagjivan Ram chose Meerut, where a regiment rebelled against the British rulers 126 years ago, to open his campaign against Indira Gandhi and spoke of Mangal Pande, the first martyr of 1857.

In Delhi, Atal Behari Vajpayee was more discreet. The issue, L K Advani said explaining Vajpayee's words, was not adulteration of vanaspati with impure animal fat but corruption. Explicably Vajpayee did not mention that the Government came down heavily on a long-standing contributor to the Congress(I) party fund and put him behind bars. Charan Singh with his natural dislike of agitational exaggerations and instinct for constitutionalism, is not sure if it is right for him to exploit this issue for elections.

Some Opposition leaders believe that the scare about animal fat in cooking oils can be as potent an election issue as the forced vasectomy was in 1977 to undermine Mrs Gandhi's position in north India. On this NDA opinion, representing the BJP and the Lok Dal, is not conclusive. There are leaders like Advani who wonder if the importance of impure animal fat as an election question is not being overstated.

But elections are elections and all conceivable issues, including animal fat, will doubtless be used against the Congress(I) in the northern States (Bihar, UP, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi) which together fill 225 of the 542 Lok Sabha seats. In at least 172 out of these 225 north Indian constituencies the NDA is the main adversary of the Congress(I), excluding Bihar where the position on the opposition side is not clear.

Remembering that for another 60 seats the Congress(I) will have Marxists as their main enemies and at least 100 Lok Sabha seats will have to be fought over with the regional formations in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, what happens in north India is patently important for Mrs Gandhi's party. For the remaining 200 Lok Sabha seats the picture is uncertain. The five-party Union of Front appears to be the main adversary of Mrs Gandhi in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Orissa, having Gujarat and Bihar where the Opposition following is divided among the UF, the NDA and the CPI.

Given this is there a case for an all-embracing Opposition front against Mrs Gandhi? Advani, illustratively, has no use for such an coalition front if this is meant as an arithmetical device to pool anti-Congress votes. Whether or not there is polarisation against the Congress on polling day at constituency level, Advani argues, voters by and large polarise between two major parties, sparing relatively few wasted votes for the lesser parties in the constituency. His study of voting behaviour of the Indian electorate in the past 30 years convinces him that lesser candidates (excluding the winner and the main contestant) who are able to save their deposits do not number more than 2.5 per cent of all valid candidates.

Does not this demolish the basis on which the BJP entered an alliance with the Lok Dal and seeks wider Opposition electoral unity? It does not, if the character of the BJP is kept in view (Advani explains).

"Cadre-based" parties, whether the BJP or the CPI, do not come out too well in polarised electoral situations because such ties are decided in the end by uncommitted or floating voters who tend to prefer centrist, non-cadre mass parties. That is why the NDA, he believes, will be a formidable challenge to the Congress(I) at constituency-level when minor cadidates are eliminated and the fe is between the locally strong formation, the BJP-Lok Dal combine, and Mrs Gandhi's nominee.

Past election show that the former Jan Sangh rarely beat the Congress in straight fights: the successes usually came in multi-cornered contests against the Congress. Illustratively, in Bihar the interventions of the UF and CPI candidates will hurt the Congress(I) more than the NDA, Advani feels. This being the case, the BJP is not attracted by purely arithmetical advantages of an all-party front against Mrs Gandhi.

Though adjustment of seats to be contested by the two fronts remains an ideal, the NDA is not sure if Chandra Shekhar will not eventually decide against this. NDA leaders are aware that Chandra Shekhar will weigh the gains (which are going to be negligible because the NDA will not surrender to the UF seats in the BJP-Lok Dal strongholds) against the possible loss of Muslim votes he may suffer by allying himself with the BJP.

On the other hand, going by what happened in the past, it is not unreasonable for the UF to expect accretion of some strength from Congress(I) rebels who, for one reason or another, may withdraw from the party and seek a flag of convenience for the elections. They will, the UF hopes, see in the five-party alliance a formation they can join without violently repudiating their past policies.

The NDA appears reconciled to seeing Dr Farooq Abdullah go with the UF. Nor do BJP leaders count on an electoral coalition with the Akalis. One result of this uncertainty about the Akali attitude is the renewed stridency of pro-Hindu utterances by Punjab BJP leaders who do not want the Congress(I) to profit from the polarisation now occurring in the State.

Leaders of the two Fronts don't hope for much from Andhra Chief Minister N. T. Ramarao. They fear that the Telugu Desam leader will keep his options open till the very end and then offer the Opposition Fronts unacceptable shares of Andhra seats in Parliament, as indeed he did for the Assembly elections early this year. NTR, front leaders believe, wants a sizable bloc of Telugu Desam followers in Parliament. His own political ambitions, unlike those of MGR in Tamil Nadu, are not coterminus with Andhra Pradesh. He wants a presence at the Centre. What will happen in Tamil Nadu cannot be predicted at this stage — not even the assumption that MGR will side with Mrs Gandhi.

In public at least the leaders of the Fronts say that they will prefer an election at the end of Parliament's normal term. This will give them roughly a full year within which to organise the campaign. They will prefer a long run-up. This, they admit, may also reveal their internal differences and produce a contrary effect on their chances. But they will risk that rather than have early elections.

The Opposition has not found a central issue for their campaign. In 1977 it was Emergency rule. In 1980 they said that Mrs Gandhi would reimpose the Emergency. For a while they considered it possible to make "dynastic rule" a major election issue in 1985. Since Rajiv Gandhi refuses to play in this the part Opposition leaders assign him it cannot be the central issue.

Although Front leaders would rather not have an early poll, they have fears about the timing Mrs Gandhi might decide. One fear is articulated by Chandra Shekhar who considers it unwise at this stage to raise too many major issues. The Prime Minister might seize on them as requiring constitutional amendments, and use the requirement to extend the life of the present Parliament, convert Parliament into a constituent assembly, pending a decision on the amendments. Not many share his rather overdrawn forebodings.

The other anxiety concerns the precedent former Prime Minister Charan Singh established in 1979 when fresh elections were not ordered for nearly six months after Parliament was dissolved in August 1979. Charan Singh ruled in the intervening months on the strength of the provision that not more than six months should elapse between two sessions of Parliament.

On this analogy, some Opposition leaders say, it is possible for the Prime Minister to order dissolution in January 1985 and not hold the elections until the following May. The fact that Mrs Gandhi's majority in the Rajya Sabha will further increase in the next four months to give her a two-thirds following in both Houses of Parliament feeds their fears about what the Prime Minister might do.

The Opposition's fears and hopes are all anchored to what happened in the country in the years 1966-75. Opposition leaders have missed the new ambience in Congress(I) politics. Changes are occurring in Mrs Gandhi's style and these have opened the occasion or almost all Opposition tactics.

Behind the scenes

Twenty vital steps

THE Planning Commission has sent an urgent letter to State governments to launch a publicity campaign on mass media — radio, TV and newspapers, etc. — concerning the Twenty Point Programme. Practically half the Plan budget goes into the Twenty-Point Programme. The idea is to educate prospective, eligible beneficiaries about the help available to them. Information about those who have been helped could encourage others to find out how they could benefit and where they should look for aid.

During the first six months of the current financial year (April to September) some of the programmes out of the twenty have done well. They are distribution of house sites to the under-privileged, provision of drinking water, setting up of biogas plants and tree plantation. Some of the rural employment projects are also catching on.

But welfare work for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes, bonded labour and slum populations is lagging behind and so is the sterilisation programme. Construction assistance is also moving slowly.

It is noticeable that projects requiring construction through contractors have gone ahead to some extent. These are also projects, like tube wells, which benefit everyone. Projects, like those benefiting some sections of rural society, be it bonded labour or landless Scheduled Caste workers but which hit some other sections, like landlords are lagging behind. Planning Commission experts say that such schemes could move forward if bureaucrats in the field, at the district and State level pushed them. This they would do if the politicians asked them to. But in many cases the local politicians are themselves landlords employing landless labour and even bonded labour. Political will at the local level is therefore lacking. And the Twenty Point Programme, in the case of a majority of points does not move forward at the required speed. In the case of bonded labour, various States appear to be unable to coming out with the correct figures. Admitting the truth they feel would be bad for their image. Therefore the Union Planning Ministry has asked for bonded labour. The few they had a year or more ago have all been rehabilitated. The truth is very different. Even some Chief Ministers, it is said have bonded labour on their lands. All the vested interests in rural areas are interested in the bonded labour system continuing as they want the caste system perpetuated.

As publicity concerning the Twenty Point Programme is stepped up, not only will entitled beneficiaries come forward to look for their right to be helped to move above the poverty line but the State bosses will be forced into lending a helping hand. A series of short feature and documentary films suitable for TV made by some young producers on untouchability, etc., are available. A list was sent by the Planning Commission to the Secretary, I and B Ministry. It has been suggested that they should be shown widely in rural areas, besides urban centres. Screening such films would provide just the right kind of shock treatment to shake up the age-old village society. So why has the I and B Ministry been sitting on the project for some time?

A bolder approach would seem to be necessary if our sleepy rural areas are to be gingered up. Unorganised labour could be helped to organise itself. Voluntary agencies could help. Secondly construction on allotted house sites and self-employment schemes could be energised if the nationalised banks operating in rural areas do not ignore the underprivileged who are unable to offer any security. Bank rules permit this in regard to loans below Rs 5,000. This will require an attitudinal change in bank personnel who prefer to release loans to the moneyed than to the man on the margin of the poverty line.

* * *

SARITA BOODHOO is a well-known name in Mauritius. It is not only because she is married to a prominent politician, Harish Boodhoo who was formerly Deputy Prime Minister and currently is the Chief Whip. She herself is an expert in the field of Hindi and Indian culture and has spearheaded a vast movement, Save Sarita and celebrated a chapter for women. Not far off venture in Mauritius is the founding of the Bhojpuree Institute. Sarita's foundation was carried in Mauritius from Bihar. They commencing now. She is proud of the fact that Indians who went there 150 years ago to work as labourers are now a powerful force, politically and otherwise. The Mauritius Prime Minister is of Indian origin. But the struggle to keep alive Indian culture, tradition and languages is an uphill task.

Sarita Boodhoo

The Alliance Francais and the British Council are a great deal more active than any Indian cultural group like the Indian Council of Cultural Relations. There is need to put up a good Hindi press in Mauritius. Even invitations to traditional functions are being printed in English due to the lack of a proper Hindi press, says Sarita. Hindi books for all levels are badly needed, besides technical aids like Hindi type-writers. She would like to see Hindi creative writing encouraged in her country.

Mauritius is preparing to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the going there of Indian immigrants and Sarita is actively associated with it. She feels, along with delegates of Indian origin from other countries that the Third Hindi World Conference held in New Delhi recently should have given greater response to their interest in the organisers dominating the conference themselves.

Promilla Kalhan

bhajan and Ramayana and Gita sequences, include composition of poems by Nirala, Sur and Kabir, nature in its different moods has an undeniable link with man's doings on earth. In realisation of this truth Jitendra Maharaj has effectively struck a rapport with nature in the Benaras style of Kathak which he practices. For example, effect of lighting, tuned 'ghungroos' and sharp physical movements register the impression of thunder and rains in the minds of the spectators. He has introduced "Layakari" in 'Chand' pattern—an ancient tradition difficult to evolve.

"True, I have deviated from certain established norms but have revived the ancient tradition that existed before the so-called 'established norms' came into being. I am therefore branded a non-conformist and have suffered a great deal because of that."

Jitendra Maharaja's disciples Kamalini and Nalini have been learning and performing in all parts of the country for the past ten years. In their opinion there is ample scope to make more innovations in the style but they are conservative in their ideas in this regard. Innovations for innovations' sake make no sense, they said. This can be achieved only in relation to the public taste. At the same time the purity of the art should not be sarcificed to satisfy the audience.

Mostly the sisters perform in temples and Nalini has designed costumes similar to the attire used in Devi temples. This is totally different from the costumes used by Kathak exponents of both Jaipur and Lucknow styles. There the costumes bear either a Mughal or Rajput appearance.

By conviction the Guru and the Delhi sisters intend to remain free from the strains of family life and with single-minded devotion pursue their chosen path that is Kathak dancing.

What we need today, both Kamalini and Nalini expressed, is an enlightened understanding of the inherent philosophy and aesthetic appeal. The future of Kathak in the hands of the up-and-coming generation is sure and secure.

Raj Babbar with Dev Anand in 'Anand aur Anand'.

'One has to make compromises'

Raj Babbar tells SURESH KOHLI in an interview.

HE is a graduate from the National School of Drama, a boy from the north trying to make good in the dreamy but highly competitive, at times ruthless, world of Hindi cinema. He has already made a dent, carved out a niche for himself, and struggling to reach somewhere. In this interview Raj Babbar draws many word-pictures that many of us might figure out but he would rather not identify.

There is a rumour that you together with Smita Patil want to produce a film based on a South Indian movie. Are you getting into film production?

No. I am not producing any film. Instead, people should appreciate that I am co-operating with a producer who wants to make a good film. He negotiated the project with several commercial producers, but did not succeed. I saw the film in Madras. He asked me if I would do the film because it will help even though it is a small role.

He then asked me my price and I said what can I say in the matter because the role is so small. He then suggested that I do the film on percentage basis, the way some producers in Bombay do. Sharing the profit, so to say. He also wanted Smita. Two or three times earlier too whenever the project was on, he had approached her and she had declined because at that time Shobha, the South Indian actress who had performed in the original was alive. Then I persuaded Smita and she finally agreed.

When I asked him about the finance and he said with both of us in he would be able to find some financier. I don't really hesitate to do small roles. I have done so earlier with Muzaffar Ali and Shyam Benegal in **Kalyug**. I want to do good films and I did these films not because of the money involved.

When I came here I wanted to do art and realistic films because I had the theatre background. I don't want to name people but the matter never went beyond talks. Then I noticed that all the people around me were eventually coming into commercial films. So I thought I should do it the other way round. Go to small films through the big films.

Basically, there is no difference between the two kinds of film makers. They are just the same. None of the small film makers came forward when Raj Babbar flopped. At the same time when riding the wave of success I worked for these so-called serious film makers even though doing small roles.

Do you mean to suggest that the small film makers used and exploited you?

Indeed yes. Basically, they are all the same. The commercial film makers have their own set-ups of distributors and financiers when they evolve projects. So they talk of money and price. You make a project with Raj Babbar and Anita Raj or Rati Agnihotri it is a commercially viable project. But when you make a project with Smita Patil and Naseerudin Shah, it gets a status and gets the NFDC finance.

So if these people make films for distributors, the others decide right from the beginning that the film is going for an award. No one is genuine to the film, I am absolutely sure. I am convinced about it. They only talk big. They all have their markets and they are making the films for their markets. Someone has Berlin and someone has Cannes and still others have Paris, London and America.

If someone wants to argue with me on this count, I can explain who has what kind of a group. They are not making films for India but for their own respective markets. The same is the case with the commercial film makers. So I had this thing in mind when I came here. I wanted to make good films when I became sellable. So when Dorai approached me with the offer of **Pasai** I readily agreed. If someone can benefit from my name, from my tribe I am happy to be of help. So I genuinely felt happy when he said he would benefit from my association with the film.

There is quite a bit in the film press about your ongoing romance with Smita Patil. How serious is it?

It is very serious. Maybe, it is more than serious. But one thing I will contradict. It is not an affair. It is friendship, and friendship I don't think has any name, any relation, any kind of status. So I don't deny. But I deny and decry mud-slinging, what is commonly known in your language as yellow journalism.

These magazines have no ethics and the journalists who indulge in this **zaleel** exercise has no conscience. They are dependent on people whom they run-down. They earn their living out of it, yet they write nasty and malicious things about them.

Now they are over-publicising the Raj Babbar-Smita Patil relationship. In trying to be sensational, they cook up and concoct stories without realising the damage they are likely to cause. Now I have become very choosy about giving interviews. You say something in a certain context and it is blown out of proportion in another context. I don't say I have banned the press. But I have become very selective.

What do you think of the star-sons phenomenon and what have your experiences been of working with some of them?

I don't think there is anything wrong with it. It makes no difference to us. No one is going to take my place. If they are here we are here, and if we are here they will also be there. Every father wants to promote his children. So what's wrong with that.

I have worked with most star-sons. I have worked with Sunjay Dutt, with Chimpu Kapoor, with Suniel Anand. The problem is, I think, they are over-burdened. Their fathers want to equip them with everything. The impression is that they know everything, so they are made to do everything. Generally the films with star-sons are packed with every thing which can harm the boys eventually. Big egoes are also involved. But then it is like the case of spoilt children, their getting everything without having to work for it.

Where do you think you are at this stage of your acting career and are you satisfied with the progress?

I don't think I am satisfied or for that matter will be satisfied until the end. I have learnt many things and I am doing many things, fighting many of them. The only satisfaction is that I am doing what I wanted to do. There are several alternatives. There were many things that I wanted to do but am not being able to do. There are several reasons for it, and I got to know of them only when I came here I realised that here you are just an individual and you have to work in a sort of establishment where you have no voice of your own and you have to make your voice heard through a whole host of voices. You have to make many compromises in order to be successful and make your voice audible.

Dancing sisters Kamalini and Nalini.

Garden of controversy

"Basking under the security of the British, and free from encumberances of court business and public appearance, the later Moghuls took to boisterous merry-making day in and day out. Qudsia Bagh was the focal point where essence of rose and jasmine flowed like water." A. K. BHATNAGAR writes.

THE much-neglected and ignored Qudsia Bagh, situated near the Inter-State Bus Terminus in North Delhi, has been in the news lately. It all started when a Muslim politico-religious organisation pressed a claim to the dilapidated mosque situated at one corner of the historical Mughal Garden. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) took exception to this on the ground that in the immediate past there had been "no recognizable religious use or custom of holding prayers in the mosque."

The agitated members of the Muntazima Committee, Masjid Qudsia Bagh made a plea to the court against 'interference' by the ASI. In a judgement of far-reaching consequence a District and Sessions Judge of Delhi ruled on July 1, 1983 that "the Muslims have no right to offer prayers" in the mosque because it was a protected monument. The learned judge concurred with the ASI that the Qudsia was a monument of 'National Importance'.

The dust raised by the controversy seems to have settled. It may be pertinent now to raise a few searching questions. Since when has ASI started treating Qudsia Bagh, or its mosque, as a National Monument? Hitherto it was not even regarded an important place of Delhi. Another point is whether the ASI will stand by its commitment and restore the garden and its mosque in keeping with their now-recognised status as a National Monument.

The ill-fated Qudsia Bagh was built on the bank of river Jamuna by Udham Bai (Begum Qudsia), a celebrated dancing-girl who became wife of Badshah Mohammed Shah. It was completed around 1748 A.D. This was a period when the Mughal empire was on decline and Delhi was yet to recover from the ghastly plunder and loot perpetrated by the Persian invader Nadir Shah in 1739. In 1757 the city was once again ravaged by Ahmad Shah Durrani, a former protege of Nadir Shah. Thus humbled and humiliated, the Imperial family became increasingly ineffective and withdrawn. The paradise gardens of the Red Fort and Shalamar, seven km north of it, became neglected and forlorn. For over a hundred years, until the Mughals were exiled to Rangoon in 1857, the Qudsia Bagh was their favourite retreat.

The sprawling garden had a magnificent 'mahal' facing the river Jamuna. Alongside this were built a 'barahdari' a building having 12 gates, three on each side) and a small but lovely mosque. An imposing gateway flanked by ornate pavilions on each side led to the royal garden. The pavilions are believed to have been connected to the Red Fort with secret underground tunnels. In its heyday the garden had streams of running water replete with playing fountains. River water was lifted in the north-west for irrigation through subterranean pipes made from stone.

A traveller who came to Delhi in a turbulent phase of mid-eighteenth century was surprised to find that while all other gardens of Delhi lay in ruins, the Qudsia Bagh was at the height of its glory. Here the Mughal royalty and nobility regaled in gay festivities and ostentatious parties. Unfortunately all this came to an abrupt, though temporary halt when Begum Qudsia was blinded and imprisoned together with her deposed son, Ahmad Shah.

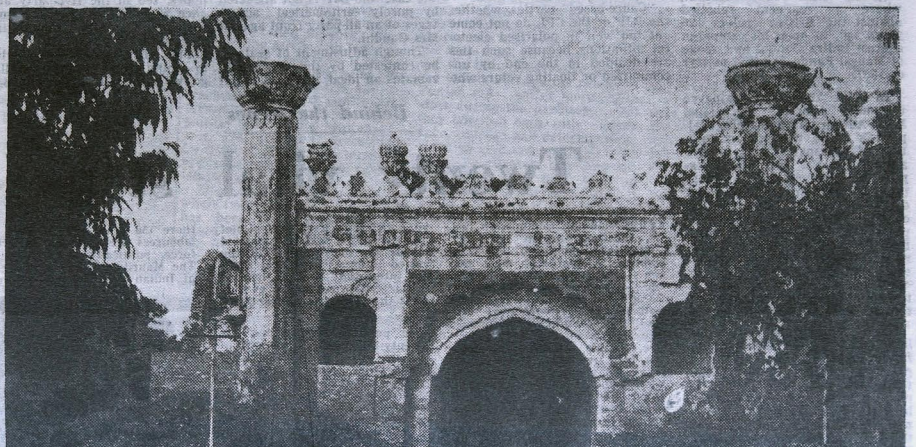
In 1803, Delhi fell to the British. The first British Resident Mr Ochterlony decided to live in the Shalamar Bagh. The Imperial family was housed in the Red Fort, which was perpetually in turmoil due to court intrigues and revolts. Thousands of descendents of Shah Jahan and his succesors thronged the place. Qudsia Bagh alone offered the privacy which the reigning kings and their courtiers needed. Strangely, with the passage of time the once-mighty Mughals reverted to their old ways and indulgences. Basking under the security of the British, and free from encumberances of court business or public appearances, they took to boisterous merry-day in and day out. Qudsia Bagh was the focal point where "essence of rose and jasmine used to flow like water." In 1847 Sir Sayyed Ahmed visited the garden and found its buildings and mosque to be "beautiful and richly-decorated."

The mutiny of 1857 pushed the garden into a cataclysmic whirlpool when it became the rallying point of British resistance and suppression of the embittered sepoys. During the long siege of the walled city, in a hot dry season, the British troops were sheltered here. As mutineers held on tenaciously to the bastion of Kashmere Gate heavy mortar battery fired menacingly from the Qudsia Bagh. Reinforcements were concentrated on the Old Delhi Ridge (present site of Hindu Rao Hospital) and finally it was from the garden that Nicholson led a successful assault.

When Delhi regained its status of national capital and Civil Lines became the fashionable colony of the rich, the garden at last received some attention and uplift. Of course, not much historical importance seems to have been attached. In course of time, Jamuna Lodge rented out the original building of the Mughal period for setting up of a club for the elite. The Masonic Club, with its cafetaria and two large tennis courts, still occupies a sizeable part of the garden.

After independence as the city of Delhi expanded rapidly, Qudsia Bagh was a sufferer on many counts. The river has receded and the busy Ring Road stretches across a strip of the garden space. The southern part has given way to DDA's massive Inter-State Bus Terminus, and more recently, the Municipal Corporation has set up a Tourist Camp and restaurant within the garden's boundary. Several unsightly buildings have come up right in the heart of the garden to house a host of social welfare agencies and departments of Delhi Administration. In one of the historical buildings, well-hidden from public view, lives a Director of Horticulture. Not only this, a corner of the garden has been fenced off and renamed 'Pratap Vatika', where a statue of Maharana Pratap has been erected atop on artificial hillock. Needless to say, this perversity does justice neither to the garden nor to the great patriot-warrior.

Looking at the present state of the garden and the mosque no one would believe that these could be of 'National Importance'. However, let us hope that this designation is not a mere excuse, invented by some imaginative legal experts, to deprive people of an opportunity to pray in the mosque. The administration should remove all unauthorised structures, including the tourist camp, residential quarters, restaurant, and offices, and restore the foresaken garden to a bit of its past majesty.



REMINDER OF PAST GLORY: The imposing gateway of Qudsia Bagh.

INSIGHTS OF INSPIRED DANCERS

BY U. RAJAGOPALAN

Innovations for innovations sake make no sense. This can be achieved only in relation to public taste.

KATHAK virtuoso, sporting a year-old stocky, ebullient perennial smile spoke at length about this classical dance form and his life's mission as a crusader against reducing this art to a level of kotha dance. He had no formal schooling but is well conversant with our Ithihasas and puranas. At a very early age he joined Guru Krishna Kumar Maharaj of Janki Prasad of Benaras gharana and has been performing Kathak for the past 28 years throughout the country.

Jitendra Maharaj believes that art cannot be monopolised by any individual or institution. It is a spiritual expression of our oriental sensibilities fed on epics and mythology. His attempts have always been to preserve Kathak in its purest form.

Undeterred by criticism he has evolved a style simple, graceful, attractive and accepted by the people by and large. So much so, that today Jitendra Maharaj is considered a pioneer in musical experimentation in Kathak. He emphasised that tremendous research work has been carried out with the assistance of his foremost disciples and famous dancing duo "Delhi sisters", Kamalini and Nalini. The origin of Kathak, he asserted, belongs to the temple culture and art of the ancient times. However, Persian influence percolated only during the Mughal period when royal courts patronised and encouraged it according to their needs Hence Kathak originally was based on Bhakti cult which had a resplendent past in social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual life of India. Cultural activities, especially dances, were performed in temples.

Innovations he has brought about, apart from kavits, dhrupad, dhamar, ashtapadi,

Andhra Chief Minister's faux pas

CYCLONE and floods, which hit 8 districts of Andhra Pradesh early last month, have receded but have left behind heavy controversies and bickerings not only between the State and the Centre but also between the ruling Telugu Desam and opposition Congress-I in the State.

While the leaders are manoeuvring for positions of more vote catching, the poor and the suffering masses continue to languish under nature's furies.

The cyclone crossed northern coastal Andhra above Visakhapatnam at 1.30 a.m. on Oct. 4. Instead of moving, it continued to be stationary first at Vizag and later over Bhadrachalam and Nizamabad, resulting in unprecedented downpour over these areas causing heavy floods. The death toll was 134. About 200,000 houses were distroyed. Another 150,000 were partially damaged. Nearly 500,000 of people were evacuated from marooned villages and low-lying areas. While paddy on 150,000 hectares was totally damaged, the crop on another 350.000 hectares was partially affected.

In spite of the cyclone crossing the coast. Chief Minister Rama Rao left for the Srinagar conclave. But he cut short his stay there and returned to Delhi to "scribble a note to the Prime Minister" seeking immediate Central assistance pending assessment of damages.

To "scribble a note to the Prime Minister", itself was sufficient to sow the seeds of discord between the State and the Centre.

Mr Rama Rao reinforced this trend by commenting that the Prime Minister did not even send a message of sympathy to the cyclone victims "while she sent a telegram from abroad about communal incidents in Hyderabad".

Meanwhile, the hard-boiled Central Government merely looked on Mr Rama Rao getting down deeper into the mire.

In the second round, the Chief Minister asked the Centre to provide Rs one billion for cyclone relief. The haste with which the help was sought gave the impression that they were not based on facts and figures. This made Congress-I leaders feel that Mr Rama Rao was preparing to blame the Centre for not coming forward with immediate relief.

Another faux pas of Mr Rama Rao was that he was not going to invite Mrs Gandhi to visit the State to see the cyclone and flood havoc. However, if she came she was welcome, Mr Rao said.

But the Prime Minister dramatically visited the troubled spots and announced Rs 100 million as advance assistance to Andhra Pradesh in its hour of crisis.

When asked whether her visit was not slightly delayed, she retorted her engagements were prepared months ahead and even that day she could not have visited the State but for the cancellation of South Korean President's visit to India on that day.

Meanwhile everybody is complaining of lack of funds for much needed relief and rehabilitation work. It is in this context that a big controversy between opposition Congress-I leaders, and Mr Rama Rao is currently raging. Ex-Chief Ministers like Brahmananda Reddy, Chenna Reddy, J. Vengal Rao and T. Anjiah have assailed Mr Rama Rao not only for not rushing assistance to the cyclone and flood-hit people but also for using this nature's fury for creating "a Centre-State controversy".

Chief Minister Rama Rao has provided a point to his opponents by keeping away MPs and State Council members from the relief committee, who are all Congress-I members, while allowing State Assembly members there.

30 pc rise in ONGC crude production

THE Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has exploited 10.9 million tonnes of crude from its off-shore and on-shore fields during the first six months of the current financial year, recording an increase of 30 per cent over the figures for the corresponding period last year. Crude production during the first six months of 1982-83 was 8.4 million tonnes.

This will enable the commission to achieve this year's production target of 22.85 million tonnes of crude oil, 22.51 million cubic metres of natural gas and 157.000 tonnes of LPG (cooking gas).

Production of natural gas was 1063 million cubic metres during the period under review compared to 784 million cubic metres during the corresponding period last year. LPG production marked a 20 per cent increase from 63,700 tonnes in 1982-83 to 76,700 tonnes in the first half of the current financial year.

In 1982-83, ONGC's target achievements were 100 per cent in the production of oil, 112 per cent in the supply of natural gas, 114 per cent in LPG production, 93 per cent in drilling and 101 per cent in seismic surveys.

During 1982-83, ONGC's crude production was 18.2 million tonnes, an all-time record. This was 31.2 per cent more than the production in 1981-82. The improvement in LPG was 121 per cent and in gas sales, 51 per cent.

Considering that the projected demand for petroleum products was likely to touch 80 to 90 million tonnes by the end of the century. ONGC is accelerating its exploration and production activities.

Security sought for Vajpayee

BJP general secretary L. K. Advani has written to Home Minister P. C. Sethi, drawing attention to the threats being held out to the life of BJP president Atal Behari Vajpayee by the extremists in Punjab.

The Home Minister has been urged by the BJP leader to ensure that adequate security arrangements are made for Mr Vajpayee not only when he is in town, but also in the course of his incessant tours all over the country.

Mr Advani also spoke personally to Deputy Home Minister N. R. Laskar in this regard. Mr Laskar assured him that necessary arrangements were being made.

Linguistic intolerance in Karnataka

LINGUISTIC intolerance seems to be raising its ugly head once again in Karnataka. The State had recently witnessed a 'march' for Kannada, led by matinee idol Raj Kumar. The marchers' main demands were that Kannada should be made the sole compulsory first language from the primary stage administration in Kannada and no jobs for non-Kannadigas.

But for the high court's decision against forcing Kannada down the throat, things would have been in a mess when Gundu Rao appointed and later accepted the Gokak Committee report making Kannada the sole language of education.

Gundu Rao's successors, the Janata Government, too wanted to cash in on the Kannada sentiment, and they began with printing their poll manifesto in Kannada only. (One is yet to get an English copy of the documents.) Nameboards in Vidhana Soudha and the roads around the Secretariat took an overnight change to Kannada. But mercifully, the room numbers remain in Arabic numerals.

The Kannada sentiment was not to last too long for obvious reasons, and some communications from the Government began to appear in English as well. But what "prompted the Government to undertake a review of its Kannada policy was the threat of resignation by Labour Minister Aziz Sait who said the linguistic minorities, particularly the Muslims, will be deprived of job opportunities in Karnataka if the Gokak recommendation and the Government rule making knowledge of Kannada a pre-requisite for entering service were enforced. This has recently been amended, and now such people need pass a langauge test during the probation.

But this has led to protests from many organisations pledged to protection of Kannada and they have termed the amendment as a betrayal of Kannada and the Kannada people. An agitation has also been threatened.

Presently, a non-Kannadiga is not welcome to an employment exchange in the State unless a suitable consideration is offered, the Chief Minister's latest threat of dismissal from service for corruption, not-withstanding. As such the latest amendment is seen as a political gimmick to assuage minority feelings.

And the Kannada agitation will depend on the attitude of Raj Kumar, operating from Madras. So far, he has kept himself away from the politicians, and Kannada could be convenient ploy for political exploitation.

Criticism by Chief Justice jolts M-P Govt

THE recent statement by Madhya Pradesh High Court Chief Justice G. P. Singh criticising the indifferent and non-cooperative attitude of officials has apparently jolted the State Government.

Chief Minister Arjun Singh said that the Government took the observations of the Chief Justice seriously and that he had asked the Chief Secretary to look into the matter and submit a report to him quickly. The Government would take remedial action in the light of the Chief Secretary's suggestions. This might entail action against erring Government officials also.

Mr Justice Singh had felt unhappy over the failure of the Government to file returns (replies to notices issued by the High Court) even after several adjournments of the hearings to enable the Government to file its response. He had also disapproved of the frequent failure of Government counsel to appear in the court in such cases.

The Chief Justice gave vent to his feelings while addressing a meeting of the State Bar Association at Jabalpur. He observed that in some cases even final orders of the court were not promptly executed by the official machinery. This led to occasional pleas of contempt of court by the petitioners against the Government. He added that in certain cases the departmental secretaries, who were summoned to appear, assured the court that such lapses would not be repeated, but things did not improve.

The Chief Minister hinted that the office of the State Advocate-General at Jabalpur would also be strengthened so that prompt action was taken on the directions of the court and that the Government advocates did not fail to appear in the High Court.

Referring to the observation of the Chief Justice about the delay in filling the existing 10 vacancies in the High Court, the Chief Minister hoped that new judges would be appointed soon. There were reports of serious differences between the Chief Justice and the State Government on the names recommended for such appointments, and this had apparently held up the formal decision in the matter. The Chief Justice, who was known for independence and integrity, was reported to be against any political appointments. More than 28,000 cases were pending in the High Court.

Official sources here conceded that things were in a mess in the Law Department which was supposed to advise the Government in legal matters. The Law Department kept no record of the directions issued by the High Court, nor did it keep a track of the action taken (or the lack of it) by the departments concerned to comply with the court orders. There was a strange system in Vallabh Bhavan (State Secretariat) where there was no co-ordinating agency to even monitor the progress of cases or appeals filed by or against the Government in the High Court or the Supreme Court.

Senior officials in the Law Department argued that their only obligation was to give advice when sought by a department, and nothing more.

Manjhari tribals kill 15 dacoits

MORE than 15 alleged criminals have been killed by villagers in the predominantly tribal district of Chaibasa in the last one month. The killings, which took place last month in Manjhari and Tantera villages, follow close on the heels of the news about seven tribals having been allegedly abducted and killed by supporters of Mr K. C. Hembrom, the self-styled chief of the separatist Kolhan movement. Ironically, they also lend credence to the claims of the members of the Kolhan Raksha Sangh that they had no hand in the much publicised massere in Tantera village. Manjhari and Tantera do not fall in the Kolhan Belt.

Extensive interviews with the villages in various parts of Singbhum district have indicated that for more than one year these villages had been suffering from roving bands of desperadoes, who looted the meagre tribal households. Villagers said that these bandits swooped down on their villages mostly in the dead of night and indulged in merciless looting. Any resistance was sure to lead to a sound thrashing. In several cases, women had been raped.

A villager from Manjhari, who did not wish to be identified because of fears of police reprisals, said they had been forced to take the law into their own hands as their numerous complaints to the police had not borne fruit. He alleged that in several cases, the criminals they had apprehended and handed over to the police had been let off shortly after and had returned to seek vengeance.

The simple tribals, not understanding complicated court procedure, where bails are granted and punishments meted out after a long drawn trial, found it difficult to believe that the police were not in league with the desperadoes. And the village protection forces they created to deal with the menace of the roving bandits, decided that the criminals, mostly comprising tribals, had to be got rid of once for all. Thus we find that as many as 15 people were killed after summary trials by tribal leaders in the course of just one month.

This reporter, who made an extensive tour of Singbhum district found that the much-publicised killings in Tantera village, which the police had passed off as the handiwork of the separatist Kolhan Raksha Sangh, too, had come about in a similar manner. For many months prior to this, the villages around Tonto, including Tantera, where the killings took place, had witnessed housebreaks and even dacoities. The decision to kill the known offenders had been undoubtedly taken by activists of the Kolhan Raksha Sangh, but the killings were hardly political.

The leader of the Kolhan Raksha Sangh is underground. However, a close associate of Mr Hembrom talked about the massacre that had taken place in Tantera. He talked of the similar incidents occurring in various other places in the tribal heartland, including the environs of Ranchi, Chaibasa, and large been which, he said, and there was no doubt, and said that the Tantera incident was in any way different.

The Singbhum police has taken a serious view of these incidents. Patrolling by police parties has become much more intensive of late. But the patrollings only take care of the villages that are situated near the roads. There are numerous villages in Singbhum that are not connected by roads at all. These continue to be at the mercy of the roving desperadoes. There is little hope for them unless they arm themselves and fight back.

Freedom—external and internal

INDIAN IDEA OF FREEDOM: By Dennis Gilmore Dalton; Academic Press Pp. 227; Rs 95.

THE author is concerned with the development of the idea of freedom in modern India with special reference to four major Indian thinkers, Vivekananda (1863-1902), Aurobindo (1872-1950), Gandhi (1869-1948) and Tagore (1861-1941). The selection is based on the presumption that these four constitute a school of modern Indian thought as they share both the purpose and the fundamental principles mainly concerning the nature of freedom. Two complimentary components of freedom emerge: external (political and social), and internal (moral and spiritual).

Another important assumption is that though all of them agree on the fundamental issues, each has made a distinctive contribution to the development of the idea of freedom. Since Vivekananda synthesises the various strands of nineteenth century Indian thought and was the seminal influence behind this school, he is the most important thinker of this school. Aurobindo is its outstanding theoretician. Gandhi attempts to implement his idea of freedom and harmony and Tagore is the critic or the conscience of the school warning against the cult of nationalism.

Dalton's choice of the subject is determined by two factors. (a) Much of the century India was engulfed in a struggle for political and social freedom and as a consequence the leading thinkers gave a great deal of attention to this crucial issue; (b) Their vision reveals both continuity and innovation and to work out a synthesis of Indian and Western ideas.

This attempt of a conceptual correspondence between the East and the West began with Raja Rammohun Roy (1774-1833)) who wanted to create a new synthesis between Indian and Western ideas. This tradition to incorporate the new western ideas in the Indian mould was clearly manifested in the writings and actions of all the important figures of the nineteenth century. What, however, is striking in Vivekananda is that freedom for him had both the aspects of self respect and self expression. Pointing out the singular importance of freedom Vivekananda said:

"Where liberty of thought and action does not exist, the man, the race, the nation must go down. Caste or no caste, creed or no creed, any man, or class, or caste, or nation or institution which bars the power of free thought and action of an individual—even so long as that power does not injure others—is devilish and must go down.

This emphasis on freedom enables him to forcefully argue the case for equality and harmony simultaneously. This also enables him to conceive of a "society of individuals where conflict and competition were supplanted by a common realisation of the unity of mankind."

Aurobindo begins as a champion of Indian nationalism and independence but later on emphasises on individual freedom and social harmony. It is in Aurobindo that the most substantial theoretical development of modern Indian idea of freedom takes place. His basic purpose is to work out a framework in which the individual grows freely in society. This primacy of the individual pervades the entire philosophy of Aurobindo and in this respect Dalton aptly remarks that for him freedom is both the means as well as the object of human fulfilment. It is the very basis of human development. Freedom is not alien to human nature because the nature of man is destined to find freely and naturally with environment. Logically a

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just society is to guarantee freedom for social and political perfection for a total development which ultimately enables man to realise the spirit by which he completely identifies himself with mankind.

This progressive development is achieved in stages with three cyclic periods, (a) the infrarational, (b) rational and (c) spiritual. The first period is very similar to Rousseau's state of nature. The second is the modern period with different and succeeding manifestations like an age of liberty, an age of equality and an anarchic age. These different trends lead to crystallisations in a democratic and individualistic aspiration as well as in a socialistic and communistic quest. He is critical of both democracy and socialism, of democracy because of its excessive competition and of socialism because of its efforts to sacrifice individual freedom for social harmony. Elaborating on this theme of suppression of the individual he makes a frontal attack on any kind of totalitarianism because of its total annihilation of individual freedom. In the last phase of the modern age, anarchistic trends strengthen man's urge for freedom.

For moving from the rational to the spiritual age, Aurobindo finds the present system of nation states to be grossly inadequate because its structure is not at all conducive for a continued development of freedom and harmony. So he speaks of 'world union' which lies beyond the present nation state system. The basis of this world union is unity in diversity and here the climax from the rational to the spiritual begins.

For Gandhi freedom, for which he deliberately uses the word Swaraj is primarily an individual and not a collective quality and in this he is comparable both to Vivekananda and Aurobindo. Further, though he mentions specifically the components of civil liberty, yet he also emphasises that the real content of freedom must constitute more than the social, economic and political freedom, because Swaraj means much more than independence. The four components of Gandhi's Swaraj are economic and political independence and truth and nonviolence. Gandhi in his formulation of Swaraj makes the same distinction between the inner and outer freedom as is conceived before by Vivekananda and Aurobindo. The enormous importance that he puts to the realisation of this inward freedom can be demonstrated by the fact that not only before India's independence but even after he emphasises repeatedly the point that Swaraj would remain totally empty without the realisation of inward freedom.

The well known Gandhi-Tagore controversy clearly brings out the difference in the outlook between them. Tagore argues, first that within the domestic context, Indians have sacrificed their own power to think by unquestionably accepting the teachings of their leader. This in itself is a serious error though the leader happens to be saintly who has harnessed their blind following which helps in retardation rather than in growth. Second, Tagore is concerned with the implications of Gandhian teachings at the international level because Gandhi's ideas have fostered mostly a very unhealthy climate of separateness which rejects the knowledge and advances of the Western world. Gandhi replied to both the charges but that did not diminish the suspicion of Tagore because as Dalton correctly observes that in many utterences of Gandhi, Tagore detected a feeling which might be interpreted to threaten individual freedom. For Tagore the greatest obstacle to realisation of freedom is the slavish mentality.

However, Dalton does not take up the many other aspects of Tagore's conception of freedom which is spread over many of his poems and essays. This is a significant omission in the book.

Dalton very appropriately remarks that these four thinkers have contributed more to the development of modern Indian thought than any other contemporary thinker. Their major contributions are twofold. (a) A response to Western impact that would meet demands of contemporary India and (b) their theoretical concern of dealing with questions like nature of man, relationship of man and society, nature of good society and techniques of change. It is the contention of the author that though there are basic agreements on the important assumptions, yet all of them make significant contributions in their treatment of particular aspects of social and political problems, ultimately leading to the construction of a distinctive philosophy of modern Indian freedom.

It is an extremely well written and provocative book with a scholarly treatment of a sensitive and difficult topic. Ever since Hegel put freedom as the core of Western political philosophy, there have been innumerable number of exciting treatment of freedom by many a Western scholar. Let us hope that Dalton's account would provide the necessary impetus to our scholars to dissect our concepts and contributors to this world debate more critically and comprehensively.

Subrata Mukherjee

More credible than Attenborough's?

GANDHI—A Play by V. D. Trivadi; FHB Publishing, Madras; Rs. 69.

MAHATMA Gandhi's was a long life by Indian standards. Such being the case anyone attempting to distill the essence of his life and work is always open to the accusation that he has left out of the reckoning one thing or another. It has happened to Attenborough, magnificent though his achievement has been. It will now happen to Trivadi.

Where, one might ask, is Noakhali? Why no reference at all to the Quit India Movement? And why has Trivadi created some new characters when he hasn't made the fullest use of the real-life characters who dominated the stage in Indian and world events? These questions only show that there are as many Gandhis as there are people and it can be said of us who are close to his times that to each man there is his own private and public Gandhi.

Trivadi's Gandhi is a credible Gandhi, perhaps even more so than Attenborough's. The eminent director may be said to have forgotten his promise to Nehru and deified the Mahatma. Trivadi does no such thing: He shows up the Mahatma for what he was — warts and all, to use a cliche. But there are times when only the cliche will serve most faithfully.

The play which, incidentally, is the only dramatic presentation of one of the most greatest lives lived in India, consists of four Acts. The first gets the curtain going up with the Mahatma ridiculing his own handwriting and then engaging himself in conversation with a young man who, though distant from him in years, admires him unabashedly. Enter a Chief Minister who represents a type rather than a person; he could be a pompous dignitary just about anywhere that you can name and he epitomises, a little too of fortlessly, an "in between" generation that Gandhi fears he may have lost already. His idealism, if any such had existed, has gone almost completely; in reaching out for the spoils of office he knows that he still needs the prop and magic of Gandhi's name The end of a beautiful dream, you might say, and the beginning of the rat-race.

It is clear to see that the Mahatma is disappointed with him and his like but there is nothing he can do about it. They, ultimately, are the people who will run his motherland which, while it can be saved from alien rule, may not so easily be saved from theirs. The disenchantment has set in too soon after independence. Inevitable, perhaps, in the circumstances.

If the first Act ends with a shattering mini-climax, with a rape victim ranting at the Mahatma and eventually becoming a member of his ashram, there just might be a good reason. The climax of the Gandhi story itself is one of epic proportions but it also is part of an instant, insistent and imminent history. It has its due place in the fourth and final Act; it is shattering when it comes but, all said and done, it can only be underplayed in our own times.

Act Two features a momentous meeting between two giants of the era, Gandhi and Nehru. The sparks do not fly. They are obviously not meant to. But the fundamental differences between them is beautifully captured. And these, let us remember are the differences that ironically both separated and united them. Mutual admiration and affection encompass all, surmount all. The third Act is a series of stageable flashbacks: the Mahatma recollecting the past, more particularly his relations with his wife and sons.

Trivadi's Gandhi is manageable both in reading and playing. Though not written for children it can be acted by children as, indeed, by adults. Herein lies its immense usefulness.

Umashankar Phadnis

Briefly

INDIAN POLICE IN ACTION: By Trilok Nath; Super Publishing House; New Delhi; Pp. 130; Rs 60.

MR Trilok Nath is a specialist in crime stories. His first book "Indian Police—a case for a new image" was published in 1978. In 1978 he wrote "Crime and Detection in India." It was received well by the general public because of the crime stories and by the professional policemen because it helped them in their investigation work.

In the present book there are 24 stories. Some of them were published in the "Mystery" a monthly journal and some in the "Patriot," of Delhi. Some of the cases in this book were so intelligently worked out that the police personnel dealing with them were awarded special commendation by the Government of India and State Governments. Mr Nath is a prolific and facile writer who holds the reader's interest through complicated case narrations.

Among the remarkable investigation stories are the National Museum Theft in 1968, Suicide or Homicide, A Legislator's murder, A murder most foul, Killer Romeo and a Murder on the Wheels.

The stories are very interesting to the general reader and the policemen will find them very useful for their investigation work. The two books have covered 52 stories and he is planning to hit his first century of crime stories with 48 more. Crime story readers and policemen will wish him speedy innings to hit the century.

G. K. Kutty

ADMINISTRATION OF EDUCATION IN INDIA: By P. D. Shukla; Vikas; Pp. 216; Rs. 95.

A CONCISE descriptive study of educational administration and planning, this book can serve as a fine text for a subject still in its infancy in India.

Some of the suggestions made are rather normative. For example, it is proposed that politicians should exercise restraint while dealing with educational institutions! Though highly desirable, it is almost impossible in a country where politicians derive much support, particularly in the districts, from schools and colleges.

Shashi Shar

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Tarapur spares from Bonn

IF the West German offer to supply spares for the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant, announced just before Chancellor Helmut Kohl's "introductory" visit to the country last week, underlined Bonn's special interest in cementing ties with New Delhi, Dr Kohl himself came out with the admission that it was a mistake on the part of his country to have ignored Asia, particularly India, which had a crucial role to play both in the East-West and North-South dialogues. But the discussions Dr Kohl held with Mrs Gandhi during his one-day stopover in New Delhi as well as the talks at the Foreign Ministers level showed that while Bonn was not insensitive to the demands of the Third World for greater developmental assistance and a better economic order, the differences in the perceptions of the two countries on the vital questions of peace and disarmament remained too wide to be bridged in the near future.

In fact, Dr Kohl was not a wee bit apologetic in defending his country's decision to allow the deployment of American Pershing missiles to counter the threat from Soviet land-based missiles targetted against West Germany. True to speculation, this topic dominated the discussions, with India holding that moves and counter-moves of this nature heightened the possibility of a nuclear holocaust and the Federal Republic of Germany arguing that it had little choice in the matter as the Soviets had positioned hundreds of missiles aimed at West European countries that had none to defend themselves with. Dealing with the missile question at his news conference, the FRG Chancellor said that unless there was some specific response from Moscow by the middle of the month, the deployment of US missiles would begin according to schedule.

Not that FRG was unconcerned with the results of the Geneva talks on reduction of nuclear missiles by the Super Powers. On the other hand, the success of these talks mattered more to West Germany than other West European countries. Dr Kohl hoped that the Stockholm conference on arms limitation, to be held early next year as a follow-up of the Madrid Conference on European Security and Co-operation, would produce some positive results leading to a reduction of tension all over Europe. But till that happened his country could not afford to slacken on security and Pershing deployment was a vital necessity. All that India could say in the

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West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi last week.

56 killed in oil wagon explosion

AT least 56 persons were killed and over 100 others injured, several of them seriously, when two tank wagons of a stationary petroleum special exploded after catching fire at Chulabari railway station of North-East Frontier Railway in Bihar two weeks back.

In the ensuing fire 22 persons were charred to death on the spot while 14 others succumbed to their injuries while being taken to the hospital. Most of the seriously injured were rushed to North Bengal Medical College Hospital at Siliguri and others were admitted to the Islampur civil hospital. A railway medical van with senior doctors arrived at the spot from New Jalpaiguri and took charge of arrangements for medical relief.

The fire was brought under control by the Islampur fire brigade. As extensive damage had been caused to the railway track train services were suspended in the Jalpaiguri-Barso broad gauge section of the railway for eight hours.

According to one report a large number of people from Chanamana village in the Pothia police station area were pilfering fuel from two tank wagons carrying naphtha which were leaking. About 150 containers, including buckets, utensils and barrels strewn around the scene of the conflagration testified to this. Reportedly some persons pilfering the oil lit a "biri" at the site of the village, resulting in the naphtha, which is even more inflammable than petrol, catching fire.

No terrorists in police net

AMIDST reports that the combing operations in Punjab have not succeeded in curbing terrorist activities even marginally, Governor B.D. Pande and his advisers were in New Delhi last week to assure Central leaders that all such fears were unfounded. In his separate meetings with President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Governor painted a different picture of the impact of the drive which was beginning to show results. If Mr Pande furnished any evidence in support of his claim of having restored people's faith in the law and order machinery during the month-long President's rule, it remained a closely-guarded secret. For, if the number of petty criminals and smugglers rounded up in the crackdown was mounting, so was the spate of extremist depredations.

More important was the fact that not one of the 3,000 people detained till last week could be called an extremist, the main target of the drive that started with a bang on Oct. 19 with the massive induction of para-military forces. Though the exclusion of the Golden Temple and other gurdwaras from the purview of the anti-terrorist operations constituted a serious handicap for the security forces in producing results, there was no excuse for the raiding parties to have left out the villages in the border districts, most of which have become dens of unlicensed fire-arms. All that the raids covering the whole State have yielded so far were just a few small arms, seized mainly from individuals, a little opium and some contraband gold and silver from known smugglers.

But the Governor felt confident that the situation would improve with the passage of time. Considering that the law and order situation had been allowed to deteriorate to an alarming extent, one month was too short a time even with the special powers conferred on the administration to eliminate extremist activities altogether. Apart from the shelter given to some of the wanted extremists by the Akalis, the administration had to contend with the disruptive activities of disgruntled politicians too. The Governor gave an ac-

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THE WEEK IN INDIA

INDIA'S German connection seemed all set to grow, particularly in the economic and scientific spheres, following the "intensive" discussions that Chancellor Helmut Kohl has had with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during his one-day "introductory" stopover in New Delhi and his declaration that Bonn was determined to end its earlier neglect of the Asian region. As the first step in this direction, the Federal Republic of Germany has concluded an agreement to supply spare parts for the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant without insisting on additional safeguards.

Concerned at the continuing anti-India tirade, New Delhi has warned Islamabad that the attempt to divert people's attention from the domestic turmoil by pointing an accusing finger at India could cause serious harm to the current process of normalisation of relations. Pakistan Ambassador Riaz Piracha was also told of India's objections over the restrictions put on the movement of its envoy, which came in sharp contrast to the freedom enjoyed by his counterpart in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's special envoy G. Parthasarathy's resumed mission in Colombo to bring the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil leaders to the negotiating table for solving the ethnic problem reached a crucial stage following his third round of discussion with President Jayewardene and the separate parleys held with prominent Opposition leaders.

With the death of seven more critically wounded people in hospital, the toll in the Gauhati railway station blast has mounted to 20, while an equal number of the 42 injured lying in the Medical College Hospital were in a grave condition. The night explosion, caused by a powerful time bomb, which killed 13 people on the spot, was believed to be the work of the Assam agitators, who have chalked out a fresh protest programme to coincide with Mrs Gandhi's two-day visit to the State.

While Governor B.D. Pande and his four advisers cited the arrest of 3,000 small-time criminals and known smugglers as proof of the success of the State-wide crackdown on terrorists, bike-borne gangs of extremists were going around merrily, raiding banks, looting petrol pumps and helping themselves to whatever arms and ammunition they needed from private dealers and the police.

In a volte-face on its oft-repeated stand that payment of bonus must be productivity-linked, the Central Government has decided to pay half a month's salary as ad hoc bonus to nearly 2.5 million people on its payroll. Opposition leaders lost no time in describing the Rs 440 million drain on the exchequer involved as an election-eve bonanza, whose price the citizens will have to pay very soon.

Govt won't allow import of tallow

THE tallow controversy is building up into a major political issue with the ruling Congress-I and the Opposition National Democratic Alliance comprising the Lok Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party levelling charges against each other.

Regularly Congress-I leaders are issuing statement after statement blaming the Janata regime for allowing the import of animal tallow under the open general licence (OGL). Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, addressing a meeting at Ajmer last week, reiterated her party's stand that her Government had never permitted the import of beef tallow into the country and that it would never do so in future also. She also pointed out that she had ordered an investigation into the allegations that tallow was being mixed at least in certain cases with vanaspati and added that the investigation had shown that of the 4,000 vanaspati samples taken from different parts of the country no adulteration was found.

According to many senior Congress-I leaders, the tallow issue was being exploited by "reactionary and communal parties" to create confusion in the people's mind and to harm the country's economy. They say the Lok Dal and the BJP have decided to exploit the issue as an election gimmick. It was clear, Congress-I men maintain, that these parties did not have any concern for the wrong and inadmissible use of animal tallow, because otherwise the Janata regime would not have placed beef tallow on the OGL which facilitated its import in liberal quantities.

"On the other hand, what is the record of the Government? The moment it came to the notice of the Government that some unscrupulous persons had used animal tallow for manufacturing vanaspati, it took the sternest action including placing persons under preventive detention for their offences against the law. ... *It is the work of a few dishonest and anti-social elements* who were not licensed to produce vanaspati. They have been firmly dealt with and their stocks have been seized," Congress-I leaders say.

But the Lok Dal was not the one to give in easily. It demanded that the Central Government should either come forward to institute an inquiry into the "tallow scandal" or resign on the issue and let the people decide who was guilty. Party general secretary Rameshwar Singh, MP, told a news conference in New Delhi that the Opposition was determined to take the issue to the people if the Government does not hold an inquiry. He said the question was not of import of tallow only but how it came to be used for adulteration. He released a document claiming to prove that the State Trading Corporation had imported 100,000 tonnes of various types of tallow, including beef tallow, between December 1982 and August 1983.

Clearly, the Opposition NDA seems to think that the tallow controversy is a good opportunity to rouse the people against the Government. Use of beef and pig tallow in cartridges had triggered off the Mutiny in 1857, some Opposition leaders point out and ask "why are the people not revolting the same way now?"

What of the reaction of the general public to the issue? The general belief is that tallow has got into vanaspati which almost everyone uses in cooking food. Both Hindus, for whom beef is taboo and Muslims for whom pig is taboo, feel "polluted". According to reports trickling in, there has been a fall in the sales of vanaspati in many parts of the country. And, in the rural areas, priests who perform marriages and temple priests are said to be refusing to do the rituals if anything cooked in vanaspati is presented for offerings.

It is because the Government is aware of the widespread anger over the issue that last week it brought on the Shankaracharya of Dwarka and Jyotirmath, Swami Swaroopananda, on the national television hook-up. The Swami advised the Hindus to do "prayaschit" (penance) if they felt guilty about having consumed "beef adulterated" vanaspati.

21 new Bills for winter session

AS many as 21 new Bills are being brought forward by the Government during the winter session of Parliament.

The legislative programme for the session was approved at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao. Others present included Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Buta Singh, Law Minister Jagannath Kaushal and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting H. K. L. Bhagat.

The 21 new Bills are in addition to 15 Government Bills pending in the Lok Sabha and another four Bills in the Rajya Sabha.

Besides, the Finance Minister will present supplementary demands for grants for 1983-84, in view of the increased expenditure of the Government on various items, including the recently-announced bonus for Central Government employees.

The Government will also seek the approval of Parliament of the proclamation bringing Punjab under President's rule.

Other Government business will include discussions on the sixth Plan, National Health Policy and reports of the Union Pubic Service Commission.

Among the new Bills top-most priority will be given to those which are to replace the six Ordinances that were issued by the President during the inter-session period. Of these, three relate to Punjab — the Punjab Disturbed Areas Ordinance, the Chandigarh Disturbed Areas Ordinance, and the Armed Forces (Punjab and Chandigarh), Special Powers Ordinance.

Then comes the Ordinance under which 13 textile mills in the Bombay region were taken over by the Government, pending their nationalisation. The other two Ordinances are the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Ordinance, which relates to Assam, and the Tea (Amendment) Ordinance.

Of the other new Bills, mention may be made of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, the purpose of which is to reserve certain items for exclusive production in the small scale sector, the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, to amend the definition of "continuous service" and the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill to widen the scope of coverage and to revise the rates of compensation.

Among the pending Bills, of interest to Delhi, are the Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Bill, which was introduced as early as on August 1, 1980, the Delhi Municipal Corporation Amendment Bill, the Delhi Development Amendment Bill and the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill. Of the four Bills pending in the Rajya Sabha is the Visva Bharati (Amendment) Bill on which a joint committee has submitted a report on Aug. 18, 1983.

Move to replace sales tax shelved

IN the face of stiff opposition from non-Congress-I ruled States, the conference of Chief Ministers in New Delhi last week as good as shelved the proposal to replace sales tax with an additional excise levy on selected commodities like cement, vanaspati, medicines and petroleum products. Thus, the recommendation of the Tripathi Committee report was put in cold storage, through a resolution adopted by the conference, while incorporating the differences on the issue, called in vague terms for further efforts to allay the apprehensions expressed by some State Governments on the subject.

A report that the conference had set up a committee to examine the question of replacing sales tax by an additional excise levy was later corrected to clarify that no such committee had been set up. Only, a nine-man committee had been set up to examine the rate of consignment tax to be levied by the Centre under Article 269 of the Constitution for distribution of proceeds among the States.

Several Chief Ministers expressed serious reservations on the twin proposals to replace sales tax by an additional excise duty on selected items and levying tax on inter-State consignment of goods in spite of assurances held out by Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee that the financial interests of the States would be adequately protected. While there was total opposition from the non-Congress-I Chief Ministers, even States ruled by the Congress-I expressed only qualified support to the proposals. The Opposition ruled States in fact wanted even the existing scheme on sugar, tobacco and cloth to be scrapped pending receipt of the Sarkaria Commission report on Centre-State relations. Even some Congress-I Chief Ministers wanted assurances from the Centre that the present yields from sales tax on selected commodities be included in the scheme and future revenue potential ensured as well. Actually, whether the Chief Ministers were from Congress-I ruled States or those controlled by the Opposition, none of them was prepared to accept a formula that would reduce their revenues.

It was apparent from the tenor of speeches at the conference that Chief Ministers of Opposition ruled States preferred to escalate the Tripathi Committee proposal into a wider issue of Centre-State relations. After the conference, addressing newsmen, the Marxist Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr Jyoti Basu, categorically stated that his Government would put across to the Sarkaria Commission that a substantial measure of initiative should be left in the hands of the States to levy and mobilise their own tax resources and improve their finances. Explaining the stand he had taken at the conference, he said "if you take away little by little the States' power to raise their own tax revenue, it would not contribute to better Centre-State relations."

Detailing his State's opposition to the Tripathi Committee proposal, Mr Basu asserted "our basic contention is that it will abridge the financial power of States. Earlier, in 1977-78, Chief Ministers had allowed the Central Government to take over some items, but the States were not compensated." West Bengal had lost Rs 20 billion which should have come in to the State exchequer, he said.

According to Mr Basu, there was a strong traders' lobby advocating abolition of sales tax. They were the people responsible for black-marketing and price rise and they were the ones contributing to political funds.

As regards the resolution adopted by the conference, Mr Basu expressed satisfaction that for the time being no majority decision had been "foisted" on the State Governments to replace sales tax by an additional excise levy.

Meanwhile, at a meeting of the Congress-I Manifesto Implementation Committee in New Delhi, it was revealed that Congress-I ruled States had decided to replace octroi by entry tax.

Bonus for all Central staff

THE Central Government has announced a Diwali bonanza of 15 days' pay as bonus to its employees during 1983-84. Acceptance of the demand for bonus for all, for the first time will benefit five lakh Government employees who are not covered by the productivity-linked bonus schemes and its financial implications are of the order of about Rs 440 million in the current financial year.

While taking this decision, the Government also gave its consent to a wage revision in the coal industry which will benefit 700,000 coal workers to the tune of Rs 2 billion a year.

These two major decisions were taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The payment of bonus will be limited to employees drawing emoluments of Rs 1600 a month, and they too would receive bonus as if their emoluments were Rs 750 a month. Payment this year will be of an "ad hoc and interim nature" pending the evolution of a formula for these categories of employees as a whole, or separate formulae for each sector.

It was pointed out that 82 per cent of the Central Government employees, such as, those working in the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and the defence production are already getting productivity-linked bonus. The ad-hoc 15 days bonus announced today will benefit all employees including men of the Central police, para-military forces and personnel of the Armed Forces.

Demands had been made from time to time that the remaining Central Government employees should also be given bonus as they too contributed to productivity in Government. The official announcement said that in view of the imperative need for curbing the Government's administrative expenditure, it had also been decided to upgrade the norms of performance, enhance productivity and ensure economy in Government expenditure.

The third National Coal Wage Agreement approved by the Government also provides for a special incentive of Rs 12 to each worker every month. The revised pay-scale and other financial benefits which were agreed upon by the Joint Bipartite Committee for the coal industry were approved by the Centre last month. With this decision it will be possible for the Committee now to finalise the agreement. Under the agreement, coal workers will be entitled to a night shift alllowance, besides higher house-rent allowance, liberalised leave travel concessions and higher transport subsidy.

By another decision, the Centre has decided to give higher allowances to Central Government employees who are transferable to any part of the country and who are posted to any station in the States and Union territories of the North Eastern region and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A fixed tenure be will be laid down for them and a-special duty allowance at 25 per cent of the basic pay will be paid, subject to a limit of Rs 400 a month, to mitigate their hardships.

It has also been decided to remove the existing pay restriction for children's educational allowance. Employees whose children are studying in schools and residing in hostels at the last or any other station would be given a hostel subsidy without restriction.

UP alert against new clashes

THE UP Government is taking a serious view of the present communal situation in the State and is determined to take stern measures to maintain peace at any cost, according to an official spokesman.

The situation is being closely watched, particularly in the sensitive districts of the State and a general alert has been given to take fool-proof precautionary measures to prevent any incidents.

The State Government is also keeping the Union Home Ministry posted about the developments and full information has been sent to them about the communal incidents at Tanda and Bahraich and the latest riots at Maunath Bhanjan in Azamgarh district.

What is disturbing the official circles here is the fact that there are many similarities in the incidents at all the three places. It was a manifestation of a new type of aggressiveness acquired by the two communities who are trying to assert their rights and even invent new ones. At Tanda and Mau religious processions were attacked and at Bahraich there was a dispute over new construction at a mosque.

PM envoy's parleys at crucial stage

SOON after landing in Colombo last week, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's special envoy, Mr G. Parthasarathy, got busy with rounds of talks with various leaders starting with a meeting with President Junius Jayewardene. During this second visit of his to Sri Lanka since ethnic violence rocked the island last July-August, Mr Parthasarathy also called on Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed and Mr Thondaman, Rural Industries Minister and leader of the Indian Tamils.

Mr Parthasarathy's meeting with President Jayewardene took place amid reports in Colombo that Sri Lanka had sounded India on a meeting between him and Mrs Gandhi during the Commonwealth summit in New Delhi on Nov. 21.

A conspicuous absentee as the Indian negotiator resumed his talks in Colombo was the Tamil United Liberation Front leader, Mr A. Amirthalingam, who has been accused in Lankan circles of having links with separatist Tamil militant youth.

While it is too early to expect that Mr Parathasarathy's good offices would lead to the creation of a climate conducive for the Sinhalese and Tamil leaders to come to the negotiating table, his main objective appears to be to probe the Sinhalese and Tamil opinion to identify such strains of commonality of approaches as may exist between the two. During the second visit, Mr Parthasarathy found, as different from what was during his first trip, a change in the internal situation in the island with the Government being in a position to check any outburst of Sinhalese-Tamil riots. Simultaneously, he found evidence of non-official groups taking the initiative to soften the ruffled feelings between the two ethnic groups.

A new situation to which Mr Parthasarathy had to address himself was in respect of the disqualification and unseating of Tamil MPs because of their refusal to take the prescribed oath of swearing allegiance to the unity of Sri Lanka. In this regard, there were reported moves by the Government to postpone the by-elections to fill vacancies caused by the unseating of the 16 TULF members. "The overall climate in the country is not conducive at all to carrying out normal political activities, let alone a by-election campaign," wrote the "Island" newspaper.

Even as the Indian envoy began his round of meetings in Colombo, the Jayewardene Government came under fresh pressure from a section of the local Press to initiate some meaningful action at least to set in motion the process of negotiation and national reconciliation. One editorial said: "We do not expect Mrs Gandhi to provide either short or long term solutions to our ethnic problems. We must do this job ourselves, but she can help to break the deadlock between the Government and the TULF and thus get started the search for a solution through discussion and negotiation."

But how positively would the TULF react was not clear as the TULF leaders announced that they had no formal role to play during Parthasarathy's second visit. Party leaders would, however, be available for any clarifications that might be necessary. The TULF has taken the stand that any proposal that might emerge from Mr Parthasarathy's efforts could be taken up with the TULF leadership in Madras on Mr Parthasarathy's visit to India.

Since the ethnic violence, over 12,500 Sri Lankan Tamils have fled across the Palk Straits, while on the island about 23,000 refugees still live in camps afraid of returning to their homes.

Reserve Bank move to stem inflation

THE Reserve Bank of India swung into action to throttle the lending capability last week of the banks to stem the inflation-tide.

The present cash reserve ratio for banks is 8.5 per cent. They have been directed to hold back from utilisation another 10 per cent of the additional funds received over and above the level of Nov. 11. Thus besides the 8.5 per cent cash reserve ratio, the banks will have to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10 per cent.

According to quick estimates, the latest directive of the RBI would lead to impounding of an additional minimum amount of Rs 3 billion of lendable resources of the banking system. The RBI had estimated the bank deposits, in the current year, at Rs 80 billion. But the deposits in the first six months alone have totalled Rs 50 billion.

This continued excess liquidity in the banking system is considered to be fuelling inflation and pushing up the price line. Experts feel that the problem of plenty of funds with the banking system could easily lead to some sort of "distress lending". This can cause serious problems for the economy.

In his letter to the banks, RBI Governor Manmohan Singh has explained that the present step to raise cash reserve ratio had been taken to ensure "better alignment between the sources and uses of funds."

In more recent weeks, he said, the growth in deposits has accelerated 'and the pick up in credit has been more subdued than visualised." The banking system continues to have "considerable excess liquidity". Expansion of primary money in the current financial year continues to be very large and the price situation is also a cause for concern.

Trade protocol with GDR

INDIA and the German Democratic Republic have signed a trade protocol for 1984 that envisages a 10 per cent growth over the trade turnover between the two countries during the current year.

The trade plan for 1983 (January-December), drawn up in Berlin last year, anticipated a trade turnover of Rs 2.98 billion. The turnover in 1984 is expected to be worth Rs 3.29 billion.

The 1984 protocol, which maintains the slightly favourable trade balance for India, was signed in New Delhi by Mr V. N. Kaul, joint secretary in the Commerce Ministry, and Mr H. Marx, Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Trade of East Germany.

In terms of the 1984 protocol, India will export to East Germany agricultural products like tea, coffee, tobacco and deoiled cakes, leather and leather products like shoe-uppers, textiles, minerals, iron ore, mica, engineering goods, chemicals and other products.

East Germany has agreed to import more of tobacco, castor oil, spices, oilcakes, readymade garments, sea foods, cashew kernels and finished leather. Among the new items it will buy from India are dry batteries, plain paper copying machines, industrial fasteners, diamond cutting tools, cosmetics and knitwear.

India's imports from East Germany will include fertilisers, cement, newsprint, cinematographic films, diesel generating sets, machine tools and other capital goods.

Reviewing the trade during 1983 it was noted by the two sides that trade had registered significant growth during the year compared to 1982. India's exports to East Germany are likely to be 23 to 24 per cent higher this year over that of last year.

Preparations on for INSAT-II

INDIA, which at present has the "modest capability" to launch small satellites in near-earth orbits, will make efforts to acquire "geosynchronous launch capability" in a decade or so, said Prof. E. V. Chitnis. Director, Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad, while delivering the L. N. Gupta Memorial Lecture in New Delhi.

To commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of late Mr L.N. Gupta, the L. N. Gupta Memorial Award in Science was presented to Prof. Chitnis by Union Minister for External Affairs P. V. Narasimha Rao.

The topic of Prof. Chitnis' address was "Communication Networks via Space."

He said the first generation Indian satellites are expected to be in operation by 1990. The two INSAT-I satellites have been made to Indian specifications by the Ford Aerospace and Communication Corporation, USA.

It is proposed to have a second generation satellite, INSAT-II, designed and built in India, for which the launch will still have to be arranged from abroad. Preparations are already under way to build up facilities for INSAT-II.

He said India has acquired competence to design and build communication hardware for the ground segment.

As a result of close working across the departmental boundaries on experimental projects and for an operational INSAT system over a period of a decade, a human communication network has emerged via space. This is one of the most important contributions of "Space" to national development and it augurs well for the future, he said.

By its very nature, space technology involves efforts by large teams of inter disciplinary project modes. While individual performance is important, team effort for achieving any major task requires contribution from a large nuumber of people. As such a fine blending of organisational effort and individual creativity is necessary, he said.

One cannot just develop expensive technology and expect users to find applications, he added. One must envision practical application and involve potential users, while technology is being developed and tried out experimentally. For this social perspective and commitment are necessary.

He recalled that in March 1970, he along with Vikram Sarabhai and others in ISRO made a presentation on INSAT—National Satellite for TV and Telecommunications—at the National Conference on Electronics at Bombay. The conference paved the way for the setting up of the Electronics Commission and the Department of Electronics.

In conclusion, outlining the national strategy for television and telecommunication satellite, he said that in a ten year time frame one must acquire the capability not only of building telecommunication satellites such as INSAT-I but also of launching them into synchronous orbit from our new range at Sriharikota Island.

Prof. Chitnis said, "Now 12 years after this presentation, on April 10, 1982 INSAT-IA was launched. Unfortunately it was a short lived satellite and was lost in September 1982. INSAT-IB was launched on Aug. 30, 1983 and is currently in operation. The INSAT-IA is a multipurpose operational satellite system for domestic communication, meteorology, nationwide direct TV broadcasting to rural communities and radio and TV programme distribution via rebroadcasting networks.

He illustrated India's accomplishments in the area of space communication by speaking at length on Satellite Instructional Television Experiment programme. STEP exercise in satellite communication using Symphonie satellite, India's first experimental communication satellite APPLE.

SOME PROGRESS IN SINO-INDIAN TALKS

THE latest round of Sino-Indian talks on border issue which ended in New Delhi early this month had resulted in "some progress", according to External Affairs Minister Mr Narasimha Rao. Mr Rao told newsmen in London that the two sides were still grappling with formulating common principles to discuss the border issue. "The whole question is one" but China's agreeing to discuss border sector-by-sector for a comprehensive solution represented progress to some extent. he added.

"One cannot say that there was a leap forward or any great advance. But the New Delhi talks were a step in right direction. The process of negotiations is on and there is goodwill on both sides."

Foreign Minister pointed out that in earlier rounds two countries had first been stating their positions and then they had attempted to understand each other's point of view. Now they had to finalise principles on which the border issue is to be discussed, he said, adding their both sides had made suggestions in this regard.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that the two countries have agreed to exchange experts' missions.

A Chinese study group will visit India to study shellac production while two Indian missions on biogas and mini hydel power plants will be visiting China. This was agreed to at the meeting of the group on science and technology during the Sino-Indian talks.

According to the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry the two sides discussed new proposals during a review of ongoing programme of bilateral exchanges in science and technology.

The new areas included agriculture and irrigation electronics and communication systems, health population control, drug research, mining, bio-technology, natural medicines, sericulture, carpet industry and biomass technology. The spokesman said that both sides viewed the on-going programmes in science and technology as fruitful and a significant contribution to south-south cooperation.

During the meeting of the group on trade India impressed on the Chinese side the need for a more balanced trade which is now in China's favour. It was felt that current modernisation plans in China offered possibilities of exporting materials for building construction from India. The State Trading Corporation recently secured a contract for export of sheet glass.

The two countries have also agreed to exchange journalists, performing troupes and radio and TV programmes.

The fortnight also saw China agreeing in principle to the construction of a Shiva temple and another to Lord Buddha at Kailash-Mansarover. The Chinese decision disclosed to the Janata Party leader Subramanium Swamy is to be formalised through official channels.

False charges will harm ties, Pak told

PAKISTAN Ambassador Riaz Piracha was called to the Foreign Office and told that baseless allegations of Indian interference in Pakistan's internal affairs would impinge adversely on the normalisation of relations between the two countries.

Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Natwar Singh drew the envoy's attention to the observations by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yakub Khan on Nov. 5 at the meeting of the nominated advisory council Majlis-e-Shoora, that India was encouraging the Movement for Restoration of Democracy in the guise of supporting the cause of democracy.

Sahibzada Yakub Khan also castigated India for a demonstration outside the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi.

Mr Natwar Singh is understood to have told the envoy that India took strong exception to unilateral restrictions placed on movements of India's Ambassador at Islamabad K. D. Sharma.

He had sought permission to go to Peshawar more than a month ago, but the Pakistan Foreign Office had not cleared this trip despite several reminders.

India had not placed any restrictions on the movements of the Pakistan Ambassador and hoped that its gesture in this regard would be reciprocated.

Mr Riaz Piracha was told that several other speeches made by Majlis members were inflammatory, accusing India of interfering and fomenting trouble in Sind.

Mr Natwar Singh pointed out that one speaker Begum Mehmooda Sultana, called for open support to the Khalistan movement.

India takes serious exception to these references which have no foundation and which will impinge adversely on the process of normalisation of bilateral relations to which India is fully committed.

When Gavaskar created history

INDIAN and as well as international cricket history was enriched with one more glorious chapter when the diminutive Indian opener Sunil Gavaskar drove Malcom Marshall off the front foot to the mid-wicket fence. He took just three hours and faced 94 balls to complete the 29th century of his career.

However, the more was to come later. In the second innings, he scored just 15 runs and overhauled Sir Garfield Sobers' record of 8032 Test runs. If Sobers had been surpassed, can Boycott remain far behind? Eighty-two runs more and Gavaskar will become the highest scorer in Test cricket.

However, the success did not obscure his sense of discrimination and appreciation. Calm and modest as ever, Gavaskar said: "I don't think it is fair to call it a record. It is more of an achievement." He was well aware of Bradman's genius and commented: "The legendary Sir Donald Bradman hit up this number of centuries in only 52 Tests whereas I could achieve it in the 95th Test. Had Bradman played 95 Tests, he would probably have scored 75 centuries."

Asked for his immediate reaction to equalling the world record, Gavaskar said: "I am proud to be an Indian."

Any ambition? Gavaskar replied: "Yes, To snap up 100 catches in Test cricket. I should have taken 75 till now but unfortunately the last five were dropped."

Gavaskar, who has scored a century against every country both at home and abroad, has also scored three double centuries, two of which were against the West Indies. He has hit the maximum number of centuries against the Windies—12.

His 29 centuries have been recorded at 16 grounds all over the world—four each at Port of Spain and Bombay, three at Delhi, two each at Georgetown, Karachi, Bangalore, Calcutta and Madras and one each at Bridgetown, Manchester, the Oval, Brisbane, Auckland and Faisalabad. Kanpur is the only ground where Gavaskar has not scored a century.

He scored four centuries against England, including one double century at the Oval in 1981, five against Pakistan and Australia, two against New Zealand and one against Sri Lanka. His highest score was against England at the Oval in 1981 when he notched up 221.

The break-up of Gavaskar's 29 centuries before the last one is as follows:

Against West Indies: (1971) 116 (Georgetown), 117 (Bridgetown), 124 and 220 (Port of Spain), 1976: 156 (Port of Spain), 102 (Port of Spain), 1978: 205 (Bombay), 107 and 182 not out (Calcutta), 120 (Delhi) 1983: 147 not out (Georgetown).

Against England: (1974) 101 (Manchester), 1977: 108 (Bombay), 1979: 221 (Oval), 172 (Bangalore).

Against Australia (1977) 113 (Brisbane), 127 (Perth), 118 (Melbourne), 1979-80: 115 (Delhi), 123 (Bombay).

Against Pakistan: (1978) 111 and 137 (Karachi), 1980: 166 (Madras), 1982-83: 127 not out (Faisalabad, 1983: 103 not out (Bangalore).

Against New Zealand (1976) 116 (Auckland) and 119 (Bombay).

Against Sri Lanka: (1982) 155 (Madras).

It was Gavaskar's belligerence on the opening day of the second Test that enabled the Indians to forget the Kanpur nightmare. Marshall, the menace who destroyed India in the first Test at Kanpur, will be the last man to forget Gavaskar. The more venomously he bowled, the more contemptuously he was spanked all round the wicket. Gavaskar (121) and career-best knock of 159 by Dilip Vengsarkar put the home team in a commanding position. Later, Binny (52) and Shastri (49) added useful runs. India were all out 464 in their first innings.

A classic 63 by Richards, a fast 63 by Logie and a patient century by skipper Lloyd (103) were the highlights of the Windies' first-innings total of 384.

Having gained an 80-run lead on the first knock, India were in a comfortable position, 145 for four, on the penultimate day. But in the first hour of the last day, Marshall's devastating six-over spell infused new life into the match. In the space of five balls, he captured three wickets without conceding a run.

Binny (32) and Madan Lal (24 not out) defied the bowling and gave the West Indies only 135 minutes and 20 mendatory overs to score 314 to win the match. The tourists started their second knock on a slow note. Openers Greenidge and Haynes put on 50 for the opening wicket. They used the last session for batting practice and were 120 for the loss of two wickets when the match ended.

Sports Review by P.C. Nigam

India to bid for 1987 Universal

INDIA will make a bid to host the 1987 World Universities Games event, Sports and Housing Minister Buta Singh informed the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Sports in New Delhi last week.

In a reference to the setting up of the Sports Authority of India, he said steps were being taken for the optimum utilisation of the Asian Games infra-structure in New Delhi.

Schemes for utilisation of the Talkatora swimming pool, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Yamuna velodrome had already been finalised. Proposals for putting to use the remaining stadia were under consideration.

BSF CLAIM MODI HOCKEY GOLD CUP

BORDER Security Force fought off a strong challenge from the Haryana State Electricity Board (Chandigarh) 5-3 to lift the seventh all-India Gujarmal Modi memorial hockey gold cup at Meerut last week.

BSF, who were held 3-3 at the end of full-time, scored twice in extra-time to clinch the tie.

The highlight of the enthralling match was a fine hat-trick by inside-left Narinder Singh Sodhi of HSEB, who gave a tough time to the BSF before finally going down.

BSF got into the stride right away, taking the lead in the fourth minute through inside-right Kulwant Singh. Kulwant sent the ball home when it rebounded off HSEB custodian Parveen's pads.

The HSEB found the equaliser within six minutes when Sodhi sounded the board after right-winger Parkash and left-winger Brijlal had darted through the BSF defence.

Three minutes later, veteran international Baldev Singh, BSF's right-back, converted a penalty corner to help his team forge ahead again.

Two minutes after the second half, BSF outside-left M.P. Bengra, who was a constant thorn to the HSEB men, scythed through the opposition defence and scored through an angular hit to put his team two goals up.

A penalty-stroke that came the HSEB way soon after was converted by Sodhi, reducing the margin to 2-3. The stroke was awarded when Baldev's foot prevented what would have been a sure goal for HSEB.

Two minutes before the final whistle, HSEB drew level when Sodhi collected a pass from Parkash and sent in a powerful shot from the top of the circle.

The HSEB men were unlucky to loose in the end for they were always attacking, but muffled up as many as 11 penalty corners they won against BSF's five.

It was finally left to BSF centre-forward Amardeep Singh to help his team forge ahead in the extra-time. Bangra raced down the left flank beautifully and sent in a pass to Amardeep who beat three defenders before scoring.

China lift Asian chess title

CHINA won the Orkay fifth Asian chess team championship by defeating lowly-placed Kuwait in New Delhi last week.

China thus lifted the Tun Abdul Razak trophy for the first time by finishing at the top of table with 30 points in the 10-nation competition. Holders the Philippines with 27 points plus one unfinished game came second.

The game between grandmaster Eugene Torre and J.D. Sarfati of New Zealand was adjourned with Torre holding an advantage.

As expected China made short work of Kuwait with Qi Jin Xuan scoring an easy victory in just 17 moves against Naseer Al-Rashed. In other matches Li Zu Nian accounted for Al-Qallaf, while Ye Liang Chuan beat Abdulaziz Bin Ali. In the fourth board Liang Jin prevailed over Al-Ostath.

India, however, inproved their position by finishing third in the championship with 26 points when they convincingly beat Pakistan 3-1. They had finished fourth in the last championship in 1981 held in China.

P.M. Mohanty gave India their first victory when he forced Altaf Chaudry to resign on the 28th move in the queen's pawn game which later transformed into the French defence.

D. Barua played an attacking game against Mahmood Lodhi of Pakistan. In the Guico-Piano opening Lodhi preferred to castle on the queen side and allowed Barua to launch a terrific attack on the king side. After the middle game complications Barua sacrificed a knight to bring about Lodhi's fall in 40 moves. Praveen Thipsay drew with Omar Khan so did Rafiq Khan with Nazir Ahmed.

Points position:

China 30; the Philippines 27(1); India 26; Pakistan 21(5); Malaysia 20(1); Bangladesh 15(3); New Zealand 16(2); Kuwait 7.5; Brunei 5.5(3); Bahrain 6.5(1).

Eugene Tore with eight wins and one adjourned won the top board prize while Praveen Thipsay of India with 7.5 points on the second board bagged the prize on the second board. A. Yap of the Philippines claimed the third prize.

LISTEN IN TO INDIA

External Services Division

From Nov. 20 to 26

For S-E Asia

HINDI

04.30 to 05.30 Hrs.
On 265.5 49.02, 41.47 and 30.37 Metres: Devotional Music at 04.30 Hrs. News at 04.35 Hrs.

TAMIL

05.30 to 06.15 Hrs.
On 265.5 49.02, 41.47 and 30.37 Metres
Tudi at 05.30 Hrs.
News (Seidigai) at 05.35 Hrs.

For East Africa

HINDI

9.00 to 9.45 Hrs.
On 19.52 and 16.94 Metres
Devotional Music at 09.00 Hrs.
News at 09.45 Hrs.
Indian Music daily

GUJARATI

09.45 to 10.00 Hrs.
On 19.82 and 16.04 Metres.
News at 09.45 Hrs.

HINDI

21.45 to 22.30 Hrs.
On 31.33 & 19.00 metres.
Instrumental Music at 21.65 Hrs.
News at 21.50 Hrs.

GUJARATI

22.30 to 23.15 Hrs.
News at 22.35 Hrs.

General Overseas Services I

ENGLISH

For listeners in East and South-East Asia on 76.02, 41.58, 31.51 and 35.50 metres. Also on 49.30 metres up to 05.45 Hrs.
For listeners in North-East Asia on 31.33, 25.37 & 19.63 metres.
(i) News at 4.30 & 6.30 hrs.
(ii) Commentary at 4.40 & 6.30 hrs.
(iii) Press Review at 5.45 hrs.

II

For listeners in South-East Asia on 25.59, 19.75 & 17.25 metres.
For listeners in Australia & New Zealand on 25.48, 19.73 & 16.90 metres.
(i) News at 15.30 hrs. (ii) Commentary at 15.40 hrs. (iii) Press review at 10.30 hrs.

III

19.00 to 20.30 Hrs.
For listeners in South-East Asia on 25.40 & 19.50 metres.
(i) News at 23.00, 00.30, 01.30 Commentary at 10.10 hrs. (ii) Press review at 19.50 hrs.

IV

23.15 to 04.10 Hrs.
For listeners in U.K. & West Europe on 41.52, 31.50 & 25.62 metres. Also on 30.27 metres from 01.15 hrs., onwards. For listeners in East Africa on 31.33 & 19.09 metres from 23.15 to 01.15 hrs. For listeners in West and North Africa on 30.27 & 25.35 metres from 01.25 to 02.15 hrs. For listeners in Australia & New Zealand on 41.96, 30.27 and 25.23 metres from 02.15 to 04.44 hrs.
(i) News at 23.00, 00.30, 01.30, 02.00 & 03.30 hrs. (ii) Commentary at 23.40, 00.35, 01.40, 02.35 and 03.40 hrs. (iii) Press review at 00.15, 01.15 & 02.15 hrs.

French Programme

9.15 to 01.00 Hrs.
For listeners in North & West Asia on 30.27 & 25.25 metres.
News at 00.20 hrs.

Other External Services

03.15 to 04.15 Hrs. Cantonese programme 26.55, 41.15 metres.
06.15 to 06.45 Hrs Burmese programme on 26.55, 41.32, 30.27 and 24.23 metres.
7.23 to 7.45 Hrs. Nepali programme on 50.85 to 50.13 and 41.52 metres.
07.45 to 08.00 Hrs. Tibetan programme on 19.50 & 16.91 metres.
09.30 to 10.00 Hrs. Arabic programme on 52.55, 50.13, 41.52 metres.
09.15 to 09.30 Hrs. Persian programme.

Pranab confident of six per cent growth

FINANCE Minister Pranab Mukherjee has expressed confidence that the economy was likely to show six or even 6.5 per cent growth in the current year with the strong agricultural recovery expected.

This means that with a revival of industrial growth in the second half of 1983-84, the economy would be well set for another year of healthy growth in the ensuing year, Mr Mukherjee said in his inaugural address at the workshop on a mid-year review of the Indian economy, organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.

The Government's recent policy initiatives in extending significant reduction in excise duties for selected industries at some loss to the exchequer and in the past few years have been highly supportive of industry and industrial activity.

"It is now time for industry to show a positive response. Industrial growth is not only a matter of Government policy. It is also a matter of the quality of the entrepreneurship, efficient industrial management, mutually beneficial industrial relations, absorption and upgradation of technology," the Minister asserted.

Commenting on the overall industrial performance, he said that in 1982-83 it was unavoidably depressed due to drought that reduced agricultural income and demand. As a result, the growth rate of industry declined to 3.8 per cent from 8.6 per cent in the previous year.

Industrial production had been slow to recover, but there was no reason why it should continue to be depressed in the current year when agriculture was set to stage a strong recovery. And the infrastructure has ample ability to meet higher requirements.

The Government's policy had been geared to provide the maximum stimulus to industry, consistent with good economic management, Mr Mukherjee said.

He indicated that the sixth Plan target of 5.2 per cent annual growth over the five year period would be attained. This will have been done while bringing down the rate of inflation to moderate levels and keeping the balance of payments effectively in check.

Minister of State for Industry S.M. Krishna in his address urged Indian industry to initiate in-house programmes for conserving materials used in excess due to absence of optimal designs of the products.

Urging development of energy saving devices and technologies, he observed that energy inputs of our industrial products in engineering and chemical sectors were high.

On the other hand, Japan had developed a process for reducing the energy consumption almost to the half of present levels.

Mr Krishna sais several collaborations had been allowed in each of the industrial products to accelerate industrial output based on contemporary technologies. It should be the objective of contemporary manufacturers in the field to absorb these technologies.

Advocating consumer protection, he urged that the quality standards be continuously raised to meet the increasingly sophisticated taste and needs of society.

An industry's survival in the long run would rest not merely in production but also in effective and efficient after sales service, the Minister cautioned.

There was scope, he felt, for industry-wise examination and inter-action for re-use of raw materials. The scrap of one could be ideal input for another. Units using scarce raw materials like copper and lead, that were principally imported and were of high value, should attempt retrieval of the material from scrap.

Allowing the scrap to be disposed off without being re-cycled, would only drive the scarce materials into non-priority areas, he said.

Mr Krishna said the Government was keen and committed to industrial dispersals on a judicious and equitable basis. Nucleus plants were being planned in some key places in several States.

But Indian industry has responsibility to deliberately locate new facilities and promote ancillary and small scale units in turn.

Alternatives to mills takeover being tried

COMMERCE Minister V.P. Singh has disclosed that the Centre was trying alternatives to takeover to save unprofitable mills in towns other than Bombay. Bank credit and other means were being tried.

Mr Singh, who was talking to newsmen in Lucknow said ways of starting the closed mills were being studied. A textile cell had been set up to find out at what stage the mills were running into trouble. These would be computerised.

Mr Singh was replying to Opposition criticism that the Government was not taking over sick mills in Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Delhi, Kanpur and other places when it had done so at Bombay. By taking over the 13 mills in Bombay, the Centre had fulfilled its commitment. The strike leader, Dr Datta Samant and the mill owners did not want the mills to reopen.

He virtually rejected former Commerce Minister Mohan Dharia's demand for an enquiry commission to go into the controversy of beef tallow import and said that there could not be a more thorough enquiry than the one conducted by Parliament in which the Opposition leaders wanted to raise an issue of privilege against him. Before demanding one enquiry, they should first answer his questions.

Asked about Mr Morarji Desai's charge that beef tallow was being imported in 1968, the Commerce Minister said at that time only mutton tallow was bought for specific purposes—for soup and grease manufacture.

Reading from the Import Trade Control Order dated April 3, 1978, Mr Singh said the Janata Government did not put beef tallow in the banned, restricted or canalised items incorporated in Appendices 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9. As a direct result of the drastic change in the import-export policy, beef tallow became an item under open general licence.

There had been a glaring failure at the political and policy levels during the Janata regime as a result of which beef tallow became an item under the OGL. The Opposition leaders then in power had no answer to the charges of failure on their part.

First Hindi computer

THE first Hindi computer-cum-word processor is in the market. Manufactured by DCM Data Products it was exhibited at the Third World Hindi Sammelan held in New Delhi recently.

The computer, called "Siddharth", has been designed in association with the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani—one of India's premier technical institutes.

Briefing newsmen at a Press conference, Dr Vinay Bharat Ram, Dy. Managing Director, DCM, said that so far English had been accepted as the language for scientific and technological education. But Hindi was a living language of the millions and it was essential that the latest technology should be available to scholars, literatteurs and researchers in Hindi. It was this belief that led DCM Data Products to design, develop and manufacture "Siddharth," the first Hindi Computer-cum-word processor.

Siddharth was not only useful for editing books and preparing research papers and reports; but software was being developed for learning Hindi through computer aided instruction.

With the growing use of Hindi in the legal and statutory areas the computer was extremely useful for preparing error-free contracts and other documents, as well as, maintaining records of health care, family planning, land distribution, electoral rolls and many other fields.

Public utilities would also find it tremendously useful for preparing Railway timetables, electricity and water bills, insurance premium notices—in the recipient's language.

Shortfall in rail traffic

WITH 15,200 wagons "stabled" as on Sept. 30 this year and a shortfall of 7.69 million tonnes in originating revenue-earning freight traffic recorded till that date, the Railways are in for a serious economic crisis this year, compounded as it is by the falling passenger traffic.

The number of wagons stabled because of lack of traffic has actually increased from about 11,300 as on June 22 this year to 15,200, an increase of about 4,000 wagons in a little over three months. If such a large number of wagons remain idle it is impossible for the Railways to attain the target of 241 million tonnes of revenue-earning originating traffic fixed by the Ministry for 1983-84, unless loadings pick up substantially in the last six months of the financial year.

In fact, indications are that this target is unlikely to be met. While the target for the first six months was fixed at 116.05 million tonnes, the actual loadings have been only 108.36 million tonnes, a shotfall of 7.69 million tonnes. This figure of 108.36 million tonnes is even lower than the figure achieved in the corresponding period in 1982-83, which was 109.68 million tonnes.

The steel sector alone has accounted for a shortfall of 5.87 million tonnes—4.62 million tonnes of raw material for steel plants and 1.61 million tonnes of pig iron and finished steel. Iron ore for export has recorded a fall of 1.71 million tonnes and coal for steel plants, washeries, thermal power houses and other uses has accounted for a shortfall of 0.96 million tonnes. Fertilisers too have recorded a sharp drop during the period under review, from the targeted 4.27 million tonnes to 3.20 million tonnes.

Foodgrains, however, exceeded the target by as much as 2.10 million tonnes, cement by 0.36 million tonnes and petroleum, lubricants and oil by 0.72 million tonnes. These three are the only items which have shown some improvement.

The month of September, during which recovery usually starts, recorded in actual practice a fall of 1.86 million tonnes of traffic, continuing the trend which began this year.

As can only be anticipated, the fall in both passenger and freight traffic (passenger traffic was 9.7 per cent less in the first five months of the current year compared with that in the corresponding period last year) has resulted in lower revenues too.

The earnings from passenger and other coaching services till Sept. 30 totalled Rs 1.15 billion, against the budget target of Rs 1.20 billion. The cumulative passenger and other matching earnings till September were Rs 7.46 billion.

Employment target needs new outlays

THE Planning Commission apprehends a considerable shortfall in the sixth Plan employment target, unless there is a significant step-up of outlay in real terms and expansion of small and medium industries during the remainder of the Plan period.

Apart from two bad agricultural years, which gave a setback to the rural employment generation programme, under-estimation of population also has thrown the programme of removal of poverty out of gear.

The sixth Plan had assumed a reduction in the percentage of people below the poverty line from 48 to 30 per cent. In absolute terms, the number of people below the poverty line was expected to come down to 215 million from 316 million. But, after a revision of the population estimates based on the 1981 census, the figures of people below the poverty line was revised and worked out to 51.1 per cent or about 339 million.

During the first two years of the Plan, a large number of families are stated to have crossed the poverty line, partly due to an increase in their real income and partly as a result of the specific poverty alleviation programmes, such as, the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

But the exact distribution pattern of expenditure below and above the poverty line will not be known until the results of the National Sample Survey for the year 1983 become available. Till then, the number of people still below the poverty line is to be estimated on the basis of the assumption that the increase in real income is uniform in all the expenditure classes and the number of families taken above the poverty line is relatable directly to the expenditure incurred on the poverty alleviation programme, like the IRDP.

By such calculations, the percentage of poverty is estimated to have come down to 41.5 and the total number of persons below the poverty line to 282 million in 1981-82. But, again, the distribution aspect of household expenditure is still not known. Employment is to be primarily generated in agriculture, manufacturing and the service sectors, as well as the IRDP and the NREP.

Even during the first two years of the Plan there was a shortfall in employment generation, mainly in the manufacturing and construction sectors, but the growth rate over the Plan period is below target. Further deceleration in growth took place during 1982-83, mainly due to the bad harvest.

Taking all these factors into account, a sizable shortfall in the employment target is feared.

The real value of the Plan investment has been eroded by inflation. Taking the first four years of the Plan, the total approved outlays come to 83 per cent of the public sector plan outlay of Rs 975 billion. At 1979-80 prices, this represents 62 per cent of the Plan outlay, suggesting a shortfall in real investment in the public sector of the order of 15 to 20 per cent. The Planning Commission feels that this can be narrowed by increasing the investment in 1984-85. Public sector investment in real terms would have been higher but for the adverse factors including the oil price hike.

Police won't enter Golden Temple

Continued from page one col. four

count of some of the special measures taken by the administration, which would enable it to control the situation without having to invoke the provisions of the Presidential Ordinances issued last month. Denying Akali charges of excesses, the Governor assures Home Minister P.C. Sethi and high-ranking Central officials that minimum possible force was being used against extremists and saboteurs.

The Governor asserted that there was no basis for the Akali propaganda that innocent people were being harassed by the raiding parties. One of the advisers of the Governor, S.S. Siddhu, claimed the morale of the law-enforcing agencies had improved appreciably under President's rule, which has also helped restore the people's shattered faith in the police. Both Siddhu and another adviser G. Jagatpati, who thought it prudent to pay a visit to Golden Temple during their official tour of Amritsar last week, did not think that the agitation had hampered Punjab's development work. Though it had affected trade adversely, the agitation had no impact on the State's industrial growth, they maintained.

Addressing a Press conference in Amritsar after his two-day visit to the strife-torn city last week, Jagatpati came out with the categorical declaration again that the police would not enter the Golden Temple to arrest criminals and extremists. While citing the assurance held out on this score repeatedly by the Prime Minister, the adviser parried all questions about the possible presence of criminals in the shrine. He pronounced that the Guru Nanak Niwas, where the militant Sant Bhindranwale is holed up directing the terrorist operations, was part of the temple complex, thus putting it effectively out of the reach of the police. There was no ulterior motive behind his visit to the Golden Temple, which got prominent coverage in the day's radio and TV news bulletins. Mr Jagatpati dismissed as a figment of imagination Akali chief Sant Longowal's charge that the Government was planning a helicopter raid of the Golden Temple.

Though the number of arrests in the combing operations, jointly conducted by the Punjab Police and the BSF and CRP, mounted to 3,000, with Amritsar district alone accounting for 800, extremist activities showed no let-up. There were as many as three bank robberies, two cases of petrol pump looting and a raid on a sub-station of the State Electricity Board, in all of which the culprits were Sikh youths, who walked in brandishing fire-arms, emptied the cash boxes and walked out coolly, never to be seen again till they struck somewhere else next. The bank raids, which came in Patiala and Phagwara, made the extremists richer by Rs 120,000, while the police claimed to have caught two of the three youths involved in one of the petrol pump robberies in Amritsar district. A dozen people including five policemen were injured in a clash which the police broke up by firing in the air in Jullundur Cantonment last fortnight.

That the mindless violence unleashed in the State has begun to hit its perpetrators too was clear from the disclosure made by the two extremists who were arrested from Bisnah in Jammu district. The two, Balbir Singh and Pragat Singh, told the police how they murdered a fellow extremist, Gurdip Singh, on suspicion of being the lover of the wife of one of them. After shooting him dead, they hacked his body to pieces with their swords. All three were "granthis" in an Amritsar gurdwara and had entered Jammu and Kashmir following the crackdown in Punjab. Alerted by intelligence reports of extremists fleeing to Jammu, the J & K Government has sealed the border of Kathua district to prevent any infiltration. Special posts manned jointly by the CRP and the State Police have been set up for round-the-clock patrolling of the entry points on the border.

Meanwhile, discounting Press reports of differences between the President and the Prime Minister over the handling of the Punjab situation, informed sources in New Delhi said that Mr Zail Singh had no reservations in signing the ordinance conferring special powers of search and seizure on the armed forces stationed in Punjab. If the promulgation of this ordinance came a week after the President signed the other two, it was because the Government did not put it up for his assent immediately after the Cabinet approved all three ordinances. But the continuing violence in the State even after the promulgation of the first two ordinances left the Government no other option but to pass the third one also and the Presidential assent came without any hesitation. In any case, the Punjab Administration had not evoked the provisions of the third ordinance so far.

Equally unfounded was the report that the President had expressed strong views against the alleged Government move to send the police to the Golden Temple and had even threatened to quit office if his advice was disregarded. The sources said the question of the President expressing any such view just did not arise as both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister had ruled out this drastic step to flush out the criminals right from the beginning. Nor was there any truth in the allegation that Mr Zail Singh had close links with Bhindranwale before becoming the Home Minister.

Indo-Bangla pact on water transport

INDIA and Bangladesh have signed a protocol on inland water transit and trade between the two countries renewing the existing one which expired last month.

The protocol which provides for transit of Indian vessels carrying specific commodities from Calcutta to Dhubri and Karimgunge in Assam and back is valid for one year.

* * *

The recently commissioned Madras Atomic Power Plant at Kalpakkam had to be shut down for a week early this month as

BRIEFLY

swarms of jelly fish blocked the flow of cool sea water into the plant's condensers. The fish were finding their way into the plant's onshore well which drew sea water through a tunnel ending about half a kilometre out at sea.

* * *

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited's Bhopal unit will supply traction equipment to the Vietnam Railways under an agreement signed between BHEL and the Diesel-Electric Locomotive in Varanasi recently.

* * *

India has taken a giant leap forward in communication technology with the indigenous development of a 500-metre optical fibre.

* * *

The Government has reduced the upper age limit for admission to the Civil Services and the Indian Forest Service examinations from 28 years to 26 years with the usual relaxation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. This shall be enforced from the 1985 examination onwards. The lower limit remains 21 years.

* * *

The Himalayan shrine of Kedarnath was closed for winter on Nov. 6.

* * *

Mizoram's principal town Aizawl has been air-linked to Silchar by Vayudoot for connecting flights to Calcutta.

* * *

One person was killed and about 25 injured in a violent clash between two groups in Maunath Bhanjan town of Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district following which an indefinite curfew was clamped in the town.

* * *

Renowned philosopher Dr T.M.P. Mahadevan died in a private nursing home in Madras on Nov. 5. He was 73.

Greater West German interest in India

Continued from page one col. four

face of his forthright presentation of the Bonn case was to hope that something could be done to create greater understanding among nations.

Despite the obvious disagreement on disarmament and the nuclear question, Dr Kohl was evidently pleased with the outcome of the 90-minute discussion he had had with Mrs Gandhi, they also surveyed the global political situation and bilateral relations during the working lunch hosted by Mrs Gandhi soon after Dr Kohl called on President Zail Singh. The Chancellor, who came from Djakarta on his way home from a hurried Asian tour that took in Japan too, was accompanied by his wife, Minister of State in the Foreign Office Alois Mertes and the State Secretary in the Economic Co-operation Ministry Volkmar Kohler and a high-level official delegation. External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was on hand to receive the West German leader and his party at Palam Airport.

At the end of the bilateral discussions at the Foreign Ministers level, Mr Mertes told a news conference that the two countries have agreed to conclude a collaboration agreement in aviation and space. The question of finalising a memorandum of understanding on general defence co-operation also came up for consideration at the meeting. Mr Rao referred to a number of areas of special concern to the developing countries in the economic sphere where the response of the developed countries has been less than encouraging. He also drew the attention of Mr Mertes to the disappointing outcome of UNCTAD-VII and the slowing down of the flow of concessional aid because of the problems of IDA replenishment. While all this created an impossible situation, the insistence of developed nations on liberalising imports by Third World countries did not improve matters either.

When Mr Mertes said in response that West Germany was holding consultations with the US to evolve remedial measures to ease the plight of developing countries, Mr Rao said that the question of channelising multinational assistance on concessional terms to the needy countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America should not brook any delay. Because of the interdependence of the global economic situation, the attendant benefits could reach the developed countries too. Mr Rao said that West Germany was in a position to play an important role in influencing OECD countries on IDA replenishment. One of the important issues that came up for review in the bilateral talks was FRG's adverse balance of trade with India which reached $53 million last year, following a 4.5 per cent decline in trade exchanges. The two sides agreed to remove some of the causes for this fall in trade volume witnessed after the phenomenal rise of 65 per cent during the previous four years.

In a statement read out at his Press conference just before leaving New Delhi, Dr Kohl said that his brief visit to Japan, Indonesia and India should be taken as evidence of West Germany's earnest desire to repair the past mistake of ignoring this part of the world. Because of its leadership of the non-aligned movement as well as the role it was beginning to play in the North-South dialogue, India occupied a pivotal position in the emerging global scene. West Germany wanted to recognise this reality by strengthening its ties with India, the Chancellor said, hoping the "intensive" discussions he had had with Mrs Gandhi would lead to more parleys in the near future. Though his country respected the sentiments of those protesting against the deployment of nuclear missiles as all other free democratic countries, there could be no question of unilateral disarmament, Dr Kohl affirmed in response to pointed questions on the issue and the rallies it had sparked all over Europe.

The disclosure of the agreement signed by India and the FRG last month on the supply of Tarapur spares was made by West German Ambassador Rolf Ramisch three days before the Chancellor's visit, apparently in a bid to create the right setting for the discussions. Giving the details at a news conference, Mr Ramisch said that the delivery of the spares would be effected on a commercial basis as soon as India specified its requirements. Italy was another possible source for these spares. The supplies would be made within the framework of the trilateral agreement under which France has replaced the US as fuel supplier following the problems Washington encountered in overcoming Congressional objections on the continued supply of enriched uranium according to the 1963 agreement.

It seemed that, like France, West Germany may not insist on fresh safeguards like the pursuit and perpetuity clauses which would have required internal inspection of all nuclear establishments in India using Tarapur byproducts. However, it was not certain whether Italy and West Germany could together supply all the parts needed for Tarapur, obviating the need for India to approach the US again on this score. Mr Ramisch disclosed that West Germany would provide a satellite to India free for launching possibly next year either from India or any other country. To be built in West Germany, the satellite would incorporate the latest technology in the field to ensure wider and longer space application, he added.

Market Rates

Nov 9, 1983

GOLD (per 10 gm): Rs 1880 in Bombay; Rs 1870 in Delhi.

Exchange rates (per Rs 100): US dollar each 9.6475/9.6500.

Unit Trust: 1964 Unit: Sale price 13.30; Repurchase price 12.50.

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Blang Cruan beat Abdulaziz Din Barua to launch a terrific attack on prize.

09.15 to 09.30 Hrs. Persian programme.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From the Secretary of State

12 September 1983

Dear Peter

When I wrote to you on 2 August, I undertook to pursue with my colleagues the possibilities of holding the 1986 CPA Annual Conference in London; and to let you have a more definite reply before too long.

I have now consulted my colleagues. I am afraid that we have concluded very regretfully that, in the current public expenditure climate, the extra funds that would be required are simply not available for a London conference in 1986. I know this will be very disappointing for you and your members. We gave it the most careful and sympathetic thought but simply could not see our way to providing the level of funds required.

I accept that the UK Branch will need to offer to host another Conference in London before long. But 1986 would in any case have been rather close to the 1984 Conference to be held in the Isle of Man. I hope that the financial situation will be easier in the not too distant future.

I am very sorry to have to give you such a disappointing reply. I know how much work you put in to the CPA and the importance you attach to it, which I share. I hope we can do better soon.

Yours

Geoffrey

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Sir Peter Mills MP

GR St. papers

D 12/9.

FCS/83/172

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): Annual Conference 1986

1. Thank you for your minute of 10 August. I enclose a copy of the letter I have now sent to Peter Mills.

2. I would, I am afraid, be impossible for me to fund the Conference from the FCO Vote without a new PES provison. CPA Conferences have traditionally been funded by the Treasury; and I hope that it may at least be possible for you to find the necessary funds to enable the UK Branch to host a Conference in London within the next few years.

3. I am a little puzzled by your references to the UK doing more than its fair share. Since 1948, eighteen member countries of the CPA have hosted the Conference. We, New Zealand and Canada have hosted three times each and the Australians' offer to host in 1988 will put them into the same category. Kenya, India, Malaysia, Jamaica and the Bahamas have hosted twice. Of those which have never hosted, only Zimbabwe is a realistic candidate. Certainly I am not aware of any countries clamouring to take on the task.

4. The fact is that if we do not announce our intention to hold a London Conference within the next few years, there will be a widespread feeling in CPA circles that we are no longer prepared to pull our weight. We shall in the meantime try to take some of the sting out of the inevitable criticism by suggesting that it would not be appropriate to hold a Conference in London too soon after the Isle of Man Conference in 1984.

5. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
9 September, 1983

CF

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 September 1983

Thank you for your letter of 31 August about the leadership of the UK delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Kenya.

Mrs Thatcher has agreed that Mr. Whitney should be appointed as proposed by the Foreign Secretary.

(TIM FLESHER)

J E Holmes Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

31 August 1983

Yes MT

Prime Minister:

Agree that Mr Whitney should lead our delegation?

DT 1/9

Dear John,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Conference: Kenya, 23 October - 6 November 1983

Your letter of 15 July gave the Prime Minister's agreement for Baroness Young to serve as leader of the UK delegation to the CPA Conference this year.

Unfortunately the clash with the Kenyan Elections on 26 September has meant that the Conference will be postponed until late October and Baroness Young will not be able to lead the delegation on the dates proposed.

As you are aware, Mr Whitney is the Minister in the FCO with responsibility for Commonwealth affairs in the House of Commons and therefore meets the criteria set out in my letter of 14 July. Sir Geoffrey Howe therefore suggests that the Prime Minister appoint Mr Whitney as the leader of the delegation in place of Baroness Young. We understand that the CPA would be happy with this appointment.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From the Secretary of State

2 August, 1983

Dear Peter

Thank you for your letter of 22 July, asking for my support in principle for the CPA Annual Conference to be held in London.

The work of the CPA, in providing opportunities for Parliamentarians throughout the Commonwealth to see each other's countries, get to know each other, and exchange views in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, is much appreciated. I can see that it will soon be time for the UK Branch to offer to host another Conference in London.

I am pursuing the possibilities with my colleagues and hope to let you have a more definite reply before too long. You will of course appreciate that we will have to take a very critical look at the costs involved. The membership of the Commonwealth has increased since the Conference was last held in London, and it may be necessary to look for economies of scale. But as you say, this will be for discussion between you and the Treasury.

I can see that it would be helpful for agreement to be reached in time for an invitation to be issued during the Nairobi Conference. We will certainly have this in mind but time between now and then is getting

/short

Sir Peter Mills, MP

short.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

bcc: Chancellor of the Exchequer

OR Papers 2

Mr. Wolfson 4/8

Prime Minister

2/8

FCS/83/156

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

1. Peter Mills has written to me about the proposal that the 1986 CPA Annual Conference should be held in London. I enclose a copy of my reply.

2. I support this proposal in principle. The CPA provides a series of opportunities for Parliamentarians throughout the Commonwealth to see each other's countries, get to know each other, and exchange views in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. A large number of our own Members have usefully broadened their horizons under its auspices. The Annual Conference, held in a different country each year, is the centrepiece of its activities. The Conference was held in London in 1948, 1961 and 1973; there is now a general expectation that it is again our turn. (Many of the branches are of course much too small to contemplate hosting a Conference themselves). If the UK Branch do not offer to host another Conference within the next few years, this may well be seen as a signal that our commitment to the CPA is declining; this would be regrettable.

3. I understand that the UK Branch estimate that, to run the Conference properly, they would need a special grant of at least £1 million, in addition to their normal grant-in-aid. Peter Mills wrote to me about this when I was still Chancellor before the Election; and I replied that Treasury Ministers would have to look at the matter later in the year. I understand that the UK Branch are now in touch with your officials about details. If you can agree to release additional funds for a Conference in London in 1986 (and you will see that I have sounded a note of caution about cost to Sir P Mills in my reply to him), I will as usual recommend to the Prime Minister that she should issue a formal invitation.

/4.

4. Peter hopes that such an invitation could be delivered at this year's Annual Conference in Nairobi (18 September - 2 October). There would be obvious attractions in this timing, particularly since the Prime Minister could also refer to it at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Delhi in November. On the other hand, if you felt you wanted rather longer to consider the matter, the UK Branch tell me that a formal invitation for 1986 need not issue until next year.

5. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

1 August, 1983

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 July 1983

CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thank you for your letter of 14 July.

The Prime Minister agrees with the recommendation of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and would be grateful if Baroness Young would agree to serve as leader of the UK delegation to the CPA Conference this year.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Prime Minister

Agree to appoint Baroness Young leader of the UK delegation to this year's CPA Conference?

A. J. C. 14/7

Yes MT

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 July 1983

Dear John,

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Annual Conference: Kenya, 17 September to 2 October 1983

This year's Annual Conference of the CPA is due to be held in Nairobi from 17 September to 2 October. The formal Conference will begin on 26 September and will as usual be preceded by a short tour to enable delegates to see something of the host country. The UK delegation has recently been selected by the UK Branch. It remains for the Prime Minister as Chairman of the UK Branch to appoint the leader. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary normally offers advice on this appointment. I attach a list of the UK delegation, together with a list of our delegation leaders since 1966.

Much of the agenda at these Conferences is usually concerned with international affairs, and an FCO Minister therefore normally leads the delegation. On this occasion, there is to be a debate on 'International Peace and Security with Special Reference to Southern Africa - Namibia and South Africa'.

In view of her responsibility for Commonwealth affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe suggests that the Prime Minister should appoint Baroness Young as leader of the delegation. There are plenty of precedents for a leader from the House of Lords. Sir Peter Mills (Deputy Chairman of the UK Branch of the CPA) has told Sir Geoffrey that the Branch would be delighted if Baroness Young were to lead the 1983 delegation. Baroness Young may be able to go only for the second week of the Conference, but Sir Peter does not consider that this will present any problems.

The UK delegation are holding a briefing meeting on the morning of Tuesday 19 July, and would greatly appreciate it if their leader could be present. Baroness Young would in principle be free to attend, and it would be most helpful if you could let me know the Prime Minister's wishes before then.

Yours ever

Roger Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE KENYA, 1983

17th September-2nd October

Leader:	To be appointed by the Prime Minister
Deputy Leader:	Rt Hon. Merlyn Rees, MP (Lab)
Members:	Mr Donald Anderson, MP (Lab) Miss Betty Boothroyd, MP (Lab) (to be confirmed) Mr Eric Cockeram, JP, MP (Con) Mr Peter Hordern, MP (Con) Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, CBE, QC Mr Michael Mates, MP (Con) Mr James Pawsey, MP (Con) Mr Peter Snape, MP (Lab)

LEADERS OF UK DELEGATIONS TO CPA ANNUAL CONFERENCES

1966	OTTAWA	Rt Hon Arthur Bottomley, Minister of Overseas Development
1967	KAMPALA	Rt Hon George Thomson, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs
1968	NASSAU	Rt Hon Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1969	PORT OF SPAIN	Rt Hon George Thomson, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
1970	CANBERRA	Rt Hon Joseph Godber, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1971	KUALA LUMPUR	Mr Anthony Kershaw, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1972	BLANTYRE	The Baroness Tweedsmuir of Belhevie, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1973	LONDON	Rt Hon Lord Balniel, Minister of State. Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1974	COLOMBO	Rt Hon Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal
1975	NEW DELHI	Rt Hon Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal
1976	PORT LOUIS	Mr Evan Luard, Parliamentary Under Secretary Secretary of State Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1977	OTTAWA	Rt Hon Lord Peart, Lord Privy Seal
1978	KINGSTON	Rt Hon Baroness Llewelyn-Davies of Hasloe Govt Chief Whip in the House of Lords
1979	WELLINGTON	Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
1980	LUSAKA	Mr Neil Marten, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office/ Overseas Development Administration
1981	FIJI	Mr Neil Marten, Minister of State, FCO/ODA
1982	BAHAMAS	MR NEIL MARTEN, Minister of state, FCO/ODA
1983	NAIROBI	