

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Alexander

BBC Television Interview: "New Life" Asian Programme

You have agreed to give a 15-20 minute television interview to the BBC weekly network programme "New Life" tomorrow at 5.00 p.m. The programme, which is beamed at the Asian community here and is widely watched, will be shown at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday, 3 May on BBC 1.

There will be considerable interest in this interview, both in this country and in the sub-continent. Extracts may well be broadcast on Indian TV and radio. There will also be some secondary publicity in the British papers on Monday.

Format

Your interview will take up the first 15-20 minutes of a 30-minute programme which includes news bulletins, reports on minority matters and some light music.

The interviewer will be Mahendra Kaul, a leading figure in the Asian community here and Producer of the BBC Asian Programmes Unit. He interviewed you for the COI TV interview before your visit to India.

The subjects Mahendra Kaul wishes to cover tomorrow are shown at Flag A. They are predictable but his approach is likely to be a searching one. However, I believe you had the measure of Mahendra Kaul very quickly at your last interview with him and I doubt you will have much difficulty in turning the interview to your advantage to put across your views. Besides, Mahendra Kaul has emphasised that he wants to give you a sympathetic platform to cover the range of subjects of concern to minority groups here.

Mr. Callaghan gave a similar interview to "New Life" before he went to India in early 1978.

/Mechanics ...

Mechanics

The interview will take place in the White Drawing Room. A make-up girl, Mrs. Hay-Arthur, will be on hand from 4 p.m.

We shall prepare a transcript which will be made available to the press under embargo at the weekend.

The Opportunity

There is probably no ideal time to give an interview aimed at the immigrant community, given the emotion that surrounds so many of the issues affecting them. But with your recent visit to India fresh in people's minds, I suggest that this is as good a time as any to give this particular interview. It will give you the opportunity to

- i. stress the positive points about your visit and to dispel the impression given by part of the Indian media that our relations with India and Mrs. Gandhi are dominated by differences;
- ii. bring out our deep and varied relationship with modern India in the commercial, technological and in the aid field;
- iii. dispel misunderstandings about the Nationality Bill;
- iv. in the wake of the Brixton riots and the current debate on the Nationality Bill, reassure people with your full authority as Prime Minister, that your Government is fully committed to securing a multi-racial society in Britain.

/Briefing ...

Briefing

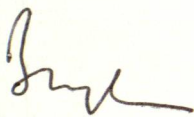
Together with the FCO and Home Office, we have prepared the following briefing to deal with the subjects Mahendra Kaul will raise:-

Results of your visit to India	- Flag B
Economic collaboration with India	- Flag C
The Nationality Bill	- Flag D
UKPH - Special Voucher Scheme	- Flag E
Government's attitudes to race relations and minority groups here	- Flag F
Racial attacks	- Flag G
The Brixton disturbances	- Flag H.

Notes for defensive use on the Jaguar deal, relations between India and Pakistan and the question of overseas students fees, should these subjects be raised, are at Flag J.

The transcript of your COI interview with Mahendra Kaul on 31 March is at Flag K.

Michael Alexander and I will be available for any further oral briefing you require immediately before the interview.



B. INGHAM

30 April, 1981