

Reference

RECEIVED IN  
REGISTRY No. 61  
- 9 AUG 1976  
FSP 026/22/3

Delhi teletype (Delhi)  
CJA 4/8

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Mr Hum

MRS THATCHER'S TOUR

1. Mr Butler telephoned me this morning to give the following additional information:

- a) Mrs Thatcher has decided that in order to avoid giving any offence in India she should accept the Indian Government's invitation to accommodate her. She would nevertheless welcome early briefing from Sir M Walker. Mr Butler is well aware of the security advantages of this taking place at the High Commissioner's house rather than in any Indian Government guest house, but we must leave Delhi to make the most appropriate arrangements. Mrs Thatcher and her party would, of course, much welcome an invitation to a meal from the High Commissioner.
- b) Mrs Thatcher has decided that it would be best that she should not be accompanied by Heads of Mission during her calls on the Prime Ministers in India, Pakistan and Singapore (I have spoken separately to Miss Hutchison about the application of this decision to Singapore). Mr Butler made it clear that it was particularly the Indian case which Mrs Thatcher had in mind, but it seemed best to extend the decision to Pakistan as well.
- c) Mrs Thatcher would now like Mr Male's briefing to cover Singapore as well, and therefore to allow one hour for it. Would you please also ask SWPD whether they are in any way involved over the visits to Australia and New Zealand. Mr Male ought presumably to be ready to speak about those countries as well.
- d) Mr Butler commented to me in passing ~~that~~ when he called yesterday that Mr Natwar-Singh had said some hard things about the Secretary of State's "indifference" to Asian affairs. He had said that it was a slight to India that its affairs should be handled by the Parliamentary Under Secretary. Mr Butler said that he did not expect me to comment; I said simply that we were familiar with this feeling on the part of some people in the Indian High Commission and it had applied before Mr Crosland became Secretary of State.

N. Brown  
sub c),  
or

RJN

R J O'Neill

6 August 1976

cc: Mr Browne