

RESTRICTED

DESKBY 140830Z

FROM DELHI 140630Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 654 OF 14 AUGUST 1979

AND TO IMMEDIATE ODA FOR DISASTER UNIT

AND TO IMMEDIATE BOMBAY (ACTIONED)

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. J78/79T

*Original on:
India: August 79*

YOUR TEL MODEV 502: GUJARAT DAM DISASTER

1. I HAVE THIS MORNING PASSED THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT. WE ARE ISSUING A PRESS RELEASE CONTAINING THE MESSAGE.

2. I AGREE A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY FROM THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE. I SUGGEST THAT THE MESSAGE SHOULD BE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AS I BELIEVE CHARAN SINGH WOULD APPRECIATE THIS. HOWEVER, SPEED IS PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, AND IF AN IMMEDIATE MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER CANNOT BE AUTHORISED I SUGGEST A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO MISHRA. I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING DRAFT:

X | " I WAS GREATLY SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE LOSS OF LIFE AND DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE DAM DISASTER IN GUJARAT. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SYMPATHY. WE STAND READY TO PROVIDE RELIEF SUPPLIES IF NEEDED' "

PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF WE CAN PASS SUCH A MESSAGE.

3. MINISTERS MAY WISH TO BE AWARE THAT WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE SEVERAL HUNDRED UK PASSPORT HOLDERS IN THE AFFECTED AREA. WE SHALL REPORT AGAIN ON THIS WHEN THINGS ARE CLEARER.

4. SEE MIF MODEV TELEGRAM ON THE EXTENT OF THE DISASTER AS NOW KNOWN.

THOMSON

F I L E S

SAD

PCD

PS

PS/TPS

PS/MR BLAKER

PS/PUS

SIR A DUFF

MR CORTAZZI

MR MURRAY