

SUBJECT

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PRIME MINISTER
INDIA

New Delhi
August 21, 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

We learn from your High Commissioner that you are passing through New Delhi between 12.30 a.m. to 2.00 a.m. on the night of September 28-29, on your return from China.

I should have welcomed the opportunity of meeting you. Personal dialogues are always useful. But it would hardly be proper to trouble you at such a late hour.

Could I at all persuade you to stop over a little longer, perhaps rest for the night after such a long and tiring journey, if your itinerary and commitments make it possible for you to do so?

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely
Indira Gandhi

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister and First Lord of the
Treasury and Minister for the Civil Services
London.



Prime Minister:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

This would mean losing the free afternoon and evening before Cabinet and a week before Party Conference. On the other hand, it is a personal request for Mrs Gandhi. Do you wish to stay over in Delhi for a working breakfast?

Dear Sir,

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26/8.

Must stop to meet Mrs. Gandhi. mb.

I enclose an advance copy of a letter from Mrs Gandhi to the Prime Minister (the signed copy will be sent on to us by India House as soon as it is received).

You will see that Mrs Gandhi is suggesting that the Prime Minister extend her stopover at New Delhi in the course of the night of September 28/29 so that the two can meet. The time of the Prime Minister's arrival at New Delhi is dictated by her programme in Hong Kong; this is already fairly tight and it would cause disappointment there if arrangements which are going ahead had to be altered. It therefore seems that the only way to meet Mrs Gandhi's proposal would be for the Prime Minister to arrive at Delhi at 12.30 am as planned and to spend the rest of the night at the High Commissioner's residence (fortunately it is a car journey of only 20 minutes or so from the airport); then she could have, say, a working breakfast with Mrs Gandhi before continuing her journey to London. Assuming an 8 am breakfast her amended ETA in the UK might be about 1900 hours on 29 September instead of 1125 hours.

From the point of view of our relations with India, we would hope that the Prime Minister might agree to Mrs Gandhi's request unless there are overriding reasons why she has to be back in the UK at the originally scheduled time on 29 September. The fact that Mrs Gandhi has gone to the pains of sending a personal message indicates the importance she attaches to keeping up her personal relationship with the Prime Minister. This is all to the good. Mrs Gandhi will no doubt be greatly interested to hear something of the Prime Minister's impressions of her discussions in Peking at first hand in view of the significance for India of China and recent moves to improve Sino-Indian relations. — —

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

SUBJECT

com filed on India Pt 3.
Visit to India

FILE

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Copied to: Fro
**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE**
SERIAL No. T174/R
6 September, 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your kind invitation to extend my stopover in Delhi on my return journey from the Far East later this month. I should be delighted to do so and have asked Mr. Wade-Gery to suggest that we meet for breakfast on the morning of 29 September.

I much look forward to hearing about your highly successful visit to the United States.

I am also looking forward to seeing Rajiv here next week at the end of his visit to Farnborough.

Very good wish.

Yours sincerely

Her Excellency Shrimati Indira Gandhi

Indira Gandhi

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