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Subject copy filed on "Internal Situation" India May 79

RESTRICTED
FM DELHI 071152Z JAN 80
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 030 OF 7 JANUARY

PM has approved the text.

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. TSA/80.**

NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT: MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION

1. I EXPECT THAT MRS GANDHI WILL BE INVITED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT SOON, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS 9 JANUARY. I RECOMMEND THAT I SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO PASS A MESSAGE TO HER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AS SOON AS HER APPOINTMENT IS CONFIRMED AND I SUGGEST A TEXT ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

"IT IS NOW MY TURN TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RESOUNDING VICTORY AND I DO SO MOST WARMLY. THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DEMOCRACY HAS CONFIRMED ITS FAITH IN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. THIS WILL GIVE GREAT PLEASURE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL TRUE FRIENDS OF INDIA. YOU WILL KNOW FROM YOUR LONG EXPERIENCE THE MANY AREAS IN WHICH INDIA'S AND BRITAIN'S INTERESTS OVERLAP AND COINCIDE. MY COLLEAGUES AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT AND TO BUILDING ON OUR TWO COUNTRIES' LONG AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. I HOPE THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN BEFORE LONG."

2. I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT YOU SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO THE NEW EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, IF ONE IS APPOINTED FAR ENOUGH AHEAD OF YOUR ARRIVAL HERE TO MAKE MESSAGE DESIRABLE. I SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING TEXT:

"PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT. I SEND YOU BY BEST WISHES AND LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU (NEXT WEEK) (SOON)."

THOMSON

SECRET