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Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01-

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REGISTRY No. 61
-2 SEP 1976
FSP 026/548/3

W K K White Esq
NEW DELHI

Your reference

Our reference

Date 2 September 1976

Dear Sir,

MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO INDIA: SEPTEMBER 1976

1. We undertook to send you a complete set of the background briefs which we have prepared for Mrs Thatcher.
2. These are enclosed. You may also find it helpful to have the enclosed defensive brief on immigration which Migration and Visa Dept prepared for Peter Male's oral briefing of Mrs Thatcher. I have included all of the attachments to this brief except the Hawley Report, of which you no doubt have a copy or two.
3. Peter Male's briefing of Mrs Thatcher does not require any follow-up action on your part or ours. About 45 minutes were spent on the sub-continent, mainly on India. She asked about immigration, poverty, constitutional amendment and the fate of Indian opposition politicians. He told her about Sanjay Gandhi and press censorship. Mrs Thatcher expressed surprise (and we gather some dismay) that there would be no British press or TV coverage of her visit to India.
4. As might have been expected, Mrs Thatcher tended to concentrate on issues connected with domestic politics. In particular she was interested in the effect of our immigration policies on race relations in this country, and in the likely Indian reaction to tightened immigration controls. On this latter point Peter Male suggested that she might ask her hosts direct: he thought that both the Indian and Pakistan Governments would take the view that immigration control was a matter for us.
5. Our general impression was that Mrs Thatcher was very much feeling her way in foreign affairs and in particular in the affairs of South Asia. She did not appear to have formed strong views about the nature and purpose of her visit to the sub-continent. You may well find that she is amenable to a fair amount of gentle guidance.

C O Hum
C O Hum
South Asian Department

Encs.

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- 3 SEP 1976

TO DELHI TL 118

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

REF: 1 SEPTEMBER 1976

FOLLOWING FOR SIR M WALKER, DELHI

FROM MALE, AUS

MRS THATCHER'S VISIT

I WENT ROUND YESTERDAY TO SUPPLEMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE BRIEFING THE DEPARTMENT HAD SUPPLIED TO MRS THATCHER. ADAM BUTLER WAS THERE.

YOU MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO KNOW THAT AMONG THE POINTS SHE SHOWED INTEREST IN WERE THESE:

(A) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (HAVING READ REUTERS IN THE TIMES OF 31 AUGUST) AND HENCE THE BROAD AREA OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA, INCLUDING IMPRISONMENT OF POLITICAL FIGURES AND CENSORSHIP OF LOK SABHA PROCEEDINGS:

(B) CENSORSHIP, AND THE ABSENCE OF THE BRITISH PRESS IN GENERAL. (HENCE NO BBC OR ITV COVERAGE OF HER VISIT).

(C) PROBABLE INDIAN REACTIONS IF A TOUGHER LINE WERE TAKEN ON IMMIGRATION INTO THIS COUNTRY:

(D) SHE HAS OF COURSE VISITED INDIA BEFORE AS A MINISTER AND I THINK IS AT A BIT OF A LOSS TO KNOW WHAT TO DO IN DELHI, HAVING ALREADY SEEN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, VILLAGES ETC. SHE ASKED ABOUT MOBILE CRECHES, REMEMBERING ROSEMARY GARVEY:

(E) SHE ASKED TO BE REMINDED OF THE NAME OF NURUL HASAN.

I SUSPECT THERE IS SOME WORRY THAT HER VISIT TO INDIA MAY BE MISINTERPRETED BACK HOME. THE OFFER WAS MADE THAT WE WOULD BE TOLD HOW THINGS WENT ON RETURN.

I THINK THE GROUP WILL BE PRETTY EXHAUSTED BY THE TIME THEY GET TO INDIA, AFTER A WHISTLE-STOP TWO AND A HALF WEEKS PROGRAMME.

SIGNED: P J E MALE (1 SEPTEMBER 1976)

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TO IMMEDIATE ISLAMABAD TELEGRAM NO 552 OF 3 SEPTEMBER

(57)

YOUR TEL NO 778 : MRS THATCHER'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN

1. OMISSION REGRETTEED.

2. THE IMMIGRATION BRIEF DEALS FACTUALLY WITH THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOME OFFICE AND THE FCO, THE CATEGORIES OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND THE SPECIAL VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR UKPH. MIFT CONTAINS THE TEXT OF SECTIONS ON THE ROLE OF OVERSEAS POSTS AND THE NUMBER AND RATE OF ISSUE OF ENTRY CLEARANCES. STATISTICAL ANNEXES GIVE THE LENGTH OF QUEUES AT 30 JUNE 1976, THE WAITING PERIODS FOR INTERVIEW IN SETTLEMENT CASES UP TO THE SAME DATE AND THE DETAILS OF ENTRY CERTIFICATE APPLICATIONS GIVEN BY LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS IN REPLY TO A PQ ON 22 JUNE. BRIEF CONTAINS NO FURTHER SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO PAKISTAN.

3. NO PARTICULAR POINTS ARISE FROM MALE'S BRIEFING OF MRS THATCHER. SHE IS CONCERNED AT THE EFFECT OF IMMIGRATION POLICIES ON THE RACIAL SITUATION IN BRITAIN. IN GENERAL, WE THINK SHE WILL BE AMENABLE TO YOUR GUIDANCE.

CROSLAND
FILES
SAD
MR CORTAZZI
MR MALE

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