

Mr Burdett
any further
action on the
file? was
37 copies
of 10?
C.H.
8/9

1. I made some very hurried notes during Mrs. Thatcher's press conference which you may like to see. Some of the comments, at least, will no doubt appear in fuller form in the press.
2. Q What did you do and talk about (Jang)
A. I met the PM and other Ministers. I have been trying to learn about Pakistan's problems - finance, agricultural yields, and about education.
- Q* What are your views on the signed article by the PM?
A. It (the call for a 3rd world conference) is a significant initiative. We have all been working along same lines of ensuring a satisfactory economic relationship between the different countries - e.g. at the Special Session. The 3rd world want to hurry it up. Working out (the conference) will obviously take some considerable time - there will need to be prior discussions on the agenda etc.
- Q. What are your views on the relationship of the EEC with developing countries? (Aftab, AFP)
A. There is assistance through the Lome convention; we make a positive contribution.
- Q. What do you think of the normalisation between India and Pakistan?.. Bhutto initiative
A. We are naturally pleased when diplomatic relations are resumed, especially when our friends and allies are involved.
- Q. What do you think of your prospects of becoming the first Woman Prime Minister of the UK?
A. Not bad - can't say when, though
- Q. Would you contribute 0.7% GNP in aid if you were in power? (MB Naqvi)
A. This has been agreed by all, but ~~is~~ with the current problems we are borrowing heavily ourselves.
- Q* After going to Tarbela, what do you think of Pakistan's economic prospects?
A. I have stayed almost entirely in Islamabad and Rawalpindi - haven't got out and about. Tarbela is important not just for agriculture but for energy (hydroelectric)
- Q. If in power would you continue the same level of aid to Pakistan? (Reuters)

A. That depends on the (UK) economy; we would have to see when we got in power.

Q. What of Immigration?

A. We have had one or two recent racial problems (inc. Notting Hill). We are all most anxious that all citizens should be treated equally, and anxious that there should be no more trouble. But the UK is densely populated (even more so than India and Pakistan) and we have 1½ million unemployed. In these circumstances there are bound to be fears at if unlimited numbers are thought to be coming in. But we are anxious to continue good race relations.

Q. Will the Conservatives have a harder line on immigration? (Reuters)

A. We are co-operating fully on the (Franks') look into the question for a register of dependants

Q. Do you believe there is a finite pool? (Reuters)

A. That is what the register is to discover.

Q. What are your views of the Soviets and the Indian Ocean? Did you discuss this during your visit?

A. My own views on this are well known. It was mentioned in discussion.

Q. Is the Conservative attitude different to that of Labour on Apartheid? (MB Nagvi)

A. No. What ~~was~~ we are conscious of is the need for an agreement that will work - and without bloodshed.

Q. Did you discuss Pakistan's internal politics? (Mason, BBC)

A. No

3. Finally there was a confused question about regional arrangements (RCD, Expanded RCD, Asian Collective Security seemingly rolled into one) to which the answer was predictably vague and far-ranging.

4. I hope all this seems reasonably intelligible; it is far from verbatim, of course!

Kit Burdett

7 September 1976

C.P. Burdett

* These questions were 'planted' by the Gov - Gordon
Reece was warned of them in advance.