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PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T235A/82

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FM FCO 091100Z DEC 82

TO PRIORITY NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 836 OF 9 DECEMBER

FESTIVAL OF INDIA

GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD PASS ON THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MRS GANDHI:

SINCE WE OPENED THE FESTIVAL OF INDIA TOGETHER IN MARCH, IT HAS BEEN A GREAT DELIGHT TO ME TO FOLLOW THE MAGNIFICENT SUCCESSION OF EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ALL OVER BRITAIN IN THE NAME OF THE FESTIVAL. IT WAS A PARTICULAR PLEASURE TO RECEIVE RAJIV AND SONIA HERE LAST MONTH WHEN THEY CAME TO ATTEND THE CLOSING EVENT. BY ALL ACCOUNTS IT WAS A SPLENDID OCCASION, WHICH I WAS MOST DISAPPOINTED TO MISS.

THE FESTIVAL HAS JUSTLY CELEBRATED NOT ONLY THE RICH TRADITIONS BUT ALSO THE LIVING AND POTENTIAL TALENTS OF INDIA. THE EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES WE HAVE SEEN HAVE BEEN REMARKABLE FOR THEIR QUALITY, VARIETY AND SPIRIT AND HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH ENORMOUS INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM BY PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.

I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR YOUR SHARED INTEREST: TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ALL THE INSTITUTIONS WHO PUT IN SO MUCH DEVOTED WORK: AND TO THE PERFORMERS AND PARTICIPANTS FOR THE INSPIRATION AND PLEASURE THEY GAVE.

ALTHOUGH THE FESTIVAL LASTED ONLY FOR 8 MONTHS I AM SURE THAT IT WILL ENRICH RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

PYM

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