



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 September 1981

*Disputed with P.N.*

*by [Signature]*

*Dear Michael*

In your letter of 2 September to Francis Richards, you asked for advice on Mr Fraser's letter of 26 August to the Prime Minister about Pakistan's possible readmission to the Commonwealth.

It would appear from what the Indian Foreign Secretary has said recently to our High Commissioner in New Delhi and also from what the Indian High Commissioner said to Lord Carrington last week that Mr Fraser's interpretation of Mrs Gandhi's position is over-optimistic. The Commonwealth Secretary-General's comments to the Prime Minister earlier this week also point to this. We think it likely that the Indian Government (whose real position is tougher than they are willing to admit) are concerned at the expectations that seem to have been aroused, in Islamabad and elsewhere (with evident Australian encouragement), that a favourable decision may be taken at Melbourne on Pakistan's readmission - and that they are therefore now doing what they can to reverse this trend.

We agree that it is unnecessary for the Prime Minister to write personally to Mr Fraser. But we shall ask our High Commissioner in Canberra to pass on to the Australian Government, with reference to Mr Fraser's letter, our present impression of the Indian position.

*Yours ever*  
*[Signature]*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street