



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 October 1983

Dear Mr. Ramphal,

Thank you for your letter of 19 September enclosing your suggested guidelines on the style and format of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings.

This is an important matter. I fully share your belief that our objectives at these Meetings should be a combination of informality, spontaneous dialogue and a frank exchange of views; and I am sure that general observance of your proposed guidelines would go a long way to achieve this. Your proposal that lead speakers should be limited to 15 to 20 minutes and your appeal to Heads of Government to co-operate whole-heartedly with the Chairman, are steps very much in the right direction. I welcome also in principle your proposal for reducing the length of the communique and hope that this will prove effective in practice.

I hope that we can all agree and observe your proposals at New Delhi.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Shridath S. Ramphal, A.C., Kt., C.M.G., Q.C.