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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 July 1984

Dear Michael,

Rajiv Gandhi - Call on Prime Minister

Mr Rajiv Gandhi is to call on the Prime Minister at 1045 on 28 July. He is representing Mrs Gandhi at the Royal Wedding and is accompanied on his visit to London by his Italian wife, Sonia.

I enclose a brief to which are annexed Rajiv's programme and a personality note. We offered to make arrangements for a fuller programme, including a visit to the BBC and certain British firms, if Rajiv so wished, but he expressed himself content with the more limited programme annexed to the brief.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

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SW1

SECRET

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223 JUL 1981

CALL BY MR RAJIV GANDHI MP, 1045 AM 28 JULY, 1981

POINTS TO MAKE

Royal Wedding

1. You met Prince of Wales during his visit to India last November.
2. Hope you and your wife enjoy your visit here. (Subject to confirmation: Look forward to seeing you at supper party on 30 July.) Mr Hurd is inviting members of parliament and journalists to meet you at lunch on 30 July. Glad to arrange anything else you want to do.

Mrs Gandhi

3. Give her my warm regards. I attach importance to knowing her thinking. Valuable visit in April.
4. Looking forward to seeing Mrs Gandhi here next March (though believe exact dates have yet to be settled).

Festival of India

5. Joint Patron with Mrs Gandhi. I am taking close personal interest (reception on 17 July).

Indian Affairs

6. Congratulations on your election victory in June. What parliamentary role do you see for yourself? Will you concentrate on any particular issues?
7. What is this year's monsoon like?

UK Affairs

8. Concerned about riots. Racial element small. Visit to Southall.
9. Fully committed to multi-racial society. Asian community valued and welcomed here.

/UK

UK Passport Holders Quota (if raised)

10. Remain committed to special vouchers scheme. Commitment not affected by Nationality Bill.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Rajiv's programme in the UK is at Annex A and a personality note at Annex B. This is his first visit to the UK in any official capacity (he is representing Mrs Gandhi at the Royal Wedding). He is being looked after principally by Mr Swaraj Paul of the Indo-British Association.

Role of Rajiv Gandhi

2. Rajiv has become steadily more involved in Government and Congress (I) business since the death of Sanjay Gandhi in a plane crash on 23 June 1980. Rajiv was elected to the Lok Sabha on 14 June 1981 in a by-election in the Amethi constituency (250m SE of Delhi, in Uttar Pradesh). Amethi was previously held by Sanjay. Rajiv is now officially in public life, but inexperienced and potentially in an exposed position. Mrs Gandhi will face domestic criticism if Rajiv is given authority beyond his official position.

Visit of Mrs Gandhi March, 1982

3. Mrs Gandhi has agreed in principle to the visit. She is provisionally reserving 22 - 24 March, but has yet to agree firmly to these dates.

Festival of India

4. The Prime Ministers are joint patrons of the Festival. The Festival trustees need to raise some £300,000 from private contributions. HMG has already contributed over £1m through the museums and galleries.

/Recent

Recent Riots

5. Only the Southall riot on 3 July and the disturbance in Walthamstow on 10 July had clear racial connotations. Indian Government has legitimate concern since 20 - 25% of the Indian community are Indian citizens. Widespread public and parliamentary concern in India at rioting. Indian High Commissioner has called on Minister of State (Mr Hurd) and on Home Secretary. Indian Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee pressed for President Reddy to call off his visit in protest.

UK Passport Holders

6. Indian concern was expressed before Prime Minister's visit that rate of entry of UKPH should be speeded up. Rajiv Gandhi told the High Commissioner that this was a point of considerable concern to the Indian Government. He argued that the quota for India should be substantially increased, even if this meant a lengthening of the queues for other categories of immigrants, and that a favourable statement on the quota before the visit would promote its success.

7. Since the Prime Minister's visit we have heard less from the Indians about this issue though it probably remains one of considerable concern to them.

RAJIV GANDHI'S PROGRAMME

Monday 27 July

Evening Reception by Secretary-General, Commonwealth
2000 Dinner by Indo-British Association

Tuesday 28 July

1000 Meet Office-bearers of Indian Overseas
organisations
1930 Supper at Buckingham Palace
2130 Proceed from Buckingham Palace to Hyde Park
by coach
2200 Firework display and grand concert in Hyde
Park
2240 Return to Buckingham Palace by coach and
depart

Wednesday 29 July

0930 Leave hotel for Indian High Commission
0945 Leave Indian High Commission for St Pauls
1100 Wedding service
1300 Lunch at the Bank of England given by the
Prime Minister
1800 Reception at the Banqueting House given by
Lord Carrington

Thursday 30 July

1300 Lunch by Mr Douglas Hurd
2000 Supper party given by Prime Minister (subject
to confirmation)

RAJIV GANDHI, MP

Congress (I) Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) for Amethi, U.P. since June 1981.

Born 1944. Elder son of Mrs Indira Gandhi and late Feroze Gandhi and grandson of late Jawaharlal Nehru.

Educated Doon School, Dehra Dun and Trinity College Cambridge (1962-65). Read engineering but did not get a degree (reputedly through lack of application rather than lack of ability).

On return to India trained as a commercial pilot and joined Indian Airlines, India's domestic airline service, and remained with them as a pilot until May 1981. Resigned to stand for Indian Parliament. Elected 14 June 1981 in by-election for Amethi seat previously held by his late brother, Sanjay. Received 80% of the votes.

Rajiv Gandhi has been drawn into the political vacuum created by the death (in June 1980) of his younger brother, who had been his mother's only trusted confidant. His entry into politics was carefully stage managed and scrupulously above-board: the style markedly different from Sanjay's. It is not yet clear what formal role he will play. He has said he will concentrate on being an effective constituency MP but he is already informally involved in some policy questions. Congress I is politically dominant, and he could be groomed to succeed his mother as Prime Minister.

He is quietly spoken, courteous and diffident, but mentally tough and likely to be of fairly independent mind. He is not an intellectual and is still sensitive about his failure to complete his degree at Cambridge. He is a good listener and seems sincerely concerned to get to grips with some of India's national problems. He knows he has a lot to learn and is ready to work at it. His decency and ancestry should appeal to a wide cross-section of Indian society.

He married in 1968 and has a son and a daughter. His wife, Sonia, is an attractive, quiet-mannered Italian whom he met at Cambridge. She gets on well with Mrs Gandhi but has no interest in politics.

BRIEF FOR GENERAL USE WITH COMMONWEALTH VISITORS (INCLUDING THOSE FROM AUSTRALIA, BARBADOS, CYPRUS, GUYANA, INDIA, MALAWI, NIGERIA, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA AND ZAMBIA) DURING ROYAL WEDDING

COMMONWEALTH MATTERS

POINTS TO MAKE

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHGM)

1. Looking forward to CHGM. Hope you/your head of government will be present. Relief to have a CHGM no longer dominated by Rhodesian problem. Could be very useful meeting.

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING (CFMM) (IF RAISED)

2. Regret disruption of Commonwealth business. Sympathise with New Zealand government who did all they believe they properly could to persuade those concerned to call off tour. Saw no justification for a change in venue of CFMM but, in interests of Commonwealth harmony, we shall attend Nassau.

GLENEAGLES AGREEMENT AND SPORTING CONTACTS WITH SOUTH.AFRICA (IF RAISED)

3. Hope Commonwealth will not allow consideration of Gleneagles Agreement to become over intrusive at CHGM. Do not think Agreement's modification warranted. Hope discussion of it can be reserved for informal consideration during (Canberra) weekend retreat.

FOR USE WITH AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER ONLY:

4. Share Australia's concern that CHGM should be a success. Particularly hope that it will not be dominated by Southern African issues.

5. Prime Minister enjoyed previous visits to Australia and much regrets unable to accept invitation to stay on in Australia for a few days after meeting.

FOR USE WITH PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS ONLY:

6. (If raised) Inappropriate to convene Commonwealth Committee on Cyprus at a time when it might cut across inter-communal talks.

FOR USE WITH PRESIDENT OF INDIA ONLY:

7. Would be delighted if 1983 CHGM were held in Delhi. India has obvious claim.

/8. (If raised)

8. (If raised) Pakistan's renewed Commonwealth membership a matter for Commonwealth as a whole. We for our part would welcome it, but are conscious of Indian caution; we would not wish to see issue promoted in circumstances that could lead to controversy within Commonwealth.

FOR USE WITH PRESIDENT OF MALAWI ONLY

9. Very sorry to hear President Banda will not be attending this year's CHGM.

FOR USE WITH PRIME MINISTER OF SINGAPORE ONLY:

10. Look forward to hearing your views at CHGM on international economic issues. Always welcome element of rationality which Singapore customarily injects into such discussions.

FOR USE WITH PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA

11. Understand Sri Lanka Exhibition (at Commonwealth Institute) is great success.

COMMONWEALTH MATTERS

ESSENTIAL FACTS

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHGM)

1. In Melbourne 30 September-7 October with weekend retreat in Canberra. Replies due mid-July to Commonwealth Secretary-General's circular letter on agenda. We have recommended that Prime Minister's reply indicate general agreement with Mr Ramphal's ideas and make no substantive new proposals. Next step (probably early August) is circulation by Mr Ramphal of annotated agenda.

COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING (CFMM)

2. Next meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers (CFMM) (22-23 September) will take place in Nassau, Bahamas, following discussion at two meetings (10 and 21 July) of Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa (CCSA) of Nigerian proposal that venue be moved from Auckland if Springbok tour of New Zealand which began 19 July, went ahead. Final decision taken (on 21 July) despite New Zealand Government appeal, which we supported, for its postponement until after Mr Muldoon's arrival in London on 27 July (for Royal Wedding). New Zealand Government will almost certainly not be represented at Nassau, but we shall attend in interests of Commonwealth harmony.

GLENEAGLES AGREEMENT

A 3. Copy annexed: certain to be discussed at CHGM. Four Caribbean Governments (including Barbados) have already indicated their intention of raising it there with a view to securing its more effective implementation; and Nigeria may produce a new draft agreement for consideration. We had hoped that this subject could be reserved for informal discussion by heads of government at weekend retreat, but the furore over the change in CFMM venue, and Mr Muldoon's resulting bitterness, now make this unlikely.

AUSTRALIA

4. CHGM hosts. Immensely keen to make meeting a success and eg

/have

have sent delegations (led by Ministers and senior back-benchers) to all Commonwealth countries attending. Australian Foreign Minister visited UK 10-14 June and had talks with Prime Minister on 12 June when he delivered invitation from Mr Fraser to stay on in Australia for a few days after Meeting (Prime Minister has declined because of Conservative Party Conference, at which Mr Fraser has agreed to speak). On agenda Australians share Pacific, Caribbean (and UK) concern that Southern African issues should not loom too large.

BARBADOS

5. Mr Adams attended last CHGM (Lusaka 1979) where he exhibited a special interest in Belize and world economic questions.

CYPRUS

6. Commonwealth Committee on Cyprus set up at 1975 CHGM (in Jamaica) a propaganda machine for the Greek Cypriots and, thankfully, dormant since 1977. But communique issued at 1979 CHGM (in Lusaka) included decision (in response to Cypriot pressure) to ask Commonwealth Secretary General to convene Committee at Ministerial level whenever appropriate. Ramphal has however told President Kyprianou that he does not intend to convene Committee unless so requested by President himself. Latter has not since done so.

GUYANA

7. Was represented at 1979 CHGM (in Lusaka) by Guyanese Minister of Foreign Affairs.

INDIA

8. Mr Ramphal has suggested to Mrs Gandhi that India host next (1983) CHGM. Mrs Gandhi responded positively but apparently worried whether offer would be welcome to other heads of government. It will be South Asia's turn in 1983 to host a CHGM. Three possible candidates: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. Latter is regionally the most significant, has the most suitable capital and, as the last

/Commonwealth,

Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting (CHGRM)'s successful host, has good claim.

9. President Zia would like to see Pakistan rejoin Commonwealth. Pakistan's readmission in British, Pakistani and Commonwealth interests. Until recently informal soundings have met with strong Indian objections suggesting little prospect of movement before CHGM, but in wake of Indian Foreign Ministers's recent visit to Pakistan and expectation of some improvement in their bilateral relations, Pakistan now seems to be contemplating some form of initiative. Agha Shahi recently approached Secretary of State on matter in New York. Difficult as yet to know likely Indian reaction, which is key. At the least, CHGM could see useful discussion of matter in corridors.

MALAWI

10. President Banda has let it be known that he will not attend this year's CHGM. In no way surprising: he appeared only for opening day of Lusaka CHGM.

NIGERIA

11. Nigerian delegation to 1979 CHGM was led by (then) Minister for External Affairs.

12. Nigerian Government hold very strong views on issue of sporting contacts with South Africa (see paragraphs 2 and 3 above).

SINGAPORE

13. Long standing bilateral tension between Singapore and Australia over latter's protectionism may lead Lee Kuan Yew to take a critical (and thus moderating) view of any Australian rhetoric at CHGM on world economic matters.

SRI LANKA

14. As part of their celebrations of 50 years of universal franchise Sri Lanka is mounting major exhibition at Commonwealth Institute

/17 July

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17 July-13 September depicting aspects of Sri Lanka's history and culture, and of its social political and economic life. The Queen opened Exhibition on 16 July.

15. The Queen has accepted invitation from President Jayawardene to pay state visit to Sri Lanka on her way back from CHGM in October 1981.

ZAMBIA

16. Hosted 1979 CHGM and President Kaunda apparently regards himself as Chairman of the Commonwealth (no such office) until next CHGM.

COMMONWEALTH STATEMENT ON APARTHEID IN SPORT

The member countries of the Commonwealth, embracing peoples of diverse races, colours, languages and faiths, have long recognised racial prejudice and discrimination as a dangerous sickness and an unmitigated evil and are pledged to use all their efforts to foster human dignity everywhere. At their London Meeting, Heads of Government reaffirmed that apartheid in sports, as in other fields, is an abomination and runs directly counter to the Declaration of Commonwealth Principles which they made at Singapore on 22 January 1971.

They were conscious that sport is an important means of developing and fostering understanding between the people, and especially between the young people, of all countries. But, they were also aware that, quite apart from other factors, sporting contacts between their nationals and the nationals of countries practising apartheid in sport tend to encourage the belief (however unwarranted) that they are prepared to condone this abhorrent policy or are less than totally committed to the Principles embodied in their Singapore Declaration. Regretting past misunderstandings and difficulties and recognising that these were partly the result of inadequate inter-governmental consultations, they agreed that they would seek to remedy this situation in the context of the increased level of understanding now achieved.

They reaffirmed their full support for the international campaign against apartheid and welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to reach universally accepted approaches to the question of sporting contacts within the framework of that campaign.

Mindful of these and other considerations, they accepted it as the urgent duty of each of their Governments vigorously to combat the evil of apartheid by withholding any form of support for, and by taking every practical step to discourage contact or competition by their nationals with sporting organisations, teams or sportsmen from South Africa or from any other country where sports are organised on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin.

They fully acknowledged that it was for each Government to determine in accordance with its laws the methods by which it might best discharge these commitments. But they recognised that the effective fulfilment of their commitments was essential to the harmonious development of Commonwealth sport hereafter.

They acknowledged also that the full realisation of their objectives involved the understanding, support and active participation of the nationals of their countries and of their national sporting organisations and authorities. As they drew a curtain across the past they issued a collective call for that understanding, support and participation with a view to ensuring that in this matter the peoples and Government of the Commonwealth might help to give a lead to the world.

Heads of Government specially welcomed the belief, unanimously expressed at their Meeting, that in the light of their consultations and accord there were unlikely to be future sporting contacts of any significance between Commonwealth countries or their nationals and South Africa while that country continues to pursue the detestable policy of apartheid. On that basis, and having regard to their commitments, they looked forward with satisfaction to the holding of the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton and to the continued strengthening of Commonwealth sport generally.

London, June 15 1977.

*Key
Your 9/10/72
AD*

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: *RuyL*
PS

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

PS/No 10

Copies to:

*See by the file
17/7*

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT: INDIA: VISIT TO UK OF PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

1. You kindly agreed that Mr Darbara Singh, the Chief Minister of the Punjab, should be invited to the Prime Minister's reception this evening, 17 July.

2. Mr Darbara Singh came to the United Kingdom to visit the areas affected by recent rioting, particularly Southall, Liverpool and Manchester. We were not officially informed of his visit, but it is likely that he has come with Mrs Gandhi's approval to seek to calm the anxieties of the Indian community. The Indian High Commissioner has called on Mr Hurd and has also expressed his concern at the danger to Indian citizens. Despite factual reporting in the Indian press of HMG's consideration of firm counter-measures, of the Prime Minister's visits to Southall and other disturbed areas and despite helpful references to the situation by Mrs Gandhi, there remains a danger that Indo-British relations could be damaged.

3. Mr Darbara Singh's visit has already attracted Indian press interest, which is likely to intensify after his return to India. It would be helpful if the Prime Minister were able to give him an account of her meeting with community leaders in Southall which has a large population of Asians of Punjabi origin. She may wish to emphasise that although the riots in Southall were of a racial nature, whereas the others were not, the trouble was not caused by problems between the Asian and white communities of the area who enjoy excellent relations but deliberately provoked by outsiders. There had been no criticism of the local police. Any reassurance which the Prime Minister may convey to

/Mr

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Mr Darbara Singh is likely to be communicated to Asian communities in UK and to Mrs Gandhi.

4. The Indian High Commission, in approaching us informally about the possibility of a call on the Prime Minister by Mr Singh, stressed that his concern during his visit was to help to allay anxieties and to calm down the situation. They assured us that, in anything he said to the press about his conversation with Mrs Thatcher, this would be his aim.

5. Mr Darbara Singh who was born in 1916 has been Chief Minister of the Punhab since June 1980. He was hand-picked for the appointment by Mrs Gandhi and is a life-long Congress, new Congress I party maker at both state and national level. He has been involved in Punhab State politics since 1952 and held several ministerial appointments in the State Government.