



India
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Type for PM's signature

27 October 1981

RML

Dear Michael,

MCC Tour of India

Under cover of your letter of 19 October you sent me a copy of the letter which Mr John Carlisle MP had sent to the Prime Minister about the Indian Cricket Tour. I enclose a draft reply.

The reference to the "England Government" in the second paragraph is presumably a slip and should have read "Indian Government". The reply will of course need to be changed if there is some new development, such as the cancellation of the tour (we have heard that a decision is likely in the very near future).

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW 1

DS Form 1 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~memo~~/letter/teletype/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

John Carlisle Esq MP
House of Commons

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 19 October. I too share your concern about the cricket tour. For the time being I gather that the two cricket boards are still talking to each other and while this is so there must remain some hope.

I have thought carefully about your suggestion of making representations to Mrs Gandhi, but I have concluded that this would not advance matters. We have made clear that we stand by our obligations under the Gleneagles agreement, which was reaffirmed at the Commonwealth Meeting at Melbourne. Much the best course would be for the cricketing authorities to resolve the matter among themselves.

Enclosures—flag(s).....



28 OCT 1981

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 794 OF 24 OCTOBER

FOR RESIDENT CLERK.

YOUR TEL NO 705: MCC TOUR OF INDIA.

1. I WAS ABLE THIS MORNING TO HAVE A TALK WITH MANGALMURTI, AN OFFICIAL NEWLY APPOINTED IN THE MEA TO ADVISE ON INTERNATIONAL SPORTING AFFAIRS. I EMPHASISED THAT I HAD NO FRESH INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF, ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, WE COULD TALK OVER THE PRESENT SITUATION.

2. MANGALMURTI EMPHASISED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOI HAD RECENTLY RECONSIDERED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE TOUR, THEY HAD DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM COMMITTING THEMSELVES PUBLICLY AND WERE STILL HOPING THAT SOMETHING WOULD TURN UP WHICH WOULD ENABLE IT TO GO AHEAD. HE DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT WAS IN MRS GANDHI'S MIND, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTENDING TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT CANCUN. ALTERNATIVELY, SHE MIGHT BE INTENDING TO REVIEW IT DURING HER STAY IN LONDON OVER THE WEEKEND. THIS MIGHT MEAN MERELY TAKING THE ADVICE OF THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION, BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT ONE OF HER PARTY MIGHT TRY TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

3. I ASKED WHETHER, GIVEN THE CLEAR ATTITUDE OF THE TCCB, THERE WAS ANY CONCEIVABLE WAY OF GETTING ROUND THE PROBLEM. EMPHASISING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, MANGALMURTI SAID THAT, FIRST OF ALL, THE PROBLEM COULD PERHAPS BE SOLVED IF THE TWO PLAYERS WERE TO MAKE SOME STATEMENT MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD NOT AGAIN PLAY CRICKET IN SOUTH AFRICA, (ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED THAT COOK AT LEAST HAD MADE A STATEMENT INDICATING THAT HE WOULD DO NO SUCH THING). SECOND, HE THOUGHT THAT THE REAL PROBLEM MIGHT BE OVER COOK AND NOT BOYCOTT, IN THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, WHEREAS THE FORMER HAD PLAYED IN COUNTY GAMES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD THEREFORE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN APARTHEID SPORT, THE LATTER HAD ONLY ENGAGED IN COACHING. BOYCOTT ALONE MIGHT THEREFORE IN THE LAST RESORT BE ACCEPTABLE.

4. MANGALMURTI EMPHASISED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE LAST THING THE GOI WANTED WAS CONFRONTATION. HE WAS RATHER AFRAID THAT NEITHER OF HIS SUGGESTIONS WERE RUNNERS, BUT HE HOPED THAT I WOULD REPORT THEM, JUST IN CASE THEY DID PROVIDE SOME SORT OF WAY OUT.

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5. INCIDENTALLY, MANGALMURTI RATHER INDISCREETLY REVEALED THAT THE GOI HAD NO REAL EVIDENCE THAT THERE WOULD BE DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE MCC TOUR WHICH MIGHT SERIOUSLY DISRUPT IT. THEIR PROBLEM LAY RATHER WITH THE OPPOSITION WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE VOICED IN THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT (SEE OUR TELNO 726).

6. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD ENSURE THAT THOSE CONCERNED ARE MADE AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MAY BE SOME APPROACH FROM MRS GANDHI'S PARTY DURING THEIR IMPENDING TRANSIT OF LONDON.

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PS/PUS
SIR A ACLAND
SIR J GRAHAM
LORD NG LENNOX
MR GOODISON

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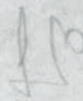
20 October 1981

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from John Carlisle, M.P. about the forthcoming India v England cricket series. I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature by Friday 23 October, if possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Warwick Smith (Department of the Environment).

MICHAEL PATTISON

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



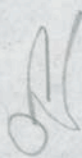
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20 October 1981

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to acknowledge your letter of 19 October. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

MA PATTISON

John Carlisle, Esq., M.P.





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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 October 1981

John CARLISLE

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. John Carlisle about the MCC tour.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply which the Prime Minister might send to Mr. Carlisle. It would be helpful if your draft could reach me by Tuesday 27 October.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to Warwick Smith (Department of the Environment).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 October 1981

I am replying on the Prime Minister's behalf to your letter of 19 October about the MCC tour.

Your letter has been drawn to the Prime Minister's attention and you will be receiving a substantive reply as soon as possible.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

John Carlisle, Esq., M.P.

C O N F I D E N T I A L



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

Michael Alexander Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
LONDON SW1

20 October 1981

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Dear Michael

INDIA CRICKET TOUR

/ Following our chat on the phone this morning I enclose an approximate text of a telegram from the Test and County Cricket Board to the Indian Cricket Board. This is in response to the Indian Board's notification that Boycott and Cook would not be welcome to the Indian Government.

If the TCCB, who are trying to talk to the Indian Board by telephone, let us have any more before Question Time we will of course pass it on immediately.

I am copying this to Roderic Lyne at the FCO.

Yours ever

W L Smith

W L SMITH
Private Secretary

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APPROXIMATE TEXT OF TELEX FROM TCCB TO INDIAN BOARD

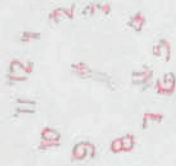
Surprised at requests to drop two players. This is directly contrary to unanimous ICC resolution and contrary to TCCB's firm principles. We cannot therefore agree to exclusion of any members of the team. We very much hope that Government of India will reconsider their decision so that tour can proceed.

Request they be made aware of these relevant points:-

1. Boycott went to South Africa last winter on holiday where he also coached;
2. Cook went on a winter coaching holiday where he coached youngsters of all races and played in local teams;
3. TCCb not object to and unable to prevent individuals from making arrangements to visit South Africa;
4. The Board is opposed to any international representative matches against teams from South Africa and players are warned accordingly;
5. Two privately arranged such tours recently cancelled as a result of Board's efforts. One County received invitation to tour South Africa and has declined on the Board's instruction.

No truth whatsoever in rumour that 6 English players in South Africa for double wicket competition were sent by the Board. They went without the approval of the Board or their Counties. Very concerned at possible disastrous consequences for cricket if tour is cancelled owing to unacceptability of selected team.

20 OCT 1941





HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

19 October 1981

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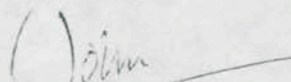
Dear Prime Minister;

I write to you as one very concerned that the threatened action by Mrs Gandhi in banning the forthcoming India v England cricket series will have serious repercussions throughout the sporting world.

It is particularly sad that after your own efforts to keep the Gleneagles Agreement in tact at the Melbourne Conference, and for this most sportsmen are grateful, that within such a short time the England Government should rescind any intention of abiding by its principles. You will know my own feelings in this matter and my anxiety to admit South Africa into the international arena. I am, however, concerned that the Gleneagles Agreement is now being used as an easy cover for political blackmail and double standards. You, yourself, have condemned the provision of the United Nations blacklist and I hope you will find early opportunity to renew this statement.

May I, therefore, ask you to make urgent representation to the Indian Prime Minister to ask to allow the tour to go ahead. Abandonment of the series will hasten the process of polarisation between black and white countries and this must be to the detriment of all sport loving nations.

Yours sincerely,


John Carlisle

The Rt Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
S.W.1.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 October 1981

Dear Rodric,

Cricket

The Indian Deputy High Commissioner, Dr. I.P. Singh, called on me this afternoon to discuss the MCC tour of India. He said that his visit was the result of a telephone call from his Foreign Minister. Mr. Rao had asked him to convey his, and Mrs. Gandhi's, concern about the present situation.

Dr. Singh, who made no attempt to play down the volte face in his Government's position towards the tour, said that Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Rao had come under intense pressure in recent days to ensure that the tour did not take place. There had been representations from a number of foreign governments. Indian opposition parties, no doubt stimulated by the events surrounding the Springboks tour of New Zealand, were determined to exploit the opportunities offered by the visit of an MCC team including Messrs. Boycott and Cook. The Indian Government, like the British Government, did not consider that the participation of Messrs. Boycott and Cook was a breach of the Gleneagles Agreement. Nonetheless they had to recognise the political forces in India. It seemed clear that if the tour took place, the damage to cricket and to Anglo/Indian relations would be considerable. The activities of the hostile minority would have far more impact than those of the silent majority who might support the tour.

At the same time the Indian Government were concerned about the consequences of cancelling or postponing the tour. There were many important figures in India who wished to see the tour take place. Moreover the polarisation in the cricket world which might follow the calling off of the tour was most unwelcome. Clearly the forthcoming Indian tour to this country would, for instance, be in jeopardy.

In this situation, Dr. Singh said that his Government still hoped that the British Government might find some way to obviate the unpalatable choice facing the Indian Government. They had no specific proposal to put forward. However Dr. Singh said that he himself had floated in a recent interview with ITN the suggestion that perhaps Messrs. Boycott and Cook would themselves see the virtue of deciding to withdraw from the tour. Although he was not

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making a proposal to this effect, perhaps this was an idea which could be followed up.

I told Dr. Singh that I was sure the Prime Minister was already well aware of and sympathetic to the dilemma facing Mrs. Gandhi. However I thought it most unlikely that there was anything further that the British Government could do. I recalled the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's conversation with Mr. Rao in Melbourne. As regards the suggestion that Messrs. Boycott and Cook might withdraw from the tour, this was no doubt a possibility which had occurred to the cricketing fraternity. However it was not a suggestion which HMG could possibly endorse or advance. Any hint of this would undoubtedly be interpreted by the press and by sportsmen generally as the exercise of pressure of a highly unacceptable kind. Dr. Singh indicated that he took the point. Having made these points, I of course assured Dr. Singh that I would draw his remarks to the Prime Minister's attention. I have done so.

I am sending copies of this letter to David Edmonds (Department of the Environment) and Warwick Smith (Mr. Macfarlane's Office).

Yours ever

Michael Alexander

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

There is much current activity over the planned English cricket tour of India this winter. I attach an FCO report on the present position. Mr. Macfarlane takes a slightly different view of some aspects. I need not trouble you with the details at the moment. But it seems possible that the Indian Government will reach a decision on Sunday, after spending some time trying to persuade the Indian Cricket Board of Control to take a decision on their own initiative.

If India does cancel the tour, I am told that the TCCB are making contingency enquiries about touring New Zealand, who have lost their own tour of the West Indies in retaliation for the South African rugby tour. This looks likely to remain a messy saga.

Handwritten signatures and initials, including a large signature that appears to be 'MAD' and another set of initials 'MS'.

16 October 1981



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 October 1981

Prime Minister 2

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Dear Mike,

Cricket

The Prime Minister may wish to know that there is an increasing risk that the tour of India by the English Test cricket team may be cancelled, with potentially adverse effects for international sport and Indo/British relations.

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) published in September their list of players to tour India. The list included Boycott and Cook, who are on the UN blacklist because of their sporting links with South Africa. After some initial hesitation the Indian Government announced that it was content to leave matters in the hands of the Indian Cricket authorities (who had made it clear that they did not see the inclusion of Boycott and Cook as a problem). But we have since had private indications from the Indians that they are rethinking their position. They claim to be worried because of the threat of demonstrations that could develop at the matches and because of their position at the United Nations (where they are a member of the Special Committee on Apartheid which endorses the application of the blacklist). They have sought our assistance in solving their problem; but we have made it quite clear that we cannot interfere with, or put pressure on, the TCCB and that even to try to do so would be counter-productive.

The Indian Foreign Minister is due to see Mrs Gandhi about the problem and matters could come to a head soon. A decision by the Indians to call off the tour for reasons relating to keeping law and order would probably be the best solution from our point of view. But they may well balk at this. If they say that Boycott and Cook will not be acceptable in India it seems certain that the TCCB will call off the tour. We should then have to do what we could to

/limit the

M Pattison Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW 1



limit the damage to our relations with India. As you know, Lord Carrington has invited the Indian Foreign Minister to visit Britain in November; and there is the prospect of Mrs Gandhi's visit next March.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Private Secretary to the Minister for Sport.

Yours truly
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary