

Caparo House
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SP/EBA/CH

5 March 1982

Dear John,

I have received your letter of 19 February and, of course, I have been talking to Mrs Gandhi's office regarding the Nehru Exhibition.

Mrs Gandhi has suggested an informal opening, but, as we all know, she will be visiting the Exhibition on 23rd March at 11.15 a.m.

Our programme is that she will first unveil a plaque in memory of her father.

She will then visit the Exhibition, the theme of which is as under and which will be shown on various panels:

Nehru
World's homage
Discovery of India
Early years : Kashmir and Allahabad
Seven years in England
Return to India and Marriage
Towards Freedom
Freedom Comes
A Country is Divided : A Republic is Born
Building of Modern India
International Relations
India and the Commonwealth
The Man
The Last Journey
Gandhi and Nehru

We would be delighted to welcome Mrs Margaret Thatcher at the same time, if it is at all possible.

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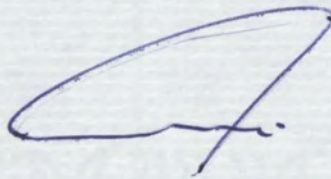
I would just like to mention, for your information, and in case it is of any interest, that Mrs Gandhi unveiled a plaque in memory of her father in Paris.

It was not on the programme and, when we reached the place, we were told that President Mitterand was arriving. The ceremony made a great impression with the Indian press and Mrs Gandhi's team. I thought I would let you know for your information.

In case it is not possible for us to welcome the Prime Minister on the 23rd, we should be delighted to do so on any other day.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Swraj Paul', written in a cursive style with a large loop at the top.

Swraj Paul

Mr John Coles
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

India

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8 March, 1982.

Thank you for your letter of 5 March about the opening of the Nehru Exhibition.

The Prime Minister has asked me to say that she very much regrets that she is not free to attend the Exhibition on 23 March. Nor, I am afraid, will she be able to visit it on another day at about that time - the Prime Minister's diary is extremely heavily committed at the moment. She nonetheless sends you her very best wishes for the occasion.

A. J. COLES

Mr. Swraj Paul

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