



FILE SW

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 March, 1982

Mrs. Gandhi's Visit

I enclose texts which the Prime Minister has approved for:

- a) her speech to the Indo-British Association tonight;
- b) her speech at the opening of the Science Museum Exhibition tomorrow.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

India
PRIME MINISTER

FILE

SW

Mrs. Gandhi's Visit: Speeches

You may wish to work further on these speeches over the weekend. I shall be coming with you to the airport to meet Mrs. Gandhi at 1800 on Sunday evening. Would you like me to come to No. 10 afterwards to put the speeches in final form? There will be no time next week to work on them.

I attach notes for a possible after lunch speech on 22 March (Monday). You may well prefer to improvise at the time.

I also attach again the draft speech for the opening of the Science Museum Exhibition on 24 March (Wednesday). You said this was satisfactory and I have not done further work on it.

Finally, I attach a revised draft of your speech for the Indo-British Association Dinner on 23 March (Tuesday). I have, as you requested, looked at the speeches you made in India and at one speech delivered there by Mrs. Gandhi, in addition to your Guildhall speech of 1980 and your speech when you unveiled a portrait of Lord Mountbatten. I have inserted one or two thoughts from these other speeches but do not think there is very much which can be drawn upon.

The main change is a new conclusion which, I hope, is considerably more interesting than the previous one and which embroiders the theme that Britain and India both believe in defending their way of life.

A. J. COLES

18 March, 1982

INTRODUCTION

I AM PROUD AND GLAD TO WELCOME OUR GUEST OF HONOUR

THIS EVENING.

I OWE HER A PERSONAL DEBT OF HOSPITALITY.

MY VISIT TO INDIA LAST YEAR WAS AN UNFORGETTABLE

PLEASURE AND I HAVE MRS. GANDHI TO THANK FOR

ITS METICULOUS PREPARATION.

MRS. GANDHI IS A GREAT PRIME MINISTER OF A GREAT COUNTRY.

SHE IS BOTH ^{THE} A SYMBOL AND THE HOPE OF INDIA .

AND SHE IS AN OLD FRIEND WHO KNOWS BRITAIN

WELL.

HER VISIT HERE WILL DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP AND

RESPECT STILL FURTHER.

/THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA'S

THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA'S FUTURE

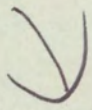
THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES, FASCINATING AS THEY ARE, WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A DINNER OF THE INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

AS SO OFTEN BEFORE, THE ASSOCIATION MARKS ~~THE~~ A SPECIAL EVENT IN INDO-BRITISH RELATIONS BY BRINGING TOGETHER PEOPLE WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF INDIA AND HER PEOPLE. I PAY TRIBUTE TO YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR MAKING THE OCCASION POSSIBLE.

BEFORE THIS GATHERING, I DO NOT NEED TO DWELL ON OUR SHARED *and* HISTORY, COMMON LANGUAGE ~~OR LOVE OF THE SAME~~ ~~DEMOCRATIC IDEALS.~~

THESE THINGS DO MEAN A LOT TO US.

/BUT WHAT



in spite of all the difficulties,
 the vast size,

& the ~~large~~ ~~population~~ large population

the people ~~are~~ nevertheless ~~to~~ enjoy it

has a democratic society

a mixed economy

and peaceful unity in a just land.

BUT THESE THINGS ARE ABOUT MORE THAN WORDS AND IDEALS,
THEY HAVE TO BE TRANSLATED INTO EVERY-DAY
REALITIES, INTO ECONOMIC POLICIES, INTO
CULTURAL EXPRESSION, INTO SPIRITUAL VISION
AND THEY REQUIRE GOOD INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

ECONOMIC

ECONOMICALLY INDIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE BECOME
MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS.

BRITAIN IS ONE OF INDIA'S LARGEST INVESTORS
AND IS PLAYING A LARGER COLLABORATIVE ROLE THAN
ANY OTHER SINGLE COUNTRY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
INDIA'S ECONOMY, AN ECONOMY WHICH HAS MADE SUCH
SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN RECENT YEARS.

LL

/CULTURAL EXPRESSION

A NEW AIR SERVICE HAS RECENTLY OPENED BETWEEN
AMRITSAR IN PUNJAB AND BIRMINGHAM.

THERE WAS RECENTLY A FASCINATING PROGRAMME IN
THE POPULAR BBC 'HOLIDAY' SERIES SHOWING
BEAUTIFUL SCENES OF INDIA AND DESCRIBING IT TO
POTENTIAL BRITISH TOURISTS AS THE HOLIDAY OF
A LIFETIME.

~~SPIRITUAL VISION~~

AND, BEYOND THE PACKAGE TOUR, MANY YOUNG BRITONS ARE
MAKING THEIR OWN WAY TO INDIA, TRAVELLING ITS
LENGTH AND BREADTH, EXPERIENCING ITS WARM
HOSPITALITY AND ABSORBING ITS TRADITIONS AND
INFLUENCES.

/SO MANY

MADAM PRIME MINISTER.

WHEN YOU SPOKE AT THAT ^{June} ~~SPLENDID~~ BANQUET YOU
~~GAVE FOR ME~~ IN INDIA LAST YEAR YOU SAID:

"BRITAIN ITSELF IS A PRODUCT OF MANY ETHNIC
STREAMS, AND IN RECENT TIME PEOPLE OF INDIAN
ORIGIN HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE BRITISH
ECONOMY.

I HOPE", YOU SAID, "THAT THEIR INDUSTRIOUSNESS
AND SKILLS WILL CONTINUE TO BE REGARDED AS A
SOURCE OF STRENGTH TO BRITAIN."

YES, THAT IS HOW WE LOOK ON THE INDIAN COMMUNITY
HERE.

THEIR SKILLS AND VALUES STIMULATE OUR ECONOMY AND
CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRENGTH OF OUR SOCIETY.

THE FESTIVAL OF INDIA WHICH WAS INAUGURATED LAST NIGHT WILL

BE A FURTHER POWERFUL DEMONSTRATION TO THE

/PEOPLE

PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY OF THE VARIETY OF INDIA'S
ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS, AS WELL AS HER TECHNOLOGICAL
AND SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

WE ARE IMMENSELY HONOURED THAT THIS FESTIVAL
SHOULD BE HELD IN BRITAIN.

IT SYMBOLISES THE SPECIAL REGARD WE ~~HAVE FOR~~
between our
~~EACH OTHER.~~ *2 countries*

I AM REMINDED OF THE STORY - A TRUE ONE - OF THE
INDIAN RESEARCH STUDENT WHO APPLIED FOR A
SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY ABROAD.

THE INTERVIEWING COMMITTEE SUGGESTED LONDON.

HE REPLIED: "NO, NOT LONDON. I WANT SOMEWHERE
FOREIGN."

I HOPE LONDON AND BRITAIN WILL NEVER BECOME
FOREIGN FOR INDIANS.

THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE COUNTRY IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF INDIA'S ECONOMY, WHICH HAS MADE SUCH SIGNIFICANT
STRIDES IN RECENT YEARS.

AN IMPORTANT SEMINAR IS TO BE HELD IN BOMBAY EARLY
NEXT MONTH BY THE COMMITTEE ON INVISIBLE EXPORTS ON
THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE CITY OF LONDON COULD MAKE
TO INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT.

I RECALL MY VISIT TO BOMBAY LAST YEAR.

THAT GREAT CENTRE OF ENTERPRISE, INITIATIVE AND
COMMERCIAL SUCCESS IMPRESSED ME ENORMOUSLY.

THE IDEA THAT THE TALENT AND EXPERIENCE OF THE CITY
OF LONDON SHOULD JOIN WITH THE SKILLS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF BOMBAY TO THE BENEFIT OF INDIA
AND BRITAIN IS EXCITING.

I WISH THE PROJECT WELL.

/ BUT IT IS CULTURAL

PRIME MINISTER

MRS. GANDHI'S VISIT: SPEECHES

I attach three speeches:

- (a) notes for an after lunch speech on 22 March - though you may well prefer to improvise at the time.
- (b) a draft for your speech at the opening of the Science Museum Exhibition on 24 March.
- (c) your speech for the Indo-British Association dinner - this is the major one and possibly the most difficult.

) Plus it
- doesn't say
anything!

We have not allotted much space in the diary for work on these speeches. I shall of course be available next weekend to work on them, but it would be helpful to have your first reactions now. We have set aside thirty minutes on Monday ~~morning~~ when you may like to give me your comments.

A.J.C.

12 March 1982

India

1 March 1982

Festival of India

Thank you for your letter of 25 February.

The Prime Minister agrees that we should accept the new message which Mrs. Gandhi has approved for insertion in the Gala Concert programme, Mrs. Thatcher also wishes to maintain the original draft of her own message which she approved sometime ago.

JOHN COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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