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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Will try to see him. There are big contracts at stake in India. Also - the is a very important + changing person

Prime Minister:

26 August, 1982

The diary is very crowded. Since you have already seen Rajiv once and are seeing Mr Mukherjee next week

Dear Tim, you may feel we can turn this down if 26/8

The Prime Minister will wish to know that Rajiv Gandhi has accepted an invitation from the Head of Defence Sales and the President of the SBAC to attend Farnborough. His programme is not yet firm but he is expected to arrive on Sunday 5 September, devote the next two days to Farnborough-related activities, leaving Wednesday 8 September free for calls in London. He will be accompanied by his wife, Sonia, and will probably spend one or two days after 8 September privately in Cambridge.

Mr Gandhi will call on Mr Pym at 9.30 am on 8 September and will have lunch with Mr Hurd the same day. He has also been invited to a dinner that Mr Nott is to give for a select number of Farnborough visitors on 7 September.

You will recall that Mr Gandhi was received by the Prime Minister when he came to London last year for the Royal Wedding. It may well be that Mrs Thatcher will wish to see him on this occasion also. Mr Wade-Gery in Delhi has advised that a brief call would be much appreciated by Rajiv and by Mrs Gandhi. We believe there would be value in such a meeting, which might most productively be used to advance our interest in defence sales to India. But we would not wish it to prejudice a claim we hope to make on the Prime Minister's time in November when Mr Gandhi will be here again to represent his mother at the closing concert of the Festival of India. This will be the more significant visit and there will be strong grounds why he should then be received by Mrs Thatcher, as Joint Patron of the Festival, and offered suitable hospitality by HMG. We shall be writing to you shortly about this.

If the Prime Minister wishes to receive Mr Gandhi on this occasion, a suitable time might be either the late morning or the afternoon of Wednesday 8 September or, by reducing the time he spends at Farnborough, the afternoon of Tuesday 7 September.

Yours ever

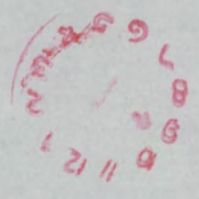
J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

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VISIT OF MR. RAJIV GANDHI

The Prime Minister will be pleased to receive Mr. Gandhi at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 8 September.

Could your brief please reach us by close of play on Tuesday, 7 September.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Miss Marsha Fenwick,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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