



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 October 1982

Dear John,

Visit of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, 14-15 November 1982

We have now received confirmation from Delhi that Rajiv and Sonia Gandhi would be delighted to accept the Prime Minister's invitation to lunch on Monday 15 November. I enclose a draft guest list, as requested in your letter of 29 September. A Private Secretary will of course need to be added.

We have tried as far as possible to suggest guests who, though closely associated with the Festival of India, did not attend the Prime Minister's lunch for Mrs Gandhi last March. Accordingly Mr Swraj Paul and Sir Richard Attenborough, though excellent candidates otherwise, are proposed as reserves only. Sir Michael Walker and Mrs Pupul Jayakar were also present in March but, as the leading officials of the Festival here and in India, their attendance on this occasion is probably inescapable. Similar considerations apply to the Indian High Commissioner. We have suggested Sir Hugh Casson because of the major exhibition of Indian art that is currently being held at the Royal Academy and because of Mrs Sonia Gandhi's personal interest in picture restoration. Sir John Burgh's inclusion balances Mrs Jayakar's and reflects the important contribution made by the British Council, particularly its staff in India, to the Festival's undoubted success.

The Secretary of State for Defence has accepted an invitation to attend the closing concert of the Festival of India on Sunday 14 November. Subject to the Prime Minister's views, we think there would be advantage in advising the Festival Trust that he will attend as Mrs Thatcher's representative. I understand that this would be acceptable to Mr Nott.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

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10 Downing Street

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From the Private Secretary

27 October 1982

VISIT OF MR. RAJIV GANDHI

Thank you for your letter of 27 October about the lunch for the above.

With regard to the last paragraph, I am sure that, provided this is acceptable to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Prime Minister would like him to be designated as her representative at the closing concert of the Festival of India, on Sunday, 14 November.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram in the Ministry of Defence.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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