

File marked to CS 29/6



(1)

FESTIVAL OF INDIA OFFICE

Prime Minister.

You would do this on 17 July, Friday,  
from 18.30-19.30. Agree?

Government Offices (G64/G)  
Great George Street  
London SW1 2AH

23 June 1981

*Handwritten initials*

Yes.  
Have we made any  
progress with  
getting a decision?  
MT

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
London

Dear Prime Minister,

FESTIVAL OF INDIA

Thank you for your letter of 2 June about the financial problems of the Festival of India. I naturally understand the difficulty of finding additional Government money in the present economic circumstances.

I am hopeful that we shall shortly be able to get off the ground a new financing operation which will prove more productive than the first. Lord Harewood and Sir John Cuckney (of Thomas Cooks) have recently agreed to join the Festival Trust, and the latter has kindly volunteered much active help in fund raising.

Sir John and I believe that one of the best ways of giving a fair wind to this financing operation would be to get together a group of 40 or so leading industrialists, including all those with significant investments in India and major Indian contracts in the offing. Part of the purpose of such a gathering would be to get over the point that to support the Festival of India is not simply a question of cultural charity but, to a degree, of enlightened commercial self-interest. The Indians, from Mrs Gandhi downwards, are keenly interested in the Festival and will take notice of the firms who are willing to contribute to

/its



its success.

Given your position as Patron of this Festival I wonder whether you would be able to consider helping us by hosting say a short early evening drinks party at No 10 to bring together these industrialists. To coincide with the new fund raising efforts, this would have to be sometime in July.

I make the suggestion with great diffidence because the event would add yet another burden to your programme. But I have no doubt at all that it could lead to a most important breakthrough in our fund-raising efforts. The financial situation of the Festival is still critical and I am most anxious that it should not long remain so, with all that could mean for a deterioration in relations with India. If this idea is acceptable to you and you are able to find a convenient date, I would quickly let you have a suggested list of prospective invitees if that would help.

It was very useful that you were able to see Mrs Jayakar earlier this month. She was pleased with the results of her visit to Britain and impressed by the progress made by the individual galleries putting on exhibitions. The fact that you received her registered with the Indians in a most effective way the high political, as well as cultural, importance which we attach to the Festival.

Yours sincerely,  
*Michael Walker*

Michael Walker

**Trustees**

Sir Michael Walker GCMG *Chairman*  
The Rt Hon Lord Aldington KCMG CBE DSO  
Mr John Burgh CB  
The Lord Chitnis  
Sir John Cuckney  
The Earl of Harewood  
Sir Ronald McIntosh, KCB  
HE Dr V A Seyid Muhammad  
The Rt Hon Kenneth Robinson  
Dr K S Shelvankar



*at S Goodchild*  
**Festival  
of  
India**

**Patrons**

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Shrimati Indira Gandhi

Festival of India Office,  
Room G64/G Government Offices,  
Great George Street,  
London SW1A 1AA.  
Telephones: 01 233 5986 and 233 3606

*Added to the list*

*John Macgregor*  
- 10/7/81

10 July 1981

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
No. 10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*Dear Michael*

FESTIVAL OF INDIA:  
PRIME MINISTER'S RECEPTION 17 JULY

The Indian High Commissioner has approached Sir Michael Walker to ask whether it would be possible to include among the guests for the Prime Minister's reception on 17 July Mr Swraj Paul and Mr Maneck Dalal, two well-known figures in the Indian business community in London, and members of the Festival's Finance Committee.

In making up our initial suggested list of guests we had tried to keep the focus as much as possible on British businessmen and the members of the Festival Trust with commercial interests, and had therefore omitted Indian businessmen (for whom the Indian High Commissioner is holding a separate reception). However since this request comes from the High Commissioner who is as things stand the only Indian guest at the reception, and since Mr Paul and Mr Dalal have both been active in our new fund-raising drive, Sir Michael would recommend that the Prime Minister agree to the inclusion of these names in the guest list. She will remember Mr Paul who called on her on 2 July 1980 as a special unofficial emissary of Mrs Gandhi. Mr Dalal is the representative in London of Tata's, the second largest private business empire in India.

*Yours ever*

*John Macgregor*

John Macgregor  
Special Assistant to  
Sir Michael Walker

1 Mr Alexander (or) Prime Minister of India

CF



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

I have asked for a  
draft speaking note for the  
PM's use on 12 July. See  
phone on 15 July.

6 July 1981

Dear Michael, *RMJ 8/7*

Festival of India

Thank you for your letter of 29 June. I am sorry that I have not been able to let you know earlier our thinking about the appointment of a Director for the Festival, as proposed by Mrs Jayakar.

Mrs Jayakar was undoubtedly correct in laying stress on the importance of the organisational side of the Festival, and equally there is no doubt that while individual galleries are making good progress on their exhibitions, the overall direction is less than satisfactory. While this problem is ultimately for the members of the Festival Trust to solve, we have discussed it with Sir M Walker with encouraging results.

We have pursued separately through the Office of Arts and Libraries the question of whether Joanna Drew could be made available as Festival Director. Apparently this would not be possible. Despite Mrs Jayakar's opinion, the Arts Council are not sure that she is the right person. They would be quite unwilling to second her and still less to pay her for this task. The Festival Trust met in closed session on 2 July and considered the problem of the director with only the Trust members present. Sir M Walker has told us that they accepted that Miss Drew would not be available but agreed to look rapidly for someone suitable. They also agreed that the administrative structure needed considerable strengthening and in particular that an effective full-time administrator was needed as well as a Festival Director. This is satisfactory as far as it goes (and reflects our own advice to Sir M Walker). But it leaves the question of finding and appointing the right people to fill these posts. The Trust accepts that although this will inevitably mean extra administrative expense, it is essential if the Festival is to be a success; and they seem a bit more optimistic about raising the money. They are of course extremely appreciative of the Prime Minister's willingness to host the reception on 17 July.

In the meantime we shall do what we can to continue to help the Trust with their recruitment. I shall let you know how things stand nearer the time of the reception.

*Yours etc*  
*Roderic Lyne*

M O'D B Alexander Esq

(R M J Lyne)

**Trustees**

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The Rt Hon Lord Aldington KCMG CBE DSO  
Mr John Burgh CB  
The Lord Chitnis  
Sir John Cuckney  
The Earl of Harewood  
Sir Ronald McIntosh, KCB  
H E Dr V A Seyid Muhammad  
The Rt Hon Kenneth Robinson  
Dr K S Shelvankar



# Festival of India

**Patrons**

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Shrimati Indira Gandhi

Festival of India Office,  
Room G64/G Government Offices,  
Great George Street,  
London SW1A 1AA.  
Telephones: 01 233 5986 and 233 3606

*Michael (or)  
I have told her.*

*wm  
7/3*

*Ans*

6 July 1981

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
No. 10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*Prime Minister 1*

*Content?*

*Dear Michael*

*Yes not*

*wm  
6/7*

**FESTIVAL OF INDIA**

Thank you for your letter of 29 June to Sir Michael Walker. Sir Michael is most grateful to the Prime Minister for agreeing to give this reception at such short notice.

I attach a suggested list of guests. Sir Michael has now written to them in order to alert them to the purpose of their invitation to No. 10. (I am enclosing a copy of one of these letters).

We are arranging for the FCO to meet the cost of the reception. I have spoken to Sue Goodchild about this, and she has made informal contact with GHF.

If the Prime Minister would like to say a few words at the reception, I will send you a short speaking note.

*Yours ever*

*John Macgregor.*

J M Macgregor  
Special Assistant  
to Sir Michael Walker



FESTIVAL OF INDIA

PRIME MINISTER'S DRINKS PARTY  
FOR LEADING INDUSTRIALISTS AND BANKERS:  
17 JULY at 18.30, No. 10 DOWNING STREET.


[LIST OF GUESTS ATTACHED]

1. Sir John Buckley  
Chairman  
Davy International  
15 Portland Place  
London W1A 4DD
2. Mr I J Fraser CBE MC  
Chairman  
Lazard Bros & Co Ltd  
21 Moorfields  
London EC2
3. Mr R J Puttick FIOB CBIM  
Chairman  
Taylor Woodrow Limited  
10 Park Street  
London W1Y 4DD
4. Lord Weinstock  
Managing Director  
The General Electric Co Ltd  
1 Stanhope Gate  
London W1A 1EH
5. Sir John Clark  
Chairman  
The Plessey Company Limited  
Vicarage Lane  
Ilford  
Essex IG1 4AQ
6. Mr Duncan McDonald CBE BSC  
FH-WC CEng FIEE FBIM  
SMIEEE FRSE  
Chairman  
NEI House  
Regent Centre  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3SB
7. Sir John King  
Chairman  
Babcock International Ltd  
Cleveland House  
St James' Square  
London SW1Y 4LN
8. Mr H A Whittall CBE CEng  
Chairman  
Amalgamated Power Engineering Ltd  
115 Colmore Row  
Birmingham B3 3SA
9. Sir Robert Hunt CBE DL DSc  
CEng FRAES FCASI  
Chairman  
Dowty Group Ltd  
Arle Court  
Cheltenham  
GL51 0TP



- 10. Mr T Pollard BSc CEng FIMinE  
FGS  
Chairman  
Gullick Dobson International  
Ltd  
P O Box 12  
Wigan  
Lancs WNI 3DD
- 11. Sir Montague Finniston FRS  
Chairman  
Anderson Strathclyde Ltd  
Anderson House  
47 Broad Street  
Glasgow G40 2QW
- 12. Mr L J Thomas BSc CEng  
FIMechE MRINA  
Chairman  
Ransomes and Rapier Ltd  
Thorncliffe  
Chapelton  
Sheffield S30 47P
- 13. Mr N J Verville  
Managing Director  
Ruston Bucyrus Ltd  
Excavator Works  
Lincoln LN6 7DJ
- 14. Mr D V Newbold CEng FIMechE  
FIPet  
Chairman  
Foster Wheeler Ltd  
c/o Foster Wheeler Power  
Products  
Greater London House  
Hampstead Road  
London NW1 7QN
- 15. Sir Austin Pearce CBE  
Chairman  
British Aerospace PLC  
Brooklands Road  
Weybridge  
Surrey
- 16. Sir Peter Matthews AO  
Chairman  
Vickers Ltd  
P O Box 177  
Vickers House  
Millbank Tower  
London SW1P 4RA



- 
17. The Rt Hon Lord McFadzean  
of Kelvinside
- Chairman  
Rolls Royce Ltd  
65 Buckingham Gate  
London SW1E 6AT
18. Sir Phillip Foreman CBE DSc  
CEng FIMechE FRAES FIProdE  
FBIM DL
- Chairman  
Short Bros Ltd  
Berkeley Square House  
Berkeley Square  
London W1X 5LB
19. Sir Kenneth Corfield KB CE  
FIMechE FBIM ComPLEE
- Chairman  
Standard Telephones &  
Cables Ltd  
190 Strand  
London WC2R 1DU
20. Mr J J L G Sheffield
- Chairman  
Portals Holdings Ltd  
Laverstoke Mill  
Whitchurch  
Hants RG28 7NR
21. Mr K A Bray MA FEng FIMechE MASME
- Chairman  
Ruston Gas Turbines Ltd  
P O Box 1  
Lincoln LN2 5DJ
22. Sir David Steel DSO MC TD
- Chairman  
British Petroleum Co Ltd  
Britannic House  
Moor Lane  
London EC2Y 9BU
23. Mr G T Holdsworth FCA
- Chairman  
Guest Keen & Nettlefolds Ltd  
P O Box 55  
Smethwick  
Warley West Midlands
24. Sir Campbell Fraser  
*BCom. FBIM FRSE LL.D.*
- Chairman  
Dunlop Holdings Ltd  
Dunlop House  
Ryder Street  
St James's  
London SW1Y 6PX
25. Sir Peter Macadam
- Chairman  
BAT Industries Ltd  
P O Box 345  
Windsor House  
50 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0NL



26. Sir Raymond Pennock  
Chairman  
BICC Limited  
21 Bloomsbury Street  
London WC1B 3QN
27. Mr M W Butterwick MA FRICS  
Chairman  
Duncan & Goodricke  
Sir John Lyon House  
5 High Timber Street  
Upper Thames Street  
London EC4V 3LE
28. Sir Austin Bide BSc CChem FRIC  
FBIM  
Chairman  
Glaxo Holdings Ltd  
6-12 Clarges Street  
London W1Y 8DH
29. Sir Graham Wilkins  
Chairman  
Beechams Group Ltd  
Beecham House  
Great West Road  
Brentford  
Middlesex TW8 9BD
30. Sir Maurice Hodgson  
Chairman  
Imperial Chemical Industries  
Ltd  
Millbank  
London SW1P 3JF
31. Sir Adrian Cadbury  
Chairman  
Cadbury Schweppes Ltd  
1 - 10 Connaught Place  
London W2 2EX
32. Mr M H Caine  
Chairman  
Booker McConnell Ltd  
Bucklersbury House  
83 Cannon Street  
London EC4N 8EJ
33. Mr R Leigh-Pemberton DL MA  
Chairman  
National Westminster Bank Ltd  
41 Lothbury  
London EC2P 2BP
34. Sir Anthony Tuke  
Chairman  
Barclays Bank Ltd  
54 Lombard Street  
EC3P 3AH



35. Sir Jeremy Morse KCMG  
Chairman  
Lloyds Bank Ltd  
71 Lombard Street  
London EC3P 3BS
36. Sir David Barran  
Chairman  
Midland Bank Ltd  
Poultry  
London EC2P 2BX
37. Mr N J Robson  
Chairman  
Grindlays Bank Ltd  
23 Fenchurch Street  
London EC3P 3ED
38. Lord Barber  
Chairman  
Standard Chartered Bank Ltd  
10 Clements Lane  
London EC4N 7AB
39. Mr M G R Sandberg OBE FIB  
Chairman  
Mercantile Bank Ltd  
99 Bishopsgate  
London EC2
40. Mr R A Henderson  
Chairman  
Kleinwort, Benson Ltd  
20 Fenchurch Street  
London EC3P 3DB
41. The Rt Hon Lord Catto of  
Cairncatto  
Chairman  
Morgan Grenfell Holdings Ltd  
23 Great Winchester Street  
London EC2P 2AX

TRUSTEES

42. Sir Michael Walker GCMG  
Festival of India Office  
Room G64/G Government Offices  
Great George Street  
SWIA IAA
43. The Rt Hon Lord Aldington KCMG  
CBE DSO TD  
2/3 Cursitor Street  
London EC4A INE
44. Sir R McIntosh KCB  
30 Gresham Street  
EC2P 2EB



45. His Excellency  
Dr V A Seyid Muhammad

India House  
Aldwych  
WC2 4NA

OTHERS

46. Sir Anthony Royle MP

House of Commons

47. Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox

Foreign and Commonwealth  
Office

48. Mr J M Macgregor

Festival of India Office  
Room G64/G Government Offices  
Gt George Street SW1A 1AA

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# Festival of India

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6 July 1981

T Pollard Esq BSc CEng FIMinE FGS  
Chairman  
Gullick Dobson International Ltd  
P O Box 12  
Wigan  
Lancs WNi 3DD

*Trevor Pollard,*

A Festival of India is to be held from April to October next year in London. It will be the largest series of exhibitions of this kind to be put on here, and the most comprehensive and ambitious display of India's past and present since Independence. The importance which the British Government attaches to the Festival is reflected in the major contribution, some £1.25 million, it is making towards the costs arising in the UK. The Indian Government is making a similar contribution towards the costs in India.

The urgent matter now is to raise from private sources in this country £300,000 towards funding the Festival organisation, the educational programmes associated with a number of the exhibitions and a concurrent programme of the performing arts.

The Prime Minister, who is taking a close personal interest in the Festival, and is together with Mrs Gandhi a joint patron, is holding a reception at No. 10 on 17 July at 18.30. The object of this is to bring to the attention of a number of leading industrialists and bankers the importance she attaches to this event, not simply as a cultural exchange but as a political gesture which will both add new substance to Anglo-Indian relations and improve the climate for future British business in India.

I very much hope that you will be able to attend. No. 10 will be sending you an invitation at the same time as this letter.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Michael Walker*

Michael Walker  
Chairman

Festival of India Trust

← Sue. SG 30/6

It seems to be on -  
Will you take it from here  
- it will be 1830-1930.  
29 June 1981

ef. 29/6.

232  
Mr. J. J. 5986  
McGregor

Festival of India

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Sir Michael Walker about the Festival of India. The Prime Minister has agreed to give a reception of the kind proposed by Sir Michael on Friday 17 July at 1830. We shall, of course, be getting in touch with Sir Michael direct.

Sir Michael's letter has led the Prime Minister to ask whether we have made any progress with appointing a Director for the Festival, my letter of 10 June refers.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

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

9.

29 June 1981

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter to her of 23 June about the Festival of India. She would be happy to give a reception of the kind you propose on Friday 17 July at 1830. We shall be getting in touch with you about the details.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Sir Michael Walker, G.C.M.G.

*Judex*

MR. ALEXANDER

FESTIVAL OF INDIA

Can I suggest Monday 5 July 1982 for this Reception? I could offer you an alternative date but I would rather not as the Prime Minister has to give three cocktail parties for Members of Parliament and their wives in July and these are subject to the Garden Party dates which the Palace are loathe to divulge this early. If you can get the Festival of India Office to go firm on this date I am pretty certain that it will be convenient for the Prime Minister as we already know about the European Council which is the preceding week and she is unlikely to be out of the country at that time.

*C.S.*

*Why 1982? Sir Michael (love me)  
was rather hoping for next month!*

*And*

*FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> 18.30 - 17.30*

*Michael was going to  
put his to the P.M.*

*C.S. 26/6.*

24 June 1981