FILE SW

bcc: John Holmes, FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 February, 1982

I am writing to thank you for your kind invitation to the Prime Minister to attend the Indo-British Association dinner in honour of Mrs. Gandhi on Tuesday, 23 March. The Prime Minister has asked me to say that she would be delighted to accept and looks forward very much to the occasion. As I think you may already have heard from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mrs. Thatcher will not be able to arrive until 8.15 p.m. and hopes that this will cause no inconvenience.

Unfortunately, owing to other commitments, Mr. Thatcher regrets that he will not be able to accompany the Prime Minister on this occasion.

The Prime Minister would, as you know, be pleased to speak at the dinner. Since Mrs. Gandhi is the guest of honour, you may consider it more appropriate for her to speak first.

As to your enquiry about other possible guests for the dinner, I have no particular suggestion to make.

May I also thank you for your kind letter of 21 January inviting myself and my wife to the dinner. The Prime Minister wishes me to accompany her as her Private Secretary. I am afraid that Anne will not be able to be present but she is most grateful to you for the invitation.

A. J. COLES

Mr. Swraj Paul

DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/~~telegram~~/~~despatch~~/~~note~~ **TYPE:** Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
A J Coles Esq

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

Reference

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

TO:
Mr Swraj Paul
The Indo-British Association
Capara House
103 Baker Street
LONDON WIM IFD

Your Reference

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

As I think you may already have heard from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mrs. Thatcher will not be able to arrive until 8.15 p.m. and hope that this will cause no inconvenience.

SUBJECT:

I am writing to thank you for your kind invitation to the Prime Minister ~~[and Mr Thatcher]~~ to attend the Indo-British Association dinner in honour of Mrs. Gandhi on Tuesday, 23 March. The Prime Minister has asked me to say that she ~~[and Mr Thatcher]~~ would be delighted to accept and look ~~[s]~~ forward very much to the occasion. ~~[~~Unfortunately, owing to other commitments, Mr Thatcher ~~will~~ not ~~however~~, repeats that he will be able to accompany ~~her.~~ the Prime Minister on this occasion.

~~As I have already indicated,~~ The Prime Minister would, as you know, be pleased to speak at the dinner. ~~Mrs Thatcher has no particular view about the order in which speeches are to be made, but~~ since as Mrs Gandhi is the guest of honour you may consider it more appropriate for her to speak first.

As to your enquiry about other ~~candidates for invitations to~~ possible guests to the dinner, I ~~rather think that you have already more than adequately covered the field.~~ have no particular suggestions to make.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Blind copy to:
John Holmes
P/C-O.

May I also thank you for your kind letter of
21 January inviting myself and my wife to the dinner.
The Prime Minister wishes me to arrange her visit as he
finds himself very busy. I am afraid that time will not be
able to be present but she is most grateful to you for
the invitation.

19.
2

India

VB

MR. THATCHRR

Mrs Gandhi's Visit

I put a note into yesterday about the lunch and the dinner on Monday 22 March.

Could you also let me know whether you wish to attend the Indo-British Association, which the Prime Minister will be speaking at, on Tuesday 23 March. John Coles advises that it is not necessary for you to attend unless you wish!

C.S.

12 February 1982

PRIME MINISTER

Indo/British Association Dinner for Mrs. Gandhi

Michael Foot has now agreed not to speak on this occasion. So only you and Mrs. Gandhi will make speeches apart from a few remarks by Swraj Paul and Mr. Eldon Griffiths.

Douglas Hurd and Eldon Griffiths between them persuaded Mr. Foot to stand down. Eldon Griffiths took the line that since there were to be two fairly major speeches from the two Prime Ministers, there really would not be time for another one. As a sop to Mr. Foot, he is being asked to say a few words when Mrs. Gandhi attends the reception given by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (you will not be there).

This has worked out quite well. You may like to thank Eldon Griffiths when you next see him.

17 February 1982

10 February 1982

Thank you for your note about the Indo-British Association Dinner. I can confirm that it will, after all, take place on Tuesday 23 March and the Prime Minister will be attending and speaking at it.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Miss Alexandria Meynell

Conservative Central Office

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9000

Memorandum from: Alexandra Mennell

To: Mrs Caroline Ryder

Chairman's Office

Date: 8th February, 1982

As promised, please find enclosed a copy of the IBA letter we received. I would be most grateful if you could confirm to our office that the Prime Minister is going to be there, because if she is not we shall have to organise another top Government official. Thank you.

Alexandra

THE INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Caparo House
103 Baker Street
London W1M 1FD
Telephone 01-486 1417

20 Jan...

iba

SP/EBA/IBA

19 January 1982

Dear Mr. Parkinson,

The Indo-British Association has organised a special dinner to welcome Mrs Indira Gandhi on her forthcoming visit to this country.

The dinner will be held in the Ballroom of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London W1 on Tuesday 23 March 1982 at 8.00 p.m. and I would very much like you and Mrs Parkinson to join us on this occasion as my guests. I well remember your kind gesture when you spoke at our dinner for Mr Rajiv Gandhi last year.

The Association had the privilege of welcoming Mrs Gandhi three years ago and we are proud that she has again accepted our invitation to address the members and friends of the I.B.A. The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker that evening and the function will also be graced by the presence of Rt Hon Mr Michael Foot who will speak on behalf of H.M. Loyal Opposition.

I should be pleased if you could let me know whether you will be able to attend and, if so, I will send you the formal invitation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Swraj Paul

Rt Hon Mr Cecil Parkinson, MP
Conservative Party Chairman
32 Smith Square
London SW1P 3HH

cc Caroline Stevens.

P.S Hope you can make it.

file BK

21 January 1982

Thank you for your two letters of 19 January, the first about the Nehru Exhibition and the second about the Indo-British Association Dinner.

I am in touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about your suggestions which must obviously be considered against the background of the whole programme for Mrs. Gandhi's visit. I shall write again in due course.

A J COLES

Mr. Swraj Paul

BJC

India

file

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 January 1982

Visit by the Prime Minister of India

My letter of 12 January dealt with a number of points relating to the programme for the above visit.

Mr. Swraj Paul of the Indo-British Association rang me a few days ago to say that Mrs. Gandhi attached particular importance to the opening of the Nehru Exhibition. He hoped, therefore, that the Prime Minister would agree to perform the inauguration ceremony. I said that the Prime Minister might well be sympathetic to this idea but that I did not think she could reasonably take on another commitment in respect of this visit. Perhaps a solution could be found by substituting the opening of the Nehru Exhibition for some other event.

Mr. Paul has now written me a letter about this matter. I enclose a copy. I also enclose a second letter of the same date which he has written to me in connection with the Indo-British Association Dinner. I should be grateful if these two letters could be considered against the background of my letter of 12 January and if you could let me have draft replies to them in due course.

A. J. COLES

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

THE INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Caparo House
103 Baker Street
London W1M 1FD

Telephone 01-486 1417

iba

SP/EBA/IBA

21 January 1982

19/2
h.a.

Dear John.

The Indo-British Association has arranged a special dinner to welcome Mrs Indira Gandhi on her forthcoming visit to this country.

The dinner will be held in the Ballroom at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London W1 on Tuesday 23 March 1982 at 8.00 p.m. and I very much hope that you and Mrs Coles will join us as our guests on this occasion.

The Association had the privilege of welcoming Mrs Gandhi three years ago and we are proud that she has again accepted our invitation to address the members and friends of the IBA. The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker on this occasion and the function will also be graced by the presence of the Rt Hon Mr Michael Foot, MP, who will speak on behalf of H.M. Loyal Opposition.

I should be pleased if you would let me know whether you are able to attend and, if so, I will forward to you the formal invitation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Swraj Paul

Mr John Coles
The Prime Minister's Office
Downing Street
London SW1

Indo-British Association Ltd.
Reg. in England No. 1272574
Reg. Office:
103 Baker Street, London W1M 1FD

Directors:
Swraj Paul *Chair*, Eldon Griffiths MP *Vice Chair*

THE INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Caparo House
103 Baker Street
London W1M 1FD

Telephone 01-486 1417

iba

SP/EBA/IBA

19 January 1982

Dear John,

Indo-British Association Dinner - Tuesday 23 March 1982

It was nice talking to you the other day and I am pleased to note that we may go ahead with the dinner on 23 March, but I am still awaiting final confirmation. Please let me know if we may do so.

I am delighted that the Prime Minister will speak at the dinner and please thank her in advance on our behalf.

What we have in mind is to have three speakers, Mrs Gandhi, Mrs Thatcher and Michael Foot. As is usual I will begin the proceedings and Eldon Griffiths will propose a vote of thanks at the end.

If you have any idea about the order in which the two Prime Ministers should speak I would be glad to hear from you.

I should also be glad if you would let me know whether there are any special people we should invite.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

Swraj Paul

Mr A.J. Coles
The Prime Ministers Office
10 Downing Street, London SW1

Indo-British Association Ltd.
Reg. in England No. 1272574
Reg. Office:
103 Baker Street, London W1M 1FD

Directors:
Swraj Paul *Chair*, Eldon Griffiths MP *Vice Chair*

MF 20/10

FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 October 1981

Thank you so much for your letter of 12 October and for the invitation contained in it.

I should very much like to attend next year's dinner of the Indo/British Association together with Mrs. Gandhi and hope this will prove possible. However, as you know, the dates for Mrs. Gandhi's visit, to which I am greatly looking forward, are not yet firm. Moreover it is difficult to be sure at this point about the precise shape of her programme. May we leave it therefore that my office will be in touch with you nearer the time about how your suggestion can best be pursued?

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

Mr. Swraj Paul

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister -

This is not intended to be a brush off. It is merely intended to sound a note of caution given that we do not actually know that the visit will take place or what Mrs Gandhi's wishes are.

20.10.81

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

I attach a letter to you from Mr. Swraj Paul together with a possible reply for your signature. I also attach the Foreign Office letter of advice. I assume that this question did not come up in your conversations with Mrs. Gandhi in Melbourne.

It didn't.

I think he must be more forthcoming. We can't give the Tamils of Sri Lanka what they want

19 October 1981

RESTRICTED Mrs Alexander

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 October 1981

Dear Willie,

Indo/British Association

Caroline Stephens wrote on 9 October about an earlier invitation to the Prime Minister to address the Indo/British Association. That invitation was overtaken by a decision of the Association to hold their 1980 annual dinner in July when Mrs Gandhi's son, Rajiv, was in London for the Royal Wedding. On that occasion Mr Cecil Parkinson attended and spoke on behalf of the Government.

Your letter of 14 October encloses an invitation from the Association's present Chairman, Mr Swraj Paul, to the Prime Minister to be a guest speaker, together with Mrs Gandhi, at a dinner which the Association is hoping to arrange during Mrs Gandhi's possible visit to the United Kingdom next year.

In principle, this is a good idea. Over the past year the Association has developed into a more useful instrument for promoting Indo/British relations. We have heard from Indian sources that Mrs Gandhi would like an opportunity to address a large audience if she comes to Britain next year. We understand that Mr Paul is thinking of a dinner for several hundred people which might fit the bill.

But we would not advise that the Prime Minister makes a firm commitment now. The present position on Mrs Gandhi's visit is that she has, in principle, accepted Mrs Thatcher's invitation but has said that she cannot finally commit herself until nearer the time. Our aim is that Mrs Gandhi's visit should coincide with the opening of the Festival of India on 22 March and we understand that the Prime Minister's diary provides for a visit by Mrs Gandhi from 22 to 24 March. Until the latter has agreed to precise dates it is not possible to begin work on a programme but, since her visit will be an official one at the invitation of the Prime Minister, it should presumably include, in addition to the Festival Hall Gala Concert on 22 March, hospitality offered by the Prime Minister and return hospitality offered by Mrs Gandhi, as well as official talks and perhaps other events. It is evident that if Mrs Gandhi eventually decides to come for only two days or so the scope for including an Indo/British Association dinner will be severely restricted.

In the circumstances you may think that the Prime Minister should be advised to reply to Mr Paul to the effect that in principle she welcomes the proposal in his letter but cannot commit herself to accepting an invitation now. This must depend

/on

on the dates eventually agreed for the visit by Mrs Gandhi, to which she is much looking forward, and the practicability of including events other than those which will form part of the official programme for the visit and those connected with the Festival of India. The Prime Minister could undertake to be in touch with Mr Paul as soon as the dates for the visit have been officially confirmed.

The above advice assumes that Mrs Gandhi did not make any firmer commitment about her visit in conversation with the Prime Minister at Melbourne.

Yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Willie Rickett Esq
10 Downing St

16 OCT 1981

vb

19/10

14 October 1981

On 9 October Caroline Stephens wrote to you about the possibility of the Prime Minister's addressing the Indo-British Association towards the end of this year.

We have now received the enclosed letter from Mr. Paul, Chairman of the Indo-British Association. He is hoping to arrange a dinner during Mrs Gandhi's visit on either 23 or 24 March next year. He invites the Prime Minister to be the guest speaker, together with Mrs Gandhi.

Could you please advise on how we should react to this invitation. It would be useful if your advice could reach us by 19 October, as Caroline Stephens suggested.

WFSR

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

vb

14 October 1981

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to acknowledge your letter of 12 October. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

WFSR

Swazj Paul, Esq.

THE INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Caparo House
103 Baker Street
London W1M 1FD

Telephone 01-486 1417

SP/EBA/IBA

12 October 1981

My dear Prime Minister,

I would refer to Mr Eldon Griffiths' letters to you in February and March this year wherein we requested you to speak at our Annual Dinner which is normally held in November. However, November did not suit you.

Mrs Indira Gandhi is coming to this country next year to attend the opening of the Festival of India, and the Association would like to arrange a dinner in her honour at that time.

I understand that the Gala Concert for the Festival will be held on 22nd March 1982 and we would therefore like to arrange our dinner for the 23rd or 24th March.

The Association would very much like you to be our guest speaker, together with Mrs Gandhi. It would be a great honour for us.

The Indo-British Association Annual Dinner is probably the most prestigious and well attended Indo-British function of the year, and we have, in the past, welcomed speakers such as Mrs Indira Gandhi, Lord Carrington, Mr Michael Foot, Mr Peter Shore and various Indian Cabinet Ministers.

I do hope you can accept our request.

Kind regards,

Sincerely yours.

Swraj Paul

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
London SW1

Indo-British Association Ltd.
Reg. in England No. 1272574
Reg. Office:
103 Baker Street, London W1M 1FD

Directors:
Swraj Paul *Chair*, Eldon Griffiths MP *Vice Chair*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 October 1981

You will remember that you had correspondence with Michael Alexander in March regarding an invitation to the Prime Minister to address the Indo-British Association either in December of this year or January of next. The invitation came to the Prime Minister via Eldon Griffiths, MP.

In the final paragraph of your letter dated 10 March you said that you would wish to give us further advice regarding this invitation and I would be grateful if this could be forthcoming within the next ten days.

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