

SUBJECT CC MASTER  
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BF reply

OCMIAN 0137  
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DD 160330Z NEDEL  
FM FCOLN TO NEDEL  
151630Z JUL  
GRS 402

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T131/86

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FM FCO  
TO DESKBY 160330Z NEW DELHI  
TELNO 711  
OF 151630Z JULY 86

MY TELNO 706 : DLOS

1. SUBJECT TO ANY POSITIVE OUTCOME OF YOUR CALL TODAY ON  
VENKATESWARAN PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM  
THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR RAJIV GANDHI:  
BEGINS

I AM VERY CONCERNED THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON  
THE QUESTION OF POSTING BRITISH DRUG LIAISON OFFICERS TO NEW  
DELHI AND BOMBAY. GEOFFREY HOWE DISCUSSED THIS WITH YOU IN DELHI  
IN EARLY APRIL, AND YOU OFFERED TO HELP, FOR WHICH WE WERE VERY  
GRATEFUL. FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT CORRESPONDENCE WITH DR ALEXANDER,  
GEOFFREY HOWE INFORMED THE HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
COMMONS ON 4 JUNE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO  
THIS PROPOSAL. YOUR HIGH COMMISSION SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED VISAS  
FOR THE TWO OFFICERS SELECTED FOR THIS IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT.

WE NATURALLY ASSUMED THAT ONCE THESE ADMINISTRATIVE  
ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN COMPLETED, OUR DRUG LIAISON OFFICERS WOULD  
BE ABLE TO TAKE UP THEIR APPOINTMENTS IN INDIA WITHOUT DELAY.  
BUT THIS HAS PROVED NOT TO BE THE CASE, AND THERE CONTINUE TO BE  
DIFFICULTIES ABOUT GETTING AGREEMENT FROM YOUR PEOPLE THAT THE  
TWO SHOULD TAKE UP THEIR POSTS.

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I KNOW THAT YOU SHARE MY CONCERN THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE SHOULD BE DONE BY GOVERNMENTS TO COMBAT THE GROWING MENACE OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND YOU WILL NO DOUBT BE AWARE OF THE VERY EFFECTIVE CO-OPERATION WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AND THE TWO INDIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS FROM YOUR HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON. IT IS VERY MUCH MY HOPE THAT WE CAN FURTHER EXTEND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN US IN THIS IMPORTANT TASK. I WONDER IF WE COULD SEEK YOUR FURTHER HELP TO ENSURE THAT OUR TWO OFFICERS CAN GO OUT TO INDIA SOON AND START BUILDING UP LIAISON WITH YOUR EXPERTS.

IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF THE MATTER COULD BE SORTED OUT QUICKLY. OUR PARLIAMENT WILL SOON BE GOING INTO RECESS AND GEOFFREY HOWE WOULD HAVE TO EXPLAIN BEFORE THEN, IF NECESSARY, WHY IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO SEND THE OFFICERS OUT TO INDIA AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID WE WOULD. I VERY MUCH FEAR THAT MAKING PUBLIC THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED ON THE MATTER WILL ONLY GIVE COMFORT TO THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SOW DISCORD BETWEEN US.

ENDS

HOWE

OCMIAN 0137

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POD

NEWS DEPT

PRU

PS

PS/MR EGGAR

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR RENTON

PS/PUS

SIR W HARDING

DR WILSON

MR SLATER

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