

G. GRIFFITHS, M.P.

10th November, 1980

Thank you very much for your letter of 6th November.

What a very moving letter you have had from Mrs. Gandhi,  
and a beautiful one too.

I have shown Mrs. Gandhi's letter (which I now return)  
to the Prime Minister, and she is most grateful to you for your  
thoughtfulness in having sent it on.

IAN GOW

Eldon Griffiths, Esq. M.P.  
House of Commons,  
Westminster, London SW1



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Personal

Wesley

On a strictly personal basis,  
I think you may wish to show  
this to the P.N. by son and  
mother teacher were/are contemporaries  
of Howard & Ruby etc, and I  
suspect Margaret will be touched,  
as a mother, by Linda's Gandhi  
contributing piece for her son. Whichever  
there is opportunity for a personal message  
to be passed, it would — I know — be

appreciated.

Please return letters to me,

Therese —

Yours  
Therese

J 5

Hawaii for Reagan? I  
have just collected, at 5 to 1,  
from one of those East Coast  
American parties who had the unlucky  
possibly break 400 votes in Electoral  
College.





PRIME MINISTER

New Delhi  
October 23, 1980

Dear Mr. (a-f/b/l/s)

I am utterly ashamed of myself for not answering your warm hearted letter written as far back as July. Perhaps because it was so sympathetic, I felt it called for a special reply and hence got put away for the time being.

There isn't anything anyone can say nor any reply to give. I am not and have never considered myself tough but I did think that I had the capacity to bear almost anything. But this blow was so sudden, so unexpected. I don't know if even now I have really realized what has happened. Sanjay came into my room that morning to discuss this and that, smiling, confident, direct and full of fun as usual. A little while later when I called out to ask him something, I was told he had gone to the flying club. Such grief is so far beyond tears or words. And I cannot even show a sigh of it!

Sanjay was a very sensitive child, easily hurt but hiding it manfully. He couldn't disguise his dislike of any kind of falsehood. It was no mean achievement to set up the Maruti factory, with all the obstructions even from my own Government. At that time many MPs of the Opposition were yelling for it to be nationalized. So

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we have now decided to take it over. The assets far outweigh its liabilities. The baptism of jail going, beating, humiliation, calumny did not cow Sanjay's spirit but strengthened his character and helped him to develop into maturity. Towards the end there was a radiance about him. He was a help politically but we miss him even more because he was such fun to have around in the house.

Well, life must go on. And it is hard going. All the problems and crises seem to crop up in our region.

In India, we inherited a demoralized administration, scientists and expert teams dispersed, galloping inflation, and production down. Also there was severe drought. Somehow, we have got going, slowly and still not satisfactorily but any movement is better than none. Production has picked up and the rate of growth of inflation has decreased. The crops promise to be good.

The Opposition parties are up to their old tricks, agitating everywhere on all kinds of issues and sometimes on nothing at all. Right now they are busy stoning and damaging a Car Rally.

*with all good wishes*

*Sincerely*

*Walter de la Beche*

~~The Rt. Hon.~~ Eldon Griffiths, MP,  
House of Commons,  
London SW1A 0AA