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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 July 1982

Dear Mr. Ramphal,

Thank you for your circular letter of 22 June proposing that next year's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting should take place in New Delhi from 23 to 30 November. I am happy to confirm that a meeting between these dates is in principle acceptable to me.

However, as I think you know, I have some misgivings about the way these meetings have developed recently. I believe that the last meeting was rather longer than necessary. I hope that Senior Officials will be able to consider this point in Arusha later this year.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Shridath S. Ramphal, A.C., Kt., C.M.G., Q.C.

HL

PM Tows.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 February 1983

Coles

Dear Sir,

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting: 1983

To note.
already in diary
A.J.C. 3/2
cf. 4/2

I enclose a message from the Commonwealth Secretary-General formally confirming that the 1983 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting will be held in New Delhi from 23 to 30 November. The Prime Minister accepted these dates in principle in her letter to Mr Ramphal of 19 July 1982.

There is no need for the Prime Minister to reply to Mr Ramphal's message.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield in the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever
John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq,
10 Downing Street.

Circular Letter No. 5/83

14 January 1983

I should be grateful if you would transmit the following message to your Head of Government as rapidly as possible:

BEGINS

"In my letter 47/82 of 22 June I suggested the dates for the 1983 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in New Delhi.

As I told the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting in Arusha last month a large majority of Heads of Government have indicated agreement to the proposal.

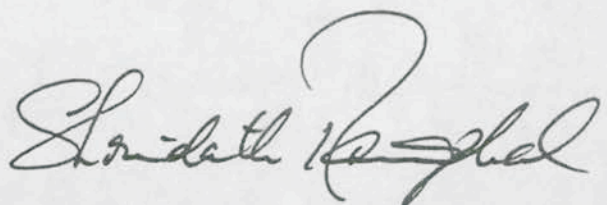
I am therefore advising Mrs Gandhi, as Head of the host Government, that the Meeting will convene in New Delhi from 23 to 30 November 1983 and detailed planning is proceeding on this basis.

I am issuing a press notice to this effect on Monday, 17 January.

With deep respect,

Shridath S. Ramphal"

ENDS



Shridath S. Ramphal

E3 1983

12 1 2 3 4
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 July 1982

Type please.

AR 14/7

Dear John,

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHGM): New Delhi

I enclose a circular letter from the Commonwealth Secretary-General conveying to Commonwealth Heads of Government a proposal from the Government of India that the next CHGM should take place in New Delhi from 23 - 30 November 1983.

Unfortunately the Greeks, who will be occupying the Presidency at the time, have just proposed a meeting of the European Council for 28 and 29 November 1983. However, in view of the number of governments involved in CHGM (43) and of the fact that Mr Ramphal put his proposal in first, Mr Pym hopes that the Prime Minister will agree to accept the dates now proposed for CHGM. We would then tell the Greeks that the dates they have proposed for the European Council would not be possible for us. (Our Embassy in Athens have already indicated to them that this is likely to be the case.)

It was widely felt after Melbourne that a full week for CHGM was too long. We have it in mind to use the forthcoming meeting of Commonwealth Senior Officials (Tanzania, early December) to press for shorter, more businesslike and more productive CHGMs, and shall be hoping to enlist Mr Ramphal's support. There would be no harm in the Prime Minister indicating this to Mr Ramphal, who told Sir Michael Palliser and Sir Antony Acland earlier this year that he would favour a shorter meeting in 1983.

The Palace are aware of the dates proposed and have indicated that they are happy with them. They are of course subject to agreement by Commonwealth Heads of Government before becoming firm.

/I enclose a

CONFIDENTIAL



I enclose a draft letter from the Prime Minister to Mr Ramphal.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J E Holmes', written in a cursive style.

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

PLA (Royal Mutes Section)
checking that Palace invite of and
accept having proposed 15/6
so checked 15/6

CONFIDENTIAL

Circular Letter No.47/82

22 June 1982

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange to transmit the following message to your Head of Government by the speediest means possible.

BEGINS

"You will recall that Commonwealth Heads of Government at their Meeting in Melbourne last year accepted with pleasure the invitation extended by Mrs Indira Gandhi, on behalf of the Government of India, to hold their next Meeting in New Delhi.

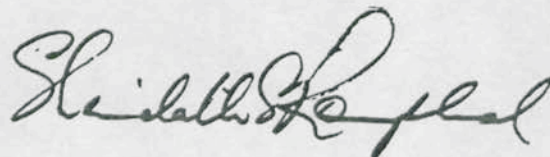
The Government of India have now proposed that the meeting should take place from Wednesday, 23 November to Wednesday, 30 November 1983.

Preliminary planning for the Meeting has already started but it would naturally be helpful to the host Government in its more detailed preparations if agreement could be reached on these dates as early as possible. As great difficulties will attend their variation, I would very much hope that you could confirm their acceptability to you; and if you would, of course, earmark them in next year's diary in anticipation of your attendance.

With deep respect,

Shridath S. Ramphal
Commonwealth Secretary-General"

ENDS



Shridath S. Ramphal

DS 1 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/~~teletype~~/~~despatch~~/~~note~~
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

HE Mr Shridath S Ramphal AC Kt CMG QC
Commonwealth Secretary-General
Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
LONDON SW1Y 5HX

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your circular letter of 22 June proposing that next year's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting should take place in New Delhi from 23 ~~to~~ 30 November ~~1980~~. I am happy to confirm that a meeting between these dates is in principle acceptable to me.

However, as I think you know, I have some misgivings about the way these meetings have developed recently, ^{I believe} and ~~feel amongst~~ ~~othe~~ things that the last meeting was rather longer than necessary. I hope that Senior Officials will be able to ^{consider this point} ~~discuss these issues~~ in Arusha later this year.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

13 JUL 1982

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