



Prime Minister

In view of the facts at X
below, and the possibility of
upsetting the Queen's visit to
India, I recommend that you
go to Goa for the weekend.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 July 1982

Dear John,

Agree?

A-JC-19.

Respectfully Yes
mf

CHOGM 1983: Weekend Retreat in Goa

You have asked for advice about the possibility of the Prime Minister spending the weekend of the CHOGM retreat visiting a part of India which she does not know. I gather that the Prime Minister has expressed some doubts about whether it would be right for her to attend the retreat, which will be in Goa, because it might appear to condone the Indian use of force in seizing Goa from the Portuguese in 1961. We have discussed this with the High Commission in New Delhi, but have not of course spoken to the Indians.

Our High Commission could undoubtedly arrange a useful and interesting programme for the Prime Minister in a part of India which she does not know. Sir John Thomson - whom we were able to consult on his return to London - believes that, if the Prime Minister were to carry out such a programme instead of attending the retreat in Goa, the Government of India would be likely to take serious offence and there would be widespread criticism in the Indian press. A decision by the Prime Minister not to attend the retreat would also of course disappoint the Prime Minister's Commonwealth colleagues (some of whom would no doubt express their disappointment publicly). To ask the Indians now to change their plans about Goa or to warn them now that the Prime Minister might at the time feel unable to go there, would be bound to arouse Indian resentment, without achieving any positive result.

In practice, there are very real differences between Goa and the Falkland Islands. In particular:

a. Geographical and historical

Goa is part of the Indian mainland. Its population was predominantly of Indian ethnic origin and prior to its acquisition by Portugal (1510) it had been governed by Indian rulers.

b. Legal

By a treaty with India of 31 December 1974, Portugal has formally recognised Indian sovereignty over Goa and over the other four former Portuguese enclaves in India. The Portuguese Foreign Minister went to Goa during a

/visit



visit to India in November 1981, and this was seen as marking the end of any residual ill-feeling about Goa between the two countries. We extended de jure recognition in 1975, when our Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay paid an official visit to Goa. Since then a number of British officials, including successive High Commissioners, have been there.

In the light of these considerations, Mr Pym considers that the Prime Minister should attend the weekend retreat in Goa. To do otherwise could impose serious strains on the atmosphere of the Meeting; would certainly cause offence to the Indians, and might well affect the atmosphere for the bilateral State Visit by The Queen which will precede the opening of the Heads of Government Meeting.

Yours ever
J. P. Fall

(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

PM Tavis Abroad



EM

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 July, 1982

CHOGM 1983: WEEKEND RETREAT IN GOA

Thank you for your letter of 19 July.
The Prime Minister agrees, with regret, that
in view of the considerations which you advance
she should attend the weekend retreat in Goa.

W. J. COLES

B J P Fall, Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Next Commonwealth Conference

We discussed the problem of the weekend retreat in Goa.
May I pursue this a little further.

If we are to attempt to change Indian plans to hold the weekend retreat in Goa, it would be better to do so now rather than have a row nearer the time. But my own feeling is that we should not make an issue of it. The Indian occupation of Goa was thoroughly objectionable but it is now well in the past. I doubt if other Commonwealth countries, even Guyana or Belize, will make an issue of attending the weekend retreat if it is held in Goa.

The Commonwealth Secretary General is already aware of your views (and I have no doubt that he will let others know them as well). But I understand that he feels that Indian plans are too far advanced to be challenged now. You may like to have a word with him during your lunch for Mr. Seaga on Monday. It would be helpful to have guidance thereafter as to whether you want any action to be taken with the Indians.

A.S.C.

Perhaps I could visit a part of India
(South) which I don't know.

18 June 1982

ms



da
PM Tans Abroad

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 June 1982

I have, as promised, carried a little further the question of the CHOGM weekend retreat in Goa.

I do not think the Prime Minister will wish to make an issue of the retreat being held in Goa. I believe she accepts that it is too late to change Indian plans.

The Prime Minister has however put the thought to me that she might spend the weekend visiting a part of India (probably the south) which she does not know.

You may like to consider how far this will be possible and arrange for me to receive advice. I think it is too early to mention anything of the sort to the Indians because much could change between now and the time of the Conference.

A. J. COLES

Andrew Burns, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PVS