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Prime Minister



Agree to use at
CHGM a car provided
by the Indian Government?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 April, 1983

A.F.C. $\frac{29}{4}$

Yes

Dear John,

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting: 1983

I am sorry to trouble you with a trivial matter, but it would be helpful to settle a particular question finally. At the end of last year the British High Commission in New Delhi wrote to us to ask whether the High Commissioner's Rolls Royce Silver Wraith, due for replacement this year by a Rolls Royce Silver Spirit, should be kept on for use during the CHGM, although doing so would result in the probable loss of some £3600 in the selling price.

We replied that the Wraith should not be kept on, particularly if doing so would result in such a substantial drop in the selling price. We also said that the provision of transport for Heads of Government at CHGM Meetings was a host Government responsibility and that if the British Prime Minister were to be the only Head using a Rolls Royce it could invite unfavourable comment. We would therefore recommend that other things being equal she should be seen to be using the same facilities as her fellow Heads of Government. At Lusaka in 1979 and at Melbourne in 1981 the Prime Minister used cars provided by the Zambians and the Australians. A further argument put forward by the High Commission was that the Wraith is bullet-proofed, but again it was pointed out that the provision of any specially secure vehicles on these occasions is still the responsibility of the host Government.

Although the High Commission appeared to accept this verdict, a recent visitor to Delhi has reported that they are still anxious on this point. Could you therefore confirm that the Prime Minister will not wish to have different transport arrangements from the rest of her fellow Heads of Government?

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

29 APR 1988



File

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M. Toms

3 May 1983

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING, 1983

Thank you for your letter of 29 April. I confirm that the Prime Minister will not wish to have different transport arrangements at CHOGM from those made for her fellow Heads of Government - and thus she is prepared to use a car provided by the Indian Government.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.