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*Harsha*

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION  
NEW DELHI, INDIA

14 September 1983

John Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London

*Dear John,*

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM)

As you know The Queen will be paying a State Visit to India from 17 to 22 November and will also be in Delhi during 23 to 26 November during the first four days of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. We are already well under way with the planning for the Royal Visit, and it has been agreed that The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh should dine privately at my house at 8 pm on 22 November. There would be not more than about 30 guests, at least half of whom would be distinguished Indians.

2. I have drawn the Palace's attention to the fact that the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher may already be in Delhi by that time. They have responded that if so The Queen would be delighted if the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher would like to attend the dinner; but equally that She would of course understand if they would not be free to do so on the evening before the CHOGM opens. I should be grateful if you would let me know whether the Prime Minister will indeed be in Delhi in time for dinner on 22 November; and if so whether she and Mr Thatcher would wish to accept an invitation to dine with The Queen that evening.

3. If the Prime Minister were to accept, we would need to consider who else from the CHOGM party (eg the Foreign Secretary and/or Robert Armstrong and/or Robin Butler or you) should also be included. Let me know if the Prime Minister has any views on that, or if you yourself have any advice to offer.

4. I should perhaps add that I am leaving it to those in London responsible for CHOGM arrangements to let me know in due course whether the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher would

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- 2 -

wish to stay in the Ashok/Samrat hotel complex (which is being set aside for Heads of Delegations and their closest advisers) or with me. I suspect that the advice may for understandable practical reasons favour the former; but I should of course be delighted personally if the answer turned out to be the latter. Either way, my house is about four minutes drive from the Ashok.

*Yours ever*

*Robert*

Robert Wade-Gery

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GRS 435  
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FM DELHI 120645Z NOV 83  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 870 OF 12 NOVEMBER.

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FILE COPY

YOUR TELNO 698: PRIME MINISTER'S CHOGM PROGRAMME

1. YOUR PARA 2, LAST SENTENCE. THE QUEEN'S RECEPTION FOR THE BRITISH COMMUNITY WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE HIGH COMMISSION COMPOUND JUST BEFORE HER DINNER WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOU ARE ATTENDING AT MY HOUSE. THERE WILL BE ABOUT 400 PEOPLE PRESENT, FROM ALL OVER INDIA. BUCKINGHAM PALACE HAVE MADE CLEAR (YOUR TELNO 598) THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE MOST WELCOME SEMICOLON AND THIS WOULD OEVIOUSLY APPLY ALSO TO YOURSELF. ATTENDANCE BY HER AND YOU AND YOUR SPOUSES WOULD CERTAINLY BE MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE COMMUNITY AND WOULD BE LOGISTICALLY SIMPLE TO ARRANGE AS A STOP ON YOUR WAY TO DINNER. BUT IT IS SOMETHING WHICH EITHER OR BOTH OF YOU COULD EASILY DUCK IF YOU PREFERRED. MY RECOMMENDATION THEREFORE IS THAT ALL FOUR OF YOU SHOULD COME IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEMICOLON BUT THAT YOU SHOULD FEEL UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO DO SO.

2. IF THE PRIME MINISTER COMES, MR BUTLER (WHO IS ALSO ATTENDING THE SUBSEQUENT DINNER) MAY LIKE TO ACCOMPANY HER SEMI-COLON AND OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WOULD OF COURSE BE WELCOME. IT WOULD BE BEST TO ARRIVE AT 1845, FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE QUEEN SEMICOLON AND TO LEAVE JUST BEFORE HER (AS I SHALL BE DOING), SO THAT SHE IS THE LAST TO ARRIVE AT DINNER.

3. A HIGHER PRIORITY, IN MY VIEW, WOULD BE TO FIX AN OCCASION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOU AND YOUR SPOUSES TO MEET MEMBERS OF MY STAFF (AS ALREADY RECOMMENDED IN YOUR OWN CASE BY MY TELNO 728). THE QUEEN'S RECEPTION FOR MY STAFF WILL HAVE TAKEN PLACE BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOU ARRIVE. BUT A SEPARATE OCCASION WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE AND NEED NOT TAKE MORE THAN 30-45 MINUTES. AS SEEN FROM HERE THE BEST TIME MIGHT BE EITHER BEFORE LUNCH OR AT TEATIME OF 22 NOVEMBER (WHICHEVER IS LEAST AFFECTED BY WHATEVER TIME MRS GANDHI SUGGESTS FOR HER BILATERAL WITH THE PRIME MINISTER). A CONVENIET MEETING PLACE, GIVEN OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS AT MY RESIDENCE, WOULD BE THE GARDEN OF THE MINISTER'S HOUSE IN THE HIGH COMMISSION COMPOUND.

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4. FAILING 22 NOVEMBER IT WOULD NO DOUBT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH THE STAFF FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOR YOURSELF SEMICOLON EG ON 28 AND 24 NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

5. GRATEFUL FOR EARLY GUIDANCE ON BOTH THESE POINTS.

WADE-GERY

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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher present their compliments to the Master of the Household and have the honour to accept the invitation conveyed by command of Her Majesty to a Dinner for the Commonwealth Heads of Government at Hyderabad House, New Delhi on Wednesday 23 November.

7 November 1983



pl accept.

100-7/11.

*The Master of the Household  
is commanded by Her Majesty to invite*

*The Prime Minister and Mr. Denis Thatcher*

*to a Dinner to be given by  
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh  
for the Commonwealth Heads of Government  
at Hyderabad House, New Delhi  
on Wednesday, 23rd November, 1983 at 8.00 p.m.*

*A reply is requested to:*

*The Master of the Household  
on the enclosed card—*

*Guests are asked to arrive between 7.30 and 7.45 p.m.*

*Dress: National Dress  
Dinner Jacket  
Decorations*



The Master of the Household presents his compliments  
and has to inform you, with regret, that it will not be possible to  
provide a dinner at Hyderabad House for either an A.D.C. or a  
Personal Protection Officer on Wednesday, 23rd November, 1983.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

7 October 1983

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

Sir Robert Wade-Gery wrote to me on 14 September (I believe Brian Fall has seen a copy) to ask among other things whether the Prime Minister and Mr. Thatcher would like to attend the dinner which he is giving for The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in Delhi on 22 November.

I should be grateful if you would let the High Commissioner know that the Prime Minister and Mr. Thatcher would indeed like to attend the dinner. Mrs. Thatcher would also be glad if invitations could be extended to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary (and Lady Howe if she is accompany Sir Geoffrey to Delhi) as well as her Principal Private Secretary.

JC

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.