



Prime Minister

There is no way of  
avoiding all risk of  
criticism if you stay at  
the Residence rather than an hotel.  
But in the light of the advice,  
do you wish to stay in the  
Residence?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 October 1983

Dear Sir,

A.J.C. <sup>20</sup>/<sub>10</sub>

Yes not

CHOGM: Prime Minister's Accommodation

Following my letter of 10 October, you told me that the Prime Minister would like Sir Robert Wade-Gery to ask Natwar Singh whether the Indians would have any objection if she and her party were to stay at the Residence during CHOGM.

Sir Robert has now spoken to Natwar Singh (New Delhi telno 713 - enclosed). Briefly, Natwar Singh said firmly that the Indians would have no objection to the Prime Minister staying at the Residence if she preferred to do so. The Residence was conveniently situated, so that there would be little additional security burden. Natwar concluded that staying at Residences was not something he would want every Head of Government to do; but that in our case there seemed little objection. He spoke confidently, and showed no disposition to consult Mrs Gandhi. Sir Robert comments that, so far as the Indian Government is concerned, we can take this as the green light we wanted.

We cannot, of course, rule out the possibility that some Commonwealth Heads of Government might be disappointed at the Prime Minister's absence from the "collegiate" atmosphere of the hotel complex; but, as I noted in my letter of 10 October, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary does not regard this as an over-riding consideration.

Should we now plan on the basis that the Prime Minister and her party will stay at the Residence? Sir Robert would like to tell the Indians as soon as a decision has been reached.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

John Holmes

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

with  
R/S

CONFIDENTIAL

file

Bol  
CT



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

20 October 1983

CHOGM: Prime Minister's Accommodation

Thank you for your letter of 19 October.

In the light of your further advice, the Prime Minister would now like you to plan on the basis that she and her immediate staff will stay at the Residence in New Delhi.

A. J. COLES

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

LUK 141/15

OO FCO

GRS 600

RESTRICTED

FM NEW DELHI 151200Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TEL NO 884 OF 15 NOVEMBER 1983

FOR COLES, NO. 10 DOWNING STREET

YOUR TELNO 747 : STAFF FOR GOA RETREAT

1. NATWAR CONTINUES TO ASSURE ME THAT HE WILL SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM. BUT HE AND HIS STAFF ARE NOW BEING MUCH GLOOMIER WITH THE AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE A SIMILAR PROBLEM. SO THE CHEQUE MAY YET BOUNCE. IF IT DOES WE SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

(A) ACCEPT THE INDIAN POSITION (LIMITING ACCOMPANYING STAFF TO ONE, PRESUMABLY A DETECTIVE), AND USE COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS FOR OTHER SUPPORT STAFF.

(B) AS ABOVE, BUT ATTEMPTING TO BADGER THE INDIANS INTO TRANSPORTING ONE PRIVATE SECRETARY AS WELL (FALL-BACK POSITION RELUCTANTLY CONFIRMED IN TUR).

(C) CHARTER AN AIRCRAFT OURSELVES. (POSSIBLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUSTRALIANS).

(D) USE VC10 (OR ALTERNATIVELY THE AUSTRALIAN 707).

(E) IN THE LAST RESORT, THREATEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE RETREAT IF ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HER SUPPORT STAFF CANNOT BE MADE.

2. MY COMMENTS ON THESE OPTIONS ARE RESPECTIVELY AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE INDIANS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS WILL OPERATE ON BOTH 25 NOVEMBER (OUTWARD) AND 27 NOVEMBER (RETURN; BUT SEE BELOW). TIMINGS:



1516727  
ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

Mr. COLES, No. 10. d.s.

Hd/SAS

16. H  
(X1)

25 NOVEMBER:

LEAVE DELHI 0900, ARRIVE GOA 1255. (BUT TO BE CERTAIN OF CATCHING THE BOMBAY CONNECTION IT MAY BE SAFEST TO TAKE THE EARLIER DELHI-BOMBAY FLIGHT LEAVING DELHI AT 0710 INSTEAD.)

27 NOVEMBER:

LEAVE GOA 1345, ARRIVE DELHI 1905. THERE REMAINS A DANGER THAT THIS FLIGHT WILL BE CANCELLED, IN WHICH CASE SUPPORT STAFF WOULD NOT (NOT) BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO DELHI UNTIL MONDAY MORNING.

AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE MADE BOOKINGS ON THESE FLIGHTS FOR ALL FIVE SUPPORT STAFF.

(B) NATWAR HAD PREVIOUSLY DUG IN HIS HEELS AT PROVIDING FOR BOTH A DETECTIVE AND A PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS RETREAT (MY TELNO 858). WE SHALL HAVE TO PERSUADE HIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S NEEDS ARE QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT. HOWEVER STRONG OUR CASE, HE MAY FEEL IT POLITICALLY UNWISE TO DISCRIMINATE ANY FURTHER IN OUR FAVOUR.

(C) THE ONLY SUITABLE AND AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE AN HS748. FLYING-TIME WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 4 1/2 HOURS, PLUS 45 MINUTES REFUELING. COST WOULD BE AROUND £8,000 EACH WAY. WE HAVE NOT ENQUIRED WHETHER THE INDIAN NAVY (WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AIR MOVEMENTS IN GOA DURING THE RETREAT PERIOD) WOULD GIVE FLIGHT CLEARANCE (THERE ARE VARIOUS SOVIET-SUPPLIED MILITARY AIRCRAFT THERE ABOUT WHICH THEY MAY BE SENSITIVE). THEY MIGHT INSIST THAT THE PLANE REMOVES TO ANOTHER AIRFIELD (E.G. BOMBAY) RATHER THAN REMAINING AT GOA OVER THE WEEKEND: THIS WOULD INCREASE THE COST IF WE WERE THINKING OF CHARTERING THE PLANE FOR JOURNEYS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

(D) WE ARE STILL NOT CERTAIN WHETHER IT IS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE TO USE THE VC10. GOA AIRPORT HAS LCN60, WHICH PUTS IT JUST WITHIN THE ACCEPTABLE RANGE FOR A LIGHTLY-LOADED VC10. BUT WE ARE NOT SURE ABOUT OFF-RUNWAY PAVEMENT STRENGTHS. SECURITY OBJECTIONS MIGHT LOOM EVEN LARGER IN INDIAN EYES FOR AN RAF AIRCRAFT AND CREW THAN FOR AN LOCALLY CHARTERED PLANE. THEY MAY ALSO CLAIM NOT TO HAVE HANDLING FACILITIES FOR A VC10: AND/OR TO BE UNABLE TO HANDLE/ACCOMODATE THE CREW OVER THE WEEKEND. IF WE ARE TO INVESTIGAT THIS POSSIBILITY WE NEED TO START QUICKLY.

WADE-GREY

F G 117

ADVANCE COPY  
IMMEDIATE

LUK 981/11

OO FCO

GRS 240

CONFIDENTIAL

FM DELHI 110545Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 860 OF 11 NOVEMBER.

HO CEP  
HO JAD  
HO PUP

COLES No 10 D. Pt

(LH)

FOLLOWING FOR COLES, 10 DOWNING STREET

YOUR TELEGRAM NUMBER 738: STAFF FOR GOA RETREAT

1. I WELL UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM AS YOU DESCRIBE IT. AS REPORTED IN PARA 6 OF MY TELNO 858, I HAD A FURTHER GO AT NATWAR ON THIS YESTERDAY AND HE ACCEPTS THAT THE BALL IS IN HIS COURT. I MADE CLEAR THAT THERE WERE FOUR MINIMUM STAFF (IN ADDITION TO THE ONE FOR WHOM INDIAN ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY CATER) WHO WOULD BE NEEDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER URGENTLY AT BOTH ENDS OF HER JOURNEYS TO AND FROM GOA AND WHO SHOULD THEREFORE TRAVEL AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH HER. WE ARE ALSO CONCERTING WITH THE AUSTRALIANS, WHO HAVE A SIMILAR PROBLEM AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE SAME ANSWER. CLEARLY WHAT WE NEED IS A SPECIAL AIRCRAFT SEMICOLON AND WE WILL GO ALL OUT TO GET IT.

2. IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF YOU COULD CONFIRM THE FALL-BACK POSITION IN YOUR PARA 6, WHICH I WOULD OF COURSE ONLY USE AS THE VERY LAST RESORT. TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATIONS FROM GOA SHOULD BE EXCELLENT. WE ARE INSTALLING DIRECT LINES AS FOLLOWS: FROM THE FORT AGUADA (WHERE PM PLUS ONE WILL BE) TO DELHI AND THENCE TO LONDON SEMICOLON AND FROM THE CINDADE DE GOA HOTEL (WHERE THE OTHER FOUR STAFF WILL BE) TO LONDON ONLY. LESLIE WRIGHT IN THE CABINET OFFICE HAS ALL THE DETAILS.

WADE-GERY

CAB/FCO 3/10

OO DELHI

GRS 400

CONFIDENTIAL

FM CABINET OFFICE 101216Z NOV 83  
TO IMMEDIATE DELHI  
TELEGRAM NUMBER MISC 315 OF 10 NOVEMBER.

PERSONAL FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER FROM PS TO PRIME MINISTER.

- 1 REGRET THE DELAY IN REPLYING TO YOUR TELEGRAMS NOS 830 AND 835 OWING TO MY ABSENCE FROM LONDON WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON 7, AND 8 AND 9 NOVEMBER.
2. THE PROBLEM OF THE GOA RETREAT CONTINUES TO CAUSE US CONCERN. THE PRECEDENTS ARE NOT VERY HELPFUL. NO SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE:
- (A) IN MELBOURNE (BUT THERE WERE REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM THE RETREAT IN CANBERRA)=
  - (B) IN LUSAKA (BECAUSE THE 'RETREAT' WAS ALSO IN LUSAKA)=
  - (C) IN LONDON (BECAUSE THERE WERE REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM SCOTLAND).
3. THE DIFFICULTY WITH GOA IS ITS INSOLATION AND THE UNSATISFACTORY NATURE OF THE COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS.
4. YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTINUES OR WORSENS BEFORE 25/27 NOVEMBER, WE COULD FACE SOME VERY DIFFICULT DECISIONS AND THE PRIME MINISTER MAY NEED TO BE IN CONSTANT TOUCH. THAT IS SIMPLY ONE EXAMPLE.
5. THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM DEPENDS IN SOME DEGREE ON THE NATURE OF TELEPHONIC AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN DELHI AND GOA BUT I DO NOT IMAGINE THEY ARE GOOD.
6. IF IT WOULD HELP, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO REDUCE THE PRIME MINISTER'S SUPPORT STAFF DURING THE WEEKEND. THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM MIGHT BE A PRIVATE SECRETARY PLUS ONE (IN ADDITION TO THE DETECTIVE WHO WILL ACTUALLY BE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER). BUT I SHOULD HAVE TO THINK FURTHER ABOUT THAT.
7. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF, IN THE LIGHT OF ANY FURTHER CONTACTS YOU MAY HAVE WITH THE INDIANS, YOU COULD RECOMMEND THE BEST POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT.

NNNN

SENT/RCVD AT 101245Z PB/JPC

GRS 270

RESTRICTED

Copies to P.S.  
PS / PUS.  
Sir J. Leahy.

RESTRICTED

FM NEW DELHI 081312Z NOV 83

TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 846 OF 8 NOVEMBER.

No. 60.  
M.H. 9/11/83

FOR CONFERENCE SECTION FROM STARK

CHGM : MISCELLANEOUS

1. ACCREDITATION. THE INDIANS PROPOSE TO LIMIT ACCESS TO VIGYAN BHAVAN AND THE TWO MAIN HOTELS TO UP TO 25 NAMED INDIVIDUALS PER DELEGATION (NOT COUNTING HEADS PLUS SPOUSES), WHO WILL RECEIVE NON-TRANSFERABLE ACCREDITATION CARDS. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DESIGNATE OUR 25 NAMES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. EVEN ASSUMING (PERHAPS WRONGLY) THAT DETECTIVES ACCOMPANYING HEADS/FOREIGN MINISTERS NEED NO ACCREDITATION, IT IS DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE NUMBERS BELOW ABOUT 32 (A BARE MINIMUM MIGHT BE SERIALS 3-7, 18-24, 29-37, 39-40 PLUS HIGH COMMISSIONER AND TWO OTHERS FROM HERE). WE PROPOSE TO DELAY A RESPONSE TILL HALL'S ARRIVAL.

2. S OF S'S LUNCH ON 25 NOVEMBER. IS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND/OR LADY WADE-GERY LIKELY TO BE REQUIRED ? IF SO, AND IF IT IS STILL FEASIBLE, A STARTING-TIME OF 1315 WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM TO GET BACK ON TIME FROM A ROYAL ENGAGEMENT IN WHICH HE WILL BE INVOLVED UNTIL 1300. MENU : DIANA SCOTT PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING - CONSOMME : BAKED CHICKEN IN WHITE WINE WITH MUSHROOMS : SALAD : ORANGES IN BRANDY.

3. PM'S LUNCHES. AGAIN, ARE EITHER THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OR LADY WADE-GERY INVOLVED ?

4. TEXTILE EXHIBITION. WE NOTED (FCO TELNO 718) THAT THE PM RAISED THIS WITH RAO. WE HAVE ASKED THE INDIANS TO CHECK WHETHER MRS GANDHI WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME THE PM'S ATTENDANCE.

5. MRS GANDHI'S ATTENDANCE AT PM'S LUNCH ON 28 NOVEMBER. WE ARE PRESSING FOR AN ANSWER.

6. ADVANCE VISITS BY DETECTIVES. WE ARE NOT SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS YET : STILL TOO EARLY. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET THEM IN TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE NEARER THE TIME.

7. SECRETARY OF STATE'S RETURN FLIGHT. GRATEFUL TO KNOW IF ANY OF THE OPTIONS IN HALL'S LETTER OF 30 SEPTEMBER HAS FIRMED UP.

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

WADE-GERY  
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FM DELHI 071414Z NOV 83  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 837 OF 07 NOVEMBER

RESTRICTED

FOR CONFERENCE SECTION

CHGM

YOUR TELNO 693: TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

WE HAVE PUT IN FOR ROOMS AT ASHOK FOR ALL THOSE LISTED (IE 12 BEDROOMS), PLUS ONE OFFICE. BUT AT THIS STAGE WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT OUR DELEGATION WILL BE ALLOCATED ROOMS AT ASHOK AT ALL, LET ALONE HOW MANY. ALLOCATION, ON WHICH WE AND OTHER HIGH COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR WEEKS, IS APPARENTLY BEING DECIDED IMMINENTLY AND WE WILL BE INFORMED QUOTE BY THE END OF THE WEEK UNQUOTE.

2. ALTERNATIVE TO ASHOK IS NOW NO LONGER SAMRAT (STILL NOT READY) BUT TAJ MAHAL. THIS IS A COMFORTABLE HOTEL AND LOCATED CLOSE TO VIGYAN BHAVAN BUT IN OTHER WAYS HIGHLY INCONVENIENT:

A) IT IS TEN MINUTES' DRIVE FROM BHC (ASHOK IS ONLY TWO MINUTES' WALK FROM BHC). THE INDIANS HAVE SAID THAT, AS FOR NAM SUMMIT, THEY WILL GIVE CAR PASSES ONLY FOR CARS THEY THEMSELVES PROVIDE (FOR HEAD OF DEL, SPOUSE, FOREIGN MINISTER AND ONE ADDITIONAL DELEGATION CAR), PLUS FIVE OTHERS PER DELEGATION. SINCE CAR PASSES AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL DELEGATE ACCREDITATION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ACCESS TO ASHOK AND TAJ MAHAL AS WELL AS VIGYAN BHAVAN, THIS IS LIKELY TO PRESENT A FORMIDABLE LOGISTICAL PROBLEM. READY ACCESS ON FOOT FROM BHC WOULD BE A REAL ASSET.

B) WE HAVE ALREADY ARRANGED (AND PAID FOR) 8 PRIVATE WIRES TO ASHOK. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THESE COULD BE DIVERTED TO TAJ MAHAL IN TIME.

3. I AM THEREFORE PUTTING IN A STRONG PLEA TO CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DRAWING ON ABOVE POINTS, FOR OUR DELEGATION TO BE ACCOMMODATED AT ASHOK.

4. IT IS PERHAPS POINTLESS TO SPECULATE ON ACTION IF WE ARE ALLOCATED ROOMS AT ASHOK BUT LESS THAN REQUESTED IN TUR. BUT MAY WE ASSUME THAT IF SPACE WERE TIGHT SERIALS 19, 25 AND 26 MIGHT BE ACCOMMODATED MAURYA (WHERE WE ARE HOLDING THEIR BOOKINGS) AS ENVISAGED IN YOUR EARLIER LIST?

WADE-GERY  
MINIMAL  
PROTOCOL D  
CCD

THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

RESTRICTED

- Copies:-
1. P.S. (Mr. Roberts.)
  2. Mr. Kerr. No. 10 Downing St.
  3. Mr. Ceehan S.A.D.
  4. PS/PUS. COPY MH
  5. Mr. Wright. 8/11/83.

MARK O/R

Just as we  
medicated.  
Security  
operation of  
Am arrangements



DWF G 064/07

LUK 735/07

1026 [LTS] IMMEDIATE

OO FCO

GRS 350  
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FM DELHI 070700Z NOV 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 830 OF 7 NOVEMBER.



NR 1028 NO 10  
Downing St

Hb/peo/cur  
Hb/sa

X2

FOR COLES, NO.10 DOWNING STREET  
YOUR TELNO 697: STAFF FOR GOA RETREAT

1. I TOOK THIS UP ON 5 NOVEMBER WITH NATWAR SINGH (PUS LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY COORDINATOR OF CHOGM ARRANGEMENTS, WHO IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH MRS GANDHI). HE READILY TOOK THE POINT AND PROMISED TO DEAL WITH IT, WHILE REFUSING TO BE DRAWN ON NOW. I MADE CLEAR THAT OUR ESSENTIAL NEED WAS TRANSPORT TO AND FROM GOA FOR FIVE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF WHO OUGHT TO MOVE AT AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE THE SAME TIME AS THE PRIME MINISTER HERSELF SINCE SHE WOULD NEED THEM URGENTLY AT BOTH ENDS OF BOTH JOURNEYS.

2. AS REPORTED TO THE FCO BY TELEPHONE, SINCE OUR TELNO 728 THE INDIANS HAVE RELENTED TO THE EXTENT OF ALLOWING COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS INTO GOA ON THE MORNING OF 25 NOVEMBER AND OUT AGAIN ON AFTERNOON OF 27 NOVEMBER. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE MINIMUM SEPARATION OF STAFF FROM HEADS OF DELEGATION - THOUGH SINCE COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO GOA GO VIA BOMBAY IT IS STILL A FAR FROM IDEAL ARRANGEMENT.

3. I SHALL NEED TO KEEP AFTER NATWAR SINGH FOR A SATISFACTORY ANSWER. IN THAT CONTEXT, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF YOU COULD ASK THE FCO TO LET ME KNOW URGENTLY ABOUT THE PRECEDENTS: E.G. HOW MANY STAFF DID THE PRIME MINISTER TAKE TO THE RETREATS FROM MELBOURNE AND LUSAKA (AND HOW NEAR HER DID THEY TRAVEL AND STAY) SEMICOLON AND WHAT DID WE PROVIDE FOR THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF WHEN THE RETREAT WAS AT GLENEAGLES? HITHERTO THE INDIAN LINE HAS BEEN THAT THE RETREAT IS FOR HEADS OF DELEGATION, THEIR SPOUSES AND ONE AIDE OR SECURITY MAN, UNENCUMBERED BY OTHER OFFICIALS: THEY SAY THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT HAVE BACKED THIS LINE, CONFIRMING THAT NO SPECIAL PLANE FOR ADVISERS NEED BE LAID ON. THE INDIANS HAVE HITHERTO REMAINED FIRM ON THIS POINT, IN THE FACE OF REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS FROM US: APART FROM REASONS OF COMMONWEALTH INFORMALITY, THEY SAY THAT THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS IN GOA (ISOLATION OF THE FORT AGUADA HOTEL) MAKE IT QUITE DIFFICULT TO CATER FOR ADDITIONAL OFFICIALS.

WADE-GERY

NNNN

MR COLES, No 10 DOWNING ST



DWF G 193/07

LUK 782/07

OO FCO

GRS N/C  
RESTRICTED  
FM DELHI 071235Z NOV 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER U/N OF 07 NOVEMBER

**IMMEDIATE**

**ADVANCE COPY**

7/1624

Handwritten initials and marks.

FOR COLES, NO10 DOWNING STREET

MY TELNO 830: STAFF FOR GOA RETREAT

PARA 1 LINE 4. PLEASE CORRECT TO READ: TO DEAL WITH IT, WHILE REFUSING TO BE DRAWN ON HOW (R) HOW. I MADE CLEAR THAT

WADE-GERY



10 DOWNING STREET

John

Attached is a  
reply for Robert  
Wade-Gery about  
transport arrangements  
for GOA. I asked  
Mark to undertake the  
research requested in  
para 3 of RWG's  
telegram + the results  
are also attached.

J.  
7/11.

Mr COLES, No 10 DOWNING ST

DWF G 192/07

LUK 781/07

OO FCO

GRS 200

RESTRICTED

FM DELHI 071227Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 835 OF 07 NOVEMBER

FOR COLES, 10 DOWNING STREET

MY TELNO 830: GOA RETREAT



7/1622  
**IMMEDIATE**

**ADVANCE COPY**

1. AT A PROGRAMME MEETING FOR HIGH COMMISSIONERS TODAY NATWAR SINGH CONFIRMED THAT THE INDIANS WOULD ARRANGE TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION FOR THE GOA RETREAT ONLY FOR HEADS OF DELEGATION, SPOUSE, AND ONE AIDE/SECURITY OFFICIAL, PLUS AN INDIAN SECURITY OFFICER FOR EACH HEAD OF DELEGATION. MY AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUE RAISED THE PROBLEM OF TRAVEL FOR OTHER SUPPORT STAFF, AND NATWAR SINGH SAID THEY WOULD QUOTE ARRANGE SOMETHING UNQUOTE: THEN QUICKLY TURNED TO OTHER SUBJECTS.

2. HE LATER EXPLAINED THAT THOSE STAYING AT OTHER HOTELS IN GOA WOULD NOT HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THE FORT AGUADA. THE INDIAN LIAISON OFFICERS IN EACH HOTEL WOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORT STAFF TO SEE THEIR HEAD OF DELEGATION IF AND WHEN SUMMONED. THE DRIVE BETWEEN THE FORT AGUADA AND OTHER HOTELS WAS AROUND 40 MINUTES.

3. IT WILL BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE BACKGROUND IN TUR FOR FOLLOW-UP WITH NATWAR. MEANWHILE YOU MAY LIKE TO NOTE THAT THE OPTION YOU MENTIONED AS A LAST RESORT - TAKING THE VC10 TO GOA - IS NOT ON AS THE RUNWAY IS TOO SMALL.

WADE-GERY

CHOGM: Goa Retreat.

You asked me to find out the answers to para 3 of Delhi tel: 830 of 7 November.

The ~~the~~ FCO advise the precedents are ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> follows:-

### Melbourne

The retreat was in Canberra. The Officials who attended made their way on the regular scheduled flights between Melbourne & Canberra. The Australians made no special arrangements.

### Lusaka

With the Rhodesian war the retreat was held in Lusaka so the problem did not arise.

### London

For the Glenegles retreat no special arrangements were made ~~because of the~~ ~~for the same reason~~ because of the regular scheduled flights to Scotland.

FCO said that they would be happy to make their own ~~own~~ travelling arrangements for officials going to Goa but because of its isolated position this is not possible. They ~~had~~ feel that as the Indians chose the location they have some responsibility to ~~it~~ facilitate some senior support staff.

Mark

7/11

**RESTRICTED**

Copy to No. 10.  
Mr. New.  
8/11/83.

RESTRICTED

FM NEW DELHI 070350Z NOV 83

TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 827 OF 6 NOVEMBER.

CHGM

1. YOUR TELNO 685 : OFFICE SPACE IN THE RESIDENCE. THE ONLY ROOM BIG ENOUGH TO HOUSE THE DEPUTY CLERKS, SECRETARIES, AND ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT IS THE GARDEN ROOM. THE STUDY COULD THEN BE USED BY THE PRIVATE SECRETARIES (THOUGH WE WOULD EXPECT THESE TO OPERATE PRINCIPALLY FROM THEIR BEDROOMS), THE PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY AND THE TWO PRESS SECRETARIES AS NECESSARY. MY OWN SECRETARY WILL BE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE THROUGHOUT THE QUEEN'S VISIT AND CHGM AND IT WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL TO MOVE HERE ELSEWHERE OR USE HER OFFICE. USE OF THE LIBRARY IS ALSO NOT PRACTICAL SINCE IT SERVES TWO PURPOSES : (A) IT IS AN ESSENTIAL PASSAGE-WAY (SEMICOLON) (B) IT SERVES AS A USEFUL THIRD RECEPTION ROOM FOR RECEIVING ONE LOT OF VISITORS WHILE OTHERS ARE STILL USING THE DINING/DRAWING ROOMS. THERE IS GOOD TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GARDEN ROOM AND STUDY, AND I THINK YOU WOULD FIND THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL WORK SATISFACTORILY.

2. AS CONFIRMED BY TELEPHONE IN AUGUST, WE CAN MANAGE YOUR LUNCH FOR FELLOW FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE RESIDENCE. WE WILL PREPARE A SUITABLE MENU, FOR DISCUSSION WITH HALL ON ARRIVAL. (ON MENUS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S LUNCHESES, STARK'S TELELETTER OF 24 OCTOBER, DIANA SCOTT HAS TAKEN CARE OF ALL POINTS IN HALL'S TELELETTER OF 19 OCTOBER.)

3. TRANSPORT. CONFIRMED BOOKING FOR 14 AMBASSADOR CARS 21-30 NOVEMBER INCLUSIVE. ALSO TWO MINI-BUSES FOR COLLECTION AND DESPATCH OF VISITING PRESS. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE NO USE FOR THE TWO POOL VEHICLES BEYOND 20 NOVEMBER : WE HAVE MADE PROVISION FOR THESE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU BEYOND THAT DATE, AND THEY MIGHT ALLOW YOU TO RELEASE TWO OF THE HIRED VEHICLES.

4. TELEPHONES. WE HAVE INSTALLED AN ADDITIONAL CHGM SECTION TO BHC PABX, FOR EXTENSIONS OF CHGM DELEGATES ETC IN BHC, RESIDENCE AND THE HOTELS. EXTENSIONS FROM IT INTERCOMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH EXISTING BHC EXTENSIONS. BUT OUTSIDE CALLERS SHOULD IDEALLY RING 619940 OR 619901 FOR CHGM EXTENSIONS, USING MAIN BHC NUMBER 690271 ONLY IF BOTH THESE ARE BUSY. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD AMEND BRIEFING NOTES ACCORDINGLY. WE SHALL SHORTLY BE ALLOCATING EXTENSION NUMBERS AND PREPARING A DIRECTORY.

**RESTRICTED**



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

17 October, 1983

CHOGM : Administrative Arrangements

Thank you for your letter of 6 October.

The Prime Minister has now given her agreement to the arrival and departure arrangements suggested in paragraph 2 of your letter.

The question of accommodation is being dealt with separately.

As regards the Goa Retreat, the Prime Minister would like the following to be accommodated in the Cidade de Goa: Mr. Butler, myself, Mr. Ingham, a Garden Room Girl and a Detective.

The question of the dates of the Prime Minister's lunches has been dealt with separately. Sue Goodchild will be in touch with you about the menus for these lunches. The Prime Minister has confirmed that she would like to take a certain amount of white English wine on the VC10 to be used as appropriate at her lunches.

A. J. COLES

M. M. Hall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

GRS 575  
RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

FM NEW DELHI 170530Z  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 713 OF 17 OCTOBER 1983

YOUR TELNO 570 : PRIME MINISTER'S ACCOMMODATION DURING CHOGM

1. I SAW NATWAR SINGH ON 15 OCTOBER ON MY RETURN FROM BOMBAY. AS WELL AS DEALING WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER ROYAL VISITS AND CHOGM POINTS, I SAID THAT I NEEDED EITHER TO OFFER THE PRIME MINISTER AN UNLOADED CHOICE BETWEEN STAYING WITH ME AND STAYING AT THE CONFERENCE HOTELS (SEMI COLON) OR TO OFFER ADVICE IN FAVOUR OF THE LATTER, EG BECAUSE THAT WOULD FIT IN BETTER WITH THE ORGANISERS' PLANS FOR THE CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT. DID HE HAVE ANY VIEWS ON THIS?

2. NATWAR SUGGESTED FIRMLY THAT I SHOULD OFFER AN UNLOADED CHOICE. MRS THATCHER SHOULD DO WHICHEVER SHE PREFERRED. AT THE CHOGM, LAST YEAR, FOR INSTANCE, MALCOLM FRASER HAD OPTED FOR A DIFFERENT HOTEL AND THIS HAD NOT MATTERED. I SAID I HAD THE IMPRESION THAT HIS DECISION HAD BEEN UNPOPULAR WITH THE INDIANS. NATWAR REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO PATIENCE WITH HIS COUNTRYMEN WHO FUSSED OVER SUCH MATTERS. BUT CHOOSING ANOTHER HOTEL, AND ONE INCONVENIENTLY SITUATED FROM A SECURITY POINT OF VIEW, HAD PERHAPS BEEN CARRING FREEDOM OF CHOICE TO FAR. IN THE PRESENT CASE, BY CONTRAST, MRS THATCHER IF SHE CHOSE MY RESIDENCE WOULD BE GOING TO HER OWN HIGH COMMISSION AND TO A HOUSE WHICH LAY HALFWAY BETWEEN THE CONFERENCE HOTELS AND THE CONFERENCE CENTRE AND WOULD THEREFORE IMPOSE LITTLE ADDITIONAL SECURITY BURDEN. IN ANY CASE, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE DICTATED TO IN SUCH MATTERS.

3. I COMMENTED THAT HIS OWN WISH NOT TO DICTATE WAS IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF INDIAN HOSPITALITY. BUT MY POSITION WAS DIFFERENT. MY JOB WAS TO ADVISE AGAINST ANYTHING ON OUR SIDE WHICH MIGHT SEEM IMPOLITE OR INCONSIDERATE. WAS HE SURE THAT IF MRS THATCHER CHOSE MY RESIDENCE THIS WOULD NOT BE REGRETED BY THE CONFERENCE ORGANISERS (EG FOR COLLEGIALITY REASONS) AND PARTICULARLY BY THOSE RESPONSIBILTY FOR SECURITY? NATWAR REPLIED THAT THE COLLEGIALITY ARGUMENT WAS SIMPLY ONE FACTOR AMONG OTHERS (SEMI COLON) AND THAT ALTHOUGH STAYING IN MY HOUSE WOULD MARGINALLY INCREASE THE SECURITY TASK THE POSITION OF THE HOUSE COULD HARDLY BE BETTER FROM A SECURITY POINT OF VIEW. STAYING AT RESIDENCES WAS NOT SOMETHING HE WOULD WANT EVERY HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO DO. BUT IN OUR CASE THERE SEEMED LITTLE OBJECTION.

4. I WARNED HIM THAT, IN MY PRIVATE JUDGEMENT UNLOADED ADVICE MIGHT WELL LEAD TO A DECISION TO STAY WITH ME BUT HE STUCK TO HIS GUNS. SHE WAS MORE THAN WELCOME TO DO WHICHEVER SHE CHOSE.

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5. COMMENT. AT NO STAGE DID NATWAR SUGGEST THAT HE SHOULD CONSULT MRS GANDHI ON THIS SUBJECT (THOUGH HE DID IN THE CASE OF ONE OF THE OTHER TOPICS WE DISCUSSED). SO FAR AS THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ARE CONCERNED, THEREFORE, I THINK WE CAN TAKE THIS AS THE GREEN LIGHT WE WANTED.

6. GRATEFUL FOR AUTHORITY TO TELL INDIANS AS SOON AS THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

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OO NEW DELHI  
GRS 344  
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FM FCO 131430Z OCT 83  
TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 588 OF 13 OCTOBER 1983

FROM CONFERENCE SECTION  
CHGM PROGRAMMES

1. WE NOTE FROM YOUR TEL 695 THAT THE INDIANS ARE STILL CONSIDERING NOT RETURNING THE HEADS OF DELEGATION TO DELHI FROM GOA UNTIL MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER. NO 10 DO NOT WISH TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THIS, BUT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF THE PRIME MINISTER WERE NOT SEPARATED FROM SECURE TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION FOR AS LONG AS THREE NIGHTS. GRATEFUL IF THIS COULD BE MENTIONED TO THE INDIANS. IT MAY TIP THE DECISION BACK TO A RETURN ON SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER.
2. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF SHE GAVE TWO LUNCHES FOR FELLOW HEADS ON 28 AND 29 NOVEMBER. PLEASE NOTIFY THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE CHGM PROGRAMME.
3. WE AWAIT DETAILS OF THE OFFICIAL SPOUSES PROGRAMME BUT WE ASSUME A GOOD DEAL OF IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR MR THATCHER. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL, THEREFORE, TO HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME. AS WE MENTIONED DURING OUR VISIT IN JUNE HIS INTERESTS LIE GENERALLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS FIELD AND HE IS GLAD TO VISIT PROCESSES AND PROJECTS WITH AN ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL BRITISH CONTENT IN THE CONTEXT OF EXPORT PROMOTION. MR THATCHER DOES NOT INCIDENTALLY UNDERTAKE SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS. IF GOLF IS INCLUDED IN HIS PROGRAMME PLEASE NOTE THAT HE REQUIRES CLUBS FOR A LEFTHANDER. AS FAR AS SIGHTSEEING IS CONCERNED, PLEASE CHECK THE PROGRAMME HE CARRIED OUT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN 1981 TO ENSURE PLACES HE HAS SEEN ALREADY ARE NOT REPEATED.
4. LADY HOWE'S INTERESTS ARE WOMENS ORGANISATIONS, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND SHE IS A PRACTISING MAGISTRATE IN THE JUVENILE COURTS. THIS WILL BE HER FIRST VISIT TO INDIA AND THEREFORE SOME SIGHTSEEING MIGHT BE INCLUDED. SHE IS ALSO

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INTERESTED IN DIPLOMATIC STAFF ACCOMMODATION AND THUS A TOUR OF  
THE COMPOUND WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT SOME POINT.

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MR WRIGHT, CABINET OFFICE

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

PRIME MINISTER

CHOGM

Three points which it will be helpful to settle now:-

- (a) We are planning for you to leave London at 1400 hours on Monday, 21 November. This will get you to Delhi at 0800 hours local time on Tuesday, 22 November. You will be able to get some sleep on the flight and spend the day preparing for CHOGM. As you know, you are attending a dinner for The Queen that evening and we are considering the possibility of your meeting Mr. Hawke either at lunch or over a drink before the dinner.

Are you content with these departure plans?

- (b) You, Mr. Thatcher and a detective will be staying at a hotel in Goa during the retreat weekend. There will be places in a hotel some 25 minutes away for a very limited number of your party. I propose that these should be Robin, Bernard, a Garden Room girl, a detective and myself.

Acceptable?

Yes no

- (c) Would you like to select two menus for the lunches which you will be giving. Some suggestions are attached. Also, do you wish to take English wines on the VC 10 to serve at your meals?

White wine only - we  
don't produce a red wine I know of.

A.S.C. 11/10.

no

11 October 1983

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 October 1983

*I have asked the F/C-O to get the High Commissioner to act a lty delicately over the Indians. We can then decide.*

*Dear John,*

CHOGM

*A.J.C.-u*

As requested in your letter of 5 October, we have asked our High Commissioner for his advice as to how the Indians would react if the Prime Minister and her party were to stay at the Residence.

*h-a.*

The High Commissioner's response is contained in New Delhi telegram No 683 (copy attached).

Briefly, the High Commissioner would personally like the Prime Minister and her party to stay with him. On the other hand, he believes that most, if not all, the other Heads of Delegation will stay in the Ashok/Samrat hotel complex, and that for security reasons the Indians would prefer to keep all Heads of Delegation together. He suggests that we should either conclude now that the safest course would be for the Prime Minister to stay in the hotel complex, or that he should seek advice from Natwar Singh, who would in turn almost certainly consult Mrs Gandhi.

Quite apart from the Indians, some Heads of Commonwealth delegations might well regret it if the Prime Minister were to stay outside the main complex; but the Secretary of State feels that this need not be an over-riding consideration.

Another point to bear in mind is that the space and facilities available for the Private Office would be a great deal less satisfactory at the Residence than they would be in the hotel complex.

On balance, the Foreign Secretary is inclined to think that it would be politically safer to opt for the hotel, but it would be perfectly possible to sound out the Indians if the Prime Minister continues to prefer the Residence.

*Yours ever*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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GRS 1100  
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DESKBY 070930Z  
FM DELHI 070829Z OCT 83  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 683 OF 07 OCTOBER

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YOUR TELNOS 559 AND 560: CHOGM: PRIME MINISTER'S ACCOMMODATION

1. FROM MY PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW IT WOULD OF COURSE BE MOST WELCOME IF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER PARTY STAYED WITH ME.

2. WE COULD COPE WITH THE PRACTICAL POINTS IN FIRST TUR. IN MY CHILDREN'S ABSENCE THERE ARE FIVE GUEST BEDROOMS IN THE RESIDENCE. ASSUMING THAT (LIKE LAST SEPTEMBER) THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR THATCHER WOULD NOT REQUIRE SEPARATE ROOMS, WE COULD THEREFORE ACCOMMODATE MICHAEL ALISON AS WELL AS THE OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN PARA 2. BY USING THE GARDEN ROOM (50 YARDS AWAY) TOGETHER WITH MY STUDY WE COULD PROVIDE THE OFFICE SPACE MENTIONED IN PARA 3: BUT THE ASSUMPTION IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF THAT PARA IS CORRECT. ON PARA 4, WE COULD TAKE STEPS TO MINIMISE CONGESTION.

3. AS YOU KNOW, THE TWIN HOTELS (ASHOK AND SAMRAT) DESIGNATED BY THE GOV FOR HEADS OF DELEGATION BOTH HAVE THEIR DISADVANTAGES. THE ASHOK BADLY NEEDED THE MAJOR FACELIFT IT HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN AND IS STILL A BIT GROTTY: AND ITS LAYOUT IS NOT IDEAL IN THAT MOST MAJOR SUITES ARE BY THEMSELVES IN ONE AREA. THE SAMRAT IS SO BRAND NEW AS TO BE (AT THIS STAGE) STILL INCOMPLETE AND MY THEREFORE HAVE TEETHING TROUBLES. BUT BOTH ARE NEXT DOOR TO OUR HIGH COMMISSION OFFICES AND COMPOUND, WHEREAS MY RESIDENCE IS FIVE MINUTES DRIVE AWAY.

4. IT IS NOT FOR ME TO JUDGE HOW OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WOULD REACT TO THE PRIME MINISTER STAYING ELSEWHERE THAN IN THE TWIN HOTELS RESERVED FOR HEADS OF DELEGATION. WE HAVE HOWEVER CONSULTED IN CONFIDENCE FOUR COMMONWEALTH MISSIONS HERE AS TO THEIR OWN HEAD OF DELEGATION'S ACCOMMODATION PLANS, WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

(ii) CANADA: MR TRUDEAU WILL STAY AT THE ASHOK/SAMRAT. THE CANADIAN ADVANCE PARTY WHICH CAME OUT IN APRIL/MAY CONCLUDED THAT THE INDIANS WOULD BE OFFENDED IF THEY SUGGESTED THAT HE SHOULD STAY ANYWHERE ELSE, INCLUDING WITH THEIR HIGH COMMISSIONER.

(iii) AUSTRALIA: MR HAWKE WILL STAY AT THE ASHOK/SAMRAT. ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHGRM LAST YEAR THE AUSTRALIAN MADE A FUSS, SAYING THAT THE ASHOK WAS INADEQUATE FOR THEIR PRIME MINISTER, AND GOT HIM MOVED TO ANOTHER HOTEL (MAURYA). SEVERAL MONTHS AGO NATWAR SINGH HAVE THEM A CLEAR STEER THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AT THE CHOGM FOR HEADS OF DELEGATION TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN HOTELS OTHER THAN THOSE DESIGNATED BY THE MEA (IE THE ASHOK/SAMRAT). THEY DID NOT RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS STAYING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER.

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(iii) SRI LANKA. PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE WILL STAY AT THE ASHOK/SAMRAT.

(iv) MALAYSIA. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WILL STAY AT THE ASHOK/SAMRAT.

5. AS FOR LIKELY INDIAN REACTIONS, I HAVE NOT FELT FREE TO CONSULT ANYONE AT THIS STAGE BUT WOULD GUESS THAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS WOULD WEIGH WITH THEM:

(i) IT IS EVIDENT THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO KEEP ALL HEADS OF DELEGATION TOGETHER IN THE LINKED ASHOK/SAMRAT COMPLEX IN ORDER TO FACILITATE RELAXED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CHGM PARTICIPANTS.

(ii) THEY WILL ALSO BE ANXIOUS TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF HEADS OF DELEGATION. IF MRS THATCHER STAYS AT THE RESIDENCE THEY WOULD NEED TO DETACH A SPECIAL FORCE TO PROVIDE SECURITY THERE.

(iii) THEY WILL CLEARLY NOT TOLERATE HEADS OF DELEGATION ASKING TO STAY IN OTHER HOTELS. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THEY WOULD REGARD A PROPOSAL FOR A HEAD OF DELEGATION TO STAY AT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE AS EQUALLY UNACCEPTABLE. AT THE TIME OF THE NAM SUMMIT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MEA TOLD NAM AMBASSADORS THAT IT WOULD BE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE FOR NAM LEADERS TO STAY WITH THEIR AMBASSADORS. THE IRAQI PRESIDENT (WHO IN THE EVENT DID NOT COME) HAD PLANNED TO DO THIS. OF COURSE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE NAM SUMMIT WERE DIFFERENT: THE 100-ODD HEADS OF DELEGATION WERE SPLIT AMONGST FIVE HOTELS IN SEPARATE LOCATIONS SO THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF MAINTAINING A COLLEGIATE ATMOSPHERE.

6. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD TAKE A DECISION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD STAY WITH ME UNLESS WE HAVE FIRST SOUNDED OUT THE INDIANS. I THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE ADVICE TO THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD FOCUS ON TWO CHOICES:

(A) WE COULD REGRETFULLY CONCLUDE (WITHOUT CONSULTATION) THAT THE SAFEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR HER TO STAY AT THE ASHOK/SAMRAT.

(B) I COULD CAST A FLY OVER NATWAR SINGH, WHO WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY CONSULT MRS GANDHI BEFORE RESPONDING. IF HE RAISED NO OBJECTION, WE COULD GO AHEAD WITH THE IDEA OF THE PRIME MINISTER STAYING WITH ME. BUT IF HE DID DEMUR I FEAR WE SHOULD HAVE TO ABANDON THE IDEA: TO ASK FOR A STEER AND THEN IGNORE IT WOULD CLEARLY GET US THE WORST OF ALL WORLDS.

7. TWO FINAL THOUGHTS.

(i) IF WE DECIDE, BY EITHER ROUTE, IN FAVOUR OF THE ASHOK/SAMRAT WE COULD STILL REVERT TO THE RESIDENCE IDEA IF THE ACCOMMODATION WE ARE EVENTUALLY OFFERED AT THE HOTELS IS CLEARLY INADEQUATE EG IN SIZE OR LOCATION.

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(H) EVEN IF WE GO FOR (B) ABOVE AND ARE NOT WARNED OFF, THERE WOULD REMAIN SOME RISK THAT THERE COULD BE SNIDE PRESS COMMENT AT THE TIME SHOULD THE PRIME MINISTER TURN OUT TO BE IN A VERY SMALL MINORITY IN NOT STAYING AT THE HOTELS. BUT INDIA'S PRESS IS KNOWN TO BE FREE, AND I WOULD NOT MYSELF TAKE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT TOO TRAGICALLY.

WADE-GERY

## STANDARD

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**Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01- 273 3632

 A J Coles Esq  
 No 10 Downing Street

Your reference

Our reference

Date 6 October 1983

*Dear John,*

CHGM 1983, NEW DELHI: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

1. I am writing to follow up a number of points which were raised during our meeting yesterday.

2. Arrival and Departure in Delhi

Subject to the Prime Minister's approval, we are now planning on Mrs Thatcher arriving in Delhi at 0800 hours local time on Tuesday 22 November which will mean a departure from London at 1400 hours on Monday 21 November. For the return, we agreed that it might be preferable for the VC 10 to arrive at LHR at 0700 hours on Wednesday 30 November (to avoid commuter traffic, etc) which would mean a departure from Delhi at 2230 hours local time on Tuesday 29 November. For the record the total journey time outward, including a refuelling stop of one hour at Bahrain is 12 1/2 hours. Because of prevailing winds the return journey, also including a stop in Bahrain is 14 hours. The UK will be on GMT and New Delhi on GMT + 5 1/2 hrs

3. Accommodation

Commonwealth Coordination Department are seeking the advice of the High Commission in New Delhi on possible Indian reactions to the Prime Minister electing to stay at the Residence, rather than the hotel accommodation, designated for Heads of Government. At the same time we are looking into the practical implications of Mrs Thatcher staying at the Residence, such as whether there is sufficient accommodation for the fairly large No 10 Private Office that is usually needed during these Commonwealth meetings. I should also mention the problem of the RMP having to guard 2 separate locations overnight - a No 10 Private Office at the Residence and an FCO Private Office at the hotel - although this could be overcome by our increasing the RMP team or by our requesting the FCO Private Office to return its papers overnight to the High Commission.



#### 4. Goa Retreat

In accordance with the tradition of these Retreat weekends, only the Prime Minister, Mr Thatcher and one other (almost invariably a detective) will be staying at the Fort Aguada Hotel. We have, however, requested 6 rooms at the hotel where the Indians propose to accommodate any support teams which need to be in Goa at the same time. This hotel is the Cidade de Goa and is some 25 minutes by road from the Fort Aguada. We propose that a member of the Deputy High Commission in Bombay is on hand at this hotel in order to assist the party coming down from Delhi. I would therefore be grateful to know who the 5 members of this party are likely to be. At the last CHGM in Australia in 1981 the following were accommodated at a nearby hotel during the Retreat weekend at the Lakeside Hotel in Canberra:-

Sir Robert Armstrong  
 Sir Michael Palliser  
 Mr Whitmore  
 Mr Ingham  
 Secretarial Assistant  
 Detective

*Robin*  
*David*  
*Re*  
*find for*  
*leah*

On this occasion the party will have to be more restricted (a) because of the limited number of rooms available to us in the Cidade de Goa and (b) because of the limited number of seats we are likely to be allocated on any special flight the Indians might be providing to take support officials from Delhi to Goa.

#### 5. Prime Minister's lunches

I mentioned that Thursday 24 November was no longer available for the Prime Minister's first lunch for fellow Heads of Government and we agreed that it was more likely that the Prime Minister would wish to move this lunch to Tuesday 29 November rather than attempt to entertain all Heads at one lunch on Monday 28 November. The latter option carries the risk that if all Heads accepted the Prime Minister's invitation the conditions for the lunch could be somewhat cramped and it would not be possible to provide matching china and cutlery. You asked whether Wednesday 23 November might be a possible date for one of these 2 lunches. The problem here is that the Commonwealth Secretary General is holding a Reception at noon for all Heads of Government on that day and that as this will be the first major social occasion of the Meeting it will, in all likelihood, run on for some time.

6. Medical

At your suggestion I am enquiring about the tablets which proved to be such an excellent protection against stomach ailments during the tour of India by the Prince of Wales. We shall shortly be issuing guidance on all inoculation and related requirements.

*Yours ever,*

*M. M. Hall*

M M Hall  
Overseas Conferences and Visits Section  
Protocol Department

cc Mr Holmes - Private Office  
Mr Byrne - CCD  
Mr Cleghorn - SAD  
Mr Wright - Cabinet Office  
Colonel Durrant

PM Tows June 82 CH GM



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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 October 1983

CHOGM

In a letter to me of 14 September, Robert Wade-Gery has raised the question of accommodation arrangements at CHOGM.

The Prime Minister's preference is that she, Mr. Thatcher, the Principal Private Secretary, myself and one detective, should be accommodated at the High Commissioner's Residence. But before taking a final decision she would be grateful for advice on how the Indians and other Commonwealth Heads of Government would be likely to react to this. I understand that arrangements are being made for all Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers to be put up at the Ashok/Samrat Hotel Complex. It may be that the Indians would look askance at any exceptions.

I should be grateful if you could consult the High Commissioner urgently and let me have advice by the end of this week.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*JH*

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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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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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Mr. Coles  
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A REPORT ON A RECONNAISSANCE VISIT TO NEW DELHI AND GOA FOR  
THE 1983 COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. This report is the result of a visit to New Delhi and Goa by Mr Leslie Wright of the Cabinet Office, Colonel Peter Durrant of PCD, FCO and the undersigned over the period 11 to 18 June. Three days were spent in Delhi following a comprehensive programme made up by the British High Commission, meeting key Indian officials involved in the preparations, visiting the Conference sites and inspecting hotels; half a day was spent in Bombay discussing with the Deputy High Commissioner there the extent of their support and involvement in the Retreat weekend in Goa and a day and a half was spent in Goa, again meeting key Indian officials and visiting the sites which will feature in the Retreat weekend.

2. INDIAN PREPARATIONS

Meetings were held with the following officials in Delhi:-

Mr Satish Lambah - Joint Secretary in the MEA

Mr U C Tiwari - Principal Government Spokesman, GOI

Mr C P Joshi - Communications Consultant to the CHGM

Mr Upendara Lal - Director (Conferences) in the MEA

Mr Wanchoo - Assistant Director (security) Ministry of Home Affairs

It was clear from our discussions with the above, that Indian thinking on the arrangements for CHGM is being heavily influenced by their experience of the Non-Aligned Summit which India hosted in March and which it appears organisationally was a considerable success. There is however a danger that;

- a) there will be complacency on the part of the Indians during their preparations for CHGM and
- b) that they could slavishly repeat arrangements made at the NAM Meeting, regardless of whether they are appropriate to a CHGM, which is a very different type of meeting from a NAM gathering.

We detected, for instance, a tendency for a great deal of attention to be focused on the Heads of Delegations in the

proposed arrangements with little or none devoted to the Foreign Ministers. Foreign Ministers will not be assigned liaison or security officers, their cars will not be radio controlled and as matters stand they will receive little preferential treatment on arrival or departure at Delhi Airport. All this is in keeping with what occurred during the NAM which was perhaps understandable given the limited resources of the Indians and the fact that there were well over 100 countries participating, but it is less appropriate in an organisation with only 40 or so member countries. However steps are being taken to warn the Commonwealth Secretariat about this potential problem and we hope generally that they will put the Indian organisers on to the right lines regarding the requirements and character of a CHGM.

#### CONFERENCE SITE

3. The Conference sessions will take place in the Vigyan Bhavan, the GOI Government Conference Centre. This is a somewhat undistinguished building with gloomy interiors and here again one detected a wide gulf between the arrangements for the Heads of Government and those for the remainder of each Delegation. Extensive areas will be reserved for the Heads while comparatively little accommodation will be accessible to others. However the rooms designated for working groups at official level are large and well equipped. The opening ceremony of the CHGM will also take place in a large auditorium within the Vigyan Bhavan complex. One possible problem identified was that the Indians appeared to have made little or no provision for communication between Senior Advisers and Heads/Ministers during meeting sessions and an attempt was made to persuade them to introduce more flexibility in this regard.

4. Each Delegation is being allocated one very small office measuring no more than 15' x 15' which at certain times could present our Delegation with a severe problem of congestion. The allocation of one room per Delegation is however within the CHGM tradition and practice. Only communal photocopiers will be available - 3 per floor.

#### LIVING ACCOMMODATION

5. The Indians are proposing to accommodate all Heads of Government and Ministers in a pair of inter-connecting hotels owned by the Government of India. These 2 hotels are the Ashok and the Samrat and are located very close to the

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British High Commission. Each Delegation will be allocated one large suite, one smaller suite and 12 ordinary rooms, (one designated as an office). Both these hotels have disadvantages for which our Delegation should be prepared. The Ashok was built some 20 years ago and is showing distinct signs of age while the Samrat is not yet complete and therefore teething troubles can be expected. We do understand however that efforts are being made to give the Ashok a face lift and to ensure that all systems such as telephones, plumbing etc are in good working order by November.

6. Five hotels in the vicinity of the British High Commission and the Ashok/Samrat were visited with a view to finding accommodation for the balance of the UK party, and it was decided to book the bulk into the Maurya Hotel, which is part of the Sheraton Group. Ten rooms were booked at the Claridges Hotel for the RMP team and 15 rooms at the Taj Palace Hotel for the RAF aircrew. The Maurya has established a good reputation for efficient service, comfortable rooms and a broad range of cuisine and all this was borne out by our inspection visit.

WORKING ACCOMMODATION

7. The Private Offices of the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary will in the usual way have to be set up in the Ashok/Samrat. However after careful consideration it was decided that the best location for the offices of the Delegation Secretariat, the Senior Advisers and the Administrative support would be in a suite of offices in the British High Commission (which is just over the road). There were three major reasons for arriving at this conclusion. First, the rooms in the Ashok are arranged in an unusual way: all suites are grouped together: as are all single and double rooms. Thus the more offices we have in this huge hotel the more likely they are to be scattered throughout it. Second, the more offices we put into the Ashok the fewer senior advisers and other key support staff will be able to stay there. Third, in siting our offices within the High Commission they would be close to the essential services it can provide, such as communications, transport etc. There would be sufficient accommodation for the Cabinet Secretary to hold his daily morning meetings in the High Commission building. Also given the inadequacy of the office accommodation at the Conference Centre, it is anticipated that much greater use than usual will be made of these offices. Overall they are far more likely to function well in one of our Diplomatic posts than in an hotel. ?

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PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

8. Mr Bruce Cleghorn, First Secretary (Information) in the High Commission, who accompanied us on all visits and calls, has reported in some detail about the proposed press media arrangements for the meeting (see his letter of 15 June to Mr Kydd of the No 10 Press Office) but a summary of the relevant principal locations may be useful. The main facilities for the press will be located in a Media Centre in an annex to the Vigyan Bhavan. The main briefing hall seats about 200 but it would not be possible to exclude non British journalists from briefings held here. A more suitable venue, if British only briefings were required, might be the Recreation Hall at the British High Commission. Two hotels have been designated for the press accommodation the Kanishka and the Janpath. A suite, which will double as a briefing room and an office, has been reserved at the Kanishka for Mr Kydd. It is envisaged that Mr Ingham will have a room at the Ashok Hotel but that he will use Mr Kydd's suite at the Kanishka for informal briefings of the British press. As a fallback position, a suite has also been booked at the Maurya Hotel in case the rooms allocated to the UK at the Ashok are not as anticipated.

9. SECURITY

Colonel Durrant of PCD has written a separate detailed report on the Indian security arrangements for both Delhi and the retreat weekend in Goa. Indian thinking in this area is still strongly influenced by their arrangements for the NAM which tended to be on a large and restrictive scale. Again this was understandable given the number of delegations taking part and the many cases of mutual suspicion and antipathy between delegations. It is to be hoped that the arrangements for CHGM will be scaled down to an appropriate level. Sources of concern at present are possible restrictions on access to the Ashok/Samrat complex by those delegates not staying there and an overrigid separation between Heads of Government and their advisers at the Vigyan Bhavan. These concerns are however being conveyed to the Indian Government via the Commonwealth Secretariat and there is optimism that in the event a reasonable compromise will be reached. As Colonel Durrant has recorded, only the Prime Minister will be assigned an armed Indian protection officer but the Indians did say they would be prepared to assign one to the Secretary of State also, should a threat of any significance be brought to their attention.

COMMUNICATIONS

10. Here again a detailed separate report is being submitted; in this case by Mr Wright, Head of communications at the Cabinet Office. He has identified the points in Delhi where both direct lines and private wires to London will be located, as well as the positions of base stations for a radio network, the latter to be used primarily for administrative purposes, although the Special Branch officers accompanying our Ministers will have access to it. The main communications problem arises over the Retreat weekend in Goa where a combination of distances between hotels linked by winding roads and an inadequate existing telephone system could cause difficulties. On present planning a secure link telephone will terminate in the room of the aide accompanying the Prime Minister to Goa.

11. For its telegraphic traffic with London and elsewhere, the Delegation will be using the Communications Centre of the British High Commission, whose staff will be reinforced to provide the necessary 24 hour cover while our Ministers are in India.

ARRANGEMENTS AT DELHI AIRPORT

12. Here again the proposed arrangements bear the imprint of the NAM precedent. The Indians propose that only the Heads of Government will be met by limousines at the end of the aircraft steps while all other delegates, including Foreign Ministers, will proceed by airport bus to a VIP lounge in a new terminal building whence they will then walk through the building to embark in a motorcade. Between now and November, efforts will be made to negotiate a somewhat more dignified reception for Foreign Ministers. We shall also try to ensure that it will not be necessary for each member of our party to personally present their passports and personally identify and remove their baggage.

TRANSPORT

13. The Indian Government will provide each Delegation with one Mercedes for the Head of Government, a second Mercedes for the spouse of the Head of Government, one chauffeur driven Ambassador car (an Indian vehicle, based on the 1953 Morris Oxford) for Foreign Ministers and one other chauffeur driven Ambassador car for the use of one or two other senior members of the Delegation. For the rest of the UK party's transport needs a combination of British High Commission

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allocation of cars will shortly be sent to the British High Commission.

ENTERTAINMENT

14. If the pattern of previous CHGM'S is followed, the Prime Minister is likely to give 2 lunches for her fellow Heads of Government and/or possibly spouses and Foreign Ministers and again if past practice is followed, it is likely that the Residence of the British High Commissioner will be used for the purpose. The Residence was visited by the recce team and while the dining room would appear to be too small for these functions, a set of tables set out on the horseshoe-shaped veranda appeared to be an attractive solution.

FINANCE

15. The High Commission did not see the need for any extra funds to be drafted to their account to meet the expenditure arising out of CHGM, estimated at £50,000 to £60,000. They have nominated Mr Ian McDonald to act as accountant to the Delegation and detailed charging instructions for all items such as car hire, subsistence, accommodation etc will be forwarded to Mr Reed, Head of Administration in the BHC.

RETREAT WEEKEND IN GOA

16. The London recce party accompanied by staff from the British High Commission, New Delhi and Deputy High Commission, Bombay called on the Lt Governor, the Chief Secretary, and the Inspector General of Police in Goa in order to discuss arrangements for the Retreat. They also visited the principal sites involved in the Retreat.

17. The Head of Government, their spouses and aides will be accommodated in the Fort Aguada Beach Hotel which occupies an impressive position overlooking an old Portuguese Fort and a long wide beach. New chalets are being constructed on the hill above the Hotel and some Heads may be located there. In the adjacent Taj village complex, about a 5 to 10 minute walk away, members of the Commonwealth Secretariat and GOI support staff will be accommodated. The whole of this area will be sealed off by the security authorities. The Heads will transfer from Dabolim Airport to the Fort Aguada by helicopter, a journey which by car takes a good hour along narrow winding roads. The Indians have also made block bookings at the Cidade de Goa Hotel for Advisers and other delegates who may be needed to be in Goa, and at the

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block bookings at the Cidade de Goa Hotel for Advisers and other delegates who may be needed to be in Goa, and at the Hotel Fidalgo for any press who may be covering the retreat. These hotels are approximately 25 and 30 minutes drive respectively from the Fort Aguada. No alternative suitable accommodation is to be found any nearer than this to the Fort Aguada, and if we have a number of senior advisers in the Cidade de Goa round the clock transport will need to be on hand.

18. It was recognised that given the infrequency of flights between Bombay and Goa, and the unreliability of the telephone system, there was little role for the DHC in Bombay during the Retreat. It might however be valuable for Mr Morris of DHC Bombay to be present in Goa to assist those staying at the Cidade de Goa.

19. One difficulty will be the travel to and from Goa of any British support staff. The journey by scheduled services involved changing aircraft in Bombay and from door to door takes the best part of the day, a period of time which Private Secretaries and security officials in particular will not be able to afford. A request is therefore being made to the Indians for the provision of a second special aircraft to fly direct from Delhi to Goa, possibly also taking press representatives.

20. Press coverage of the Retreat is likely to be confined to a photo call carried out by a pool of press/cameramen.

21. As to the programme of the retreat, the Indians intend to organise an excursion for the Heads by river launch to see what remains of old Goa, the former capital of the territory. There will also be recreational facilities such as swimming, clock golf, etc. For the last day there is a proposal that the Heads lunch at the Residence of the Lt Governor. It is very much hoped that this is arranged since the Lt Governor himself is a delightful personality with a keen interest in the environment and conservation and his Residence is a beautiful old Portuguese colonial mansion commanding superb views of the coast. The grounds are equipped with a helipad.

22. The Indians indicated that they were also arranging Retreat weekend excursions for Foreign Ministers to Udaipur and for senior officials to Jaipur or Agra. Confirmation of these plans is awaited.

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23. MEDICAL

It has to be recognised that a good proportion of all new arrivals in India will succumb to some form of stomach complaint within the first few days. This happened in varying degrees to all members of the recce party. It is therefore indeed fortunate that the British High Commission has its own hospital on compound, staffed by a British doctor and a team of nurses. Given that the total British party going to India for CHGM could number about 70 including the RAF aircrew, the medical team have been alerted that the demand on their services in the early stages of CHGM at least could be high.

24. OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The High Commission will be able to meet many of the Delegations requirements for stationery, office furniture, duty-free liquor etc. Where they are unable to do this the supplementary supplies will be sent from London. The main problem arises over photocopiers, 4 of which were innitally requested for various parts of the Delegation. However, with the cost of hiring a photocopier in India running at £200 per day we may need to consider reducing this number to 2: one Rank Xerox 3107 machine to be shared by the 2 Private Offices in the Ashok Hotel and one to be located in the Delegation Secretariat in the High Commission building. This will still mean a bill of about £5,000 for a 10 day period including the cost of paper and a round the clock service cover. The cost of purchasing one of these machines in India is about £7,000. Bringing photocopiers out in the VC10 will also be considered but experience has shown this to be an unsatisfactory solution since these machines do not travel well.

COMPOSITION OF THE UK DELEGATION

25. The Indian Government have requested the names and numbers in each delegation, together with 2 photographs of each delegate, measuring 35 mm x 45 mm, to be submitted to them by 31 August. As many UK names as possible will be forwarded by this date.

*Michael Hall.*

M M Hall  
Overseas Conferences and Visits Section  
Protocol and Conference Department

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
28 June 1983



NO 10 DOWNING STREET

Mr Coles  
Mr Kydd, Press Office

CABINET OFFICE

PS/Sir Robert Armstrong  
Mr Wright

MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL OFFICE

Mr Attfield

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sir J Leahy, DUSS  
Mr Squire, AUSS  
Mr Holmes, Private Office  
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Mr Clarke, News Department  
Mr Byrne, CCD (2 copies)  
Mr Finlayson, SAD  
Mr Carroll, COD  
Mr Davies, CTSD, Hanslope Park  
Colonel Durrant, PCD  
Mr Beveridge, Finance Department

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION, NEW DELHI

Mr Williams, Head of Chancery  
Mr R Nash,  
Mr M Stark  
Mr Cleghorn  
Mr Reed (2 copies)

DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION, BOMBAY

Mr Imray, Deputy High Commissioner  
Mr P Morris

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOV OPS (Wing Commander Ball)

PCD (3)