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FM FCO 250950Z MAR 83
TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 145 OF 25 MARCH
UN AWARD TO MRS GANDHI: YOUR TEL 232

①

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
TO MRS GANDHI.

BEGINS: I WAS VERY PLEASED TO LEARN OF YOUR UNITED NATIONS
POPULATION AWARD AND I SEND YOU MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS. SUCH
RECOGNITION OF YOUR ENDEAVOURS IN THIS VITAL FIELD MUST GIVE
YOU GREAT SATISFACTION. ENDS

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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 61		
2 APR 1983		
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 March 1983

INDIA: UN POPULATION AWARD
TO MRS. GANDHI

Thank you for your letter of 22 March.
The Prime Minister agrees that the private
message which you propose she should send
to Mrs. Gandhi may be despatched as drafted.

A. J. COLES

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

NR

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Prime Minister

Agree to send
message as proposed?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

[Signature]
Judy Clark
22/3



22 March 1983

[Handwritten signature]

Dear John,

India: UN Population Award to Mrs Gandhi

I attach a self-explanatory telegram from our High Commissioner in New Delhi suggesting that the Prime Minister send a private congratulatory message to Mrs Gandhi on her receipt of the UN Population Award.

We consider that there would be political advantage in our relations with India in such a message, and if the Prime Minister agrees, we will arrange for the text proposed by the High Commissioner to be delivered to Mrs Gandhi on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Mrs Gandhi's population control methods were of course controversial and an element in her declaration of a State of Emergency and subsequent electoral defeat at the hands of Mr Desai. But it is the UN which has made the award and any danger of damaging publicity is minimized by making it a private message, as Sir R Wade-Gery has suggested.

Yours ever

[Handwritten signature: John Holmes]

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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FM DELHI 210743Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 232 OF 21 MARCH

INFO SAVING UKMIS NEW YORK

FOR SAD

UN AWARD FOR MRS GANDHI

1. THE INDIAN PRESS HAVE REPORTED THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON 18 MARCH THAT MRS GANDHI, ALONG WITH THE CHINESE FAMILY PLANNING MINISTER, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE UN POPULATION AWARD, GIVEN FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR HAVING BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2 YEARS AGO.. THE PRESS RELEASE SAID THAT THE AWARD RECOGNISED MRS GANDHI'S LEADERSHIP "IN CREATING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF POPULATION ISSUES, SPECIALLY AT THE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY LEVELS" WHICH HAD BEEN OF "CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE SUCCESS OF INDIA'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME". AS A RESULT OF EFFORTS UNDER MRS GANDHI'S LEADERSHIP "THE BIRTH RATE IN INDIA HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 42 PER THOUSAND IN 1965-70 TO 35.3 PER THOUSAND IN 1975-80".

2. WHEN I SAW DR ALEXANDER ON 19 MARCH ON OTHER BUSINESS HE EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AT THIS AWARD. I HAVE NO DOUBT THIS REFLECTS MRS GANDHI'S OWN FEELINGS. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE EMERGENCY AND THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE POPULATION CONTROL QUESTION SINCE, THIS AWARD IS IMPORTANT IN STRENGTHENING MRS GANDHI'S HAND TO GIVE GREATER PRIORITY TO INDIA'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME IN THE FUTURE.

3. GIVEN THE RELATIONSHIP ENJOYED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS GANDHI, I AM SURE THAT MRS GANDHI WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER. IF THIS IS IN LINE WITH CURRENT NO. 10 PRACTICE, I SUGGEST A PRIVATE MESSAGE, IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES, ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

"I WAS VERY PLEASED TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD. MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS. SUCH RECOGNITION IN THIS VITAL FIELD MUST GIVE YOU GREAT SATISFACTION."

FCO PASS SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

WADE-GERY

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PS/MR HURD

MR GIFFARD
MR DONALD
MR ADAMS

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OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats
RESTRICTED

Precedence/Deskby
IMMEDIATE

ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	RESTRICTED
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	UN AWARD TO MRS GANDHI: YOUR TEL 232
	10	1. Please convey the following message from the Prime Minister
	11	to Mrs Gandhi.
	12	BEGINS: I was very pleased to learn of your United Nations
	13	Population Award and I send you my warm congratulations. Such
	14	recognition of your endeavours in this vital field must give
	15	you great satisfaction. ENDS
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	17	PYM
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Handwritten signature

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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Drafted by (Block capitals) PRIVATE SECRETARY		Limited SAD UND
Telephone number 233 4641		News Dept PS/Mr Hurd Mr Giffard Mr Donald
Authorised for despatch		Mr Adams
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