



PRIME MINISTER
INDIA

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A, dear Prime Minister,

As you know, the 7th Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned countries was held in New Delhi from the 7th to the 12th March, 1983. I wanted to write personally to inform you, however, briefly, about the Conference and the issues with which we were principally pre-occupied.

A little over half of humankind was represented at the New Delhi Conference. So it was natural we should all be concerned with the problems that confront the international community as a whole, namely peace, independence, disarmament and development. On all these questions of overriding priority we had a united approach.

The Conference adopted a Declaration on several political and economic issues. In addition, the assembled Heads of State or Government issued a special "New Delhi Message". I enclose the text of the Message. As you will see, it embodies our fears and apprehensions as well as our hopes and aspirations. Our proceedings were dominated by a deep awareness of the threat of

nuclear war and the global economic crisis. The Message brings these concerns into sharp focus.

A number of proposals have been made on the highly complex question of nuclear disarmament. We, the non-aligned countries, earnestly urge an immediate halt to the drift towards nuclear conflict by taking the necessary steps outlined in the Message. There is pressing need for the nuclear weapon Powers to agree on a reassuring gesture.

The world is confronted with an acute economic crisis. We have invited attention to the necessity of restructuring the existing world economic system through a process of global negotiations. In the meantime, there should be a set of immediate measures to bring the world back to the path of sustained growth. We have suggested the convening of an International Conference on Money and Finance for Development with universal participation. It is now widely recognised that the economies and other aspects of the developed and developing nations are so interlinked that the search for solutions has to be made together by us all,

developed and developing. We believe we have made constructive proposals to this end.

The Message sets out our positive approach to other problems of worldwide concern such as Palestine and the Middle-East, the independence of Namibia, racism and apartheid, and stresses the need to find internationally acceptable solutions to the problems of different regions.

Urgent, even dramatic action is needed to rebuild confidence. We felt that it would be useful for the Heads of State or Government of the members of the United Nations to meet in New York for a few days at the time of the 38th Session of the General Assembly. The idea is to give fresh thought to ways and means of tackling the major problems of the day. We are realistic enough not to expect spectacular results since these problems are complex. But the least we can hope to achieve, at such a high-powered gathering, is a reduction in international tension and the initiation of a process which would improve the political climate and make it more conducive to the solution of problems. It would be a collective manifestation of our political will to grapple with our problems instead of letting problems overwhelm us.

I earnestly hope, Prime Minister, that you will agree with our basic approach. I am fully conscious that Heads of State or Government are extremely busy with urgent and important issues in their own countries. But at the N.A.M. we all thought that we should find some time to meet in New York. I do hope you also will be able to come to New York next autumn for a few days, to join fellow leaders in a common search for answers to our common problems. Need I say that your contribution will be invaluable.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely
Indira Gandhi

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
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Treasury and the Minister for the
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