



File No
at High Commission
in New Delhi

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 November 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 28 November about the BBC World Service.

Mrs. Thatcher regards the BBC World Service as very valuable and knows full well how keenly it is listened to across the world. She has noted your plea that the Service should be strengthened and will bear this in mind.

AJC

Mr. J. S. Lall.

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Mr Coles

cc: H of C

LETTER FROM MR JOHN LALL

- An Indian friend of mine, Mr John Lall, has asked if I would pass his attached letter to the Prime Minister. He is a nice and well respected man with no political axe to grind. He has now retired, and was formerly Director of the prestigious India International Centre in Delhi. He is well known as a literary pundit and was incidentally the author of a handsome book on Agra which Mrs Gandhi gave The Queen for Her wedding anniversary on 20 November.



Robert Wade-Gery

29 November 1983

J. S. LALL

83, Jor Bagh
New Delhi-110003
Tel. : 615754

November 28, 1983.

Dear Madam Prime Minister

In a world in which voices of sanity have become extremely rare, may I make a plea for the strengthening of the BBC world service. I have been a regular listener for the last thirty years, and am dismayed when the signal disappears or fades away, or is jammed into unintelligibility.

The integrity and impartiality of the BBC has never faltered in the war for the waves. I am sure there are many like me who would wish the signal comes through loud and clear, especially in the critical times in which you are Prime Minister of Britain.

With respectful regards, I am,

Yours sincerely

J. S. Lall

The Right Honourable Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of Britain.

J. S. LALL

Ack'd.

PLWZ
29/11

83, Jor Bagh
New Delhi-110003
• Tel. : 615754

November 28, 1983.

Dear Robert

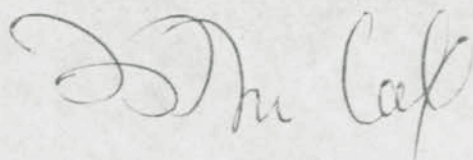
Would you be good enough to give the enclosed letter to your prime minister? I felt I should put in a word for listeners who depend on the services of the BBC for independent reporting. Since I know and admire Mark Tully I did not think it would have been appropriate to have mentioned the Delhi Bureau in particular. If the reporting from Delhi is any guide, the world Service as a whole is entirely unique.

I hope you are feeling better.

The Queen was very gracious indeed about the Agra book. She said she hoped to read it, when she had the time.

With kindest regards to both of you.

Yours sincerely



Sir Robert Wade-Gery KCMG
High Commissioner of Britain.