



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

David Barclay Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

14 February 1984

Dear David,

see folder attached to file.

I attach a briefing note for Mrs Kaul's call on the Prime Minister on 15 February at 1600 hours. She will be accompanied by the Deputy High Commissioner, Shri Johari.

As you know, Mrs Kaul is visiting this country to look at the new technology in schools, and we are hopeful that substantial orders for British products will follow.

Yours,
Elizabeth

MISS C E HODKINSON
Private Secretary

c Mr Colley
 Mr Glickman
 Miss Brown
 SCI
 Mr Libby
 Mr Mungeam
 SI Mr Goldstein

Miss Hodkinson

VISIT BY MRS KAUL:

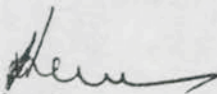
Courtesy call on Secretary of State, 10 February, 2.30 pm

Secretary of State's Dinner, 13 February, 7.30 for 8.00 pm

1 Carlton Gardens

New Technology in Schools

1. The Indians have as yet done very little in regard to introducing new technology into their schools but they want rapidly to develop programmes to remedy this. To encourage them, we recently agreed a plan of action with them a copy of which is attached (Ref A). We believe that this might well lead to very substantial export orders for British micros with accompanying software and teacher training packages.
2. Mrs Kaul's visit has an educational rather than a commercial purpose. She wants to see at first hand what we have done and discuss how it - or a similar programme - might be put into effect in India. A more commercial mission (as per paragraph 1 of the plan of action) is expected to follow in the next few weeks.
3. The Secretary of State has already seen a draft programme for the visit. He may like to note additionally that Mr Dunn is meeting the party at the airport and taking them to lunch prior to their courtesy call, Mr Brooke is attending the return dinner engagement at the High Commissioner's residence on 14 February and the Prime Minister is seeing Mrs Kaul for a short courtesy call at 16.00 hours on 15 February. A more detailed programme will follow very shortly. *(attached & flagged)*
4. I understand that Mrs Kaul will be bringing a small gift for the Secretary of State - perhaps something in rosewood - which she will present at the courtesy call. The Secretary of State may feel a gift in return would be appropriate and in that event something in bone china has been suggested.
5. At Annex B I attach a background FCO brief on Mrs Kaul and on India more generally.
6. The Secretary of State may also wish to note that following the recent assassination of an Indian Diplomat in Birmingham, the Special Branch will be covering all events.


 P S LEWIS
 9 February 1984

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MRS SHEILA KAUL, INDIAN MINISTERS OF
STATE FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

15 FEBRUARY 1984 1600 HOURS

ATTENDANCE

Mrs Kaul will be accompanied by the Deputy High Commissioner for India, Shri Pushkar Johari.

BACKGROUND

2. The Indians have as yet done very little in regard to introducing new technology into their schools that they want rapidly to develop programs to remedy this. To encourage them, we recently agreed a plan of action with them, a copy of which is at Ref A. We believe that this might well lead to very substantial export orders for British micros with accompanying software and teacher training packages.

3. Mrs Kaul, who is Mrs Gandhi's aunt, is visiting this country to see what we are doing in regard to new technology in schools. A further mission - under Item 1 of the Plan of Action - is expected soon.

4. The Programme for Mrs Kaul's visit is at Ref B - all the events seem to have gone well although Mrs Kaul is understandably rather tired.

5. A Background Note on Mrs Kaul is at Ref C. A political background brief is at Ref D.

POINTS TO MAKE

6. The Prime Minister may like to
 - i. express her condolences over the recent assassination of the Indian Assistant High Commissioner in Birmingham;
 - ii. express the hope that the visit has been useful and that the Indians will be able to make substantial progress in introducing new technology into their schools;
 - iii. say that we are ready to proceed with the various elements of the Plan of Action as soon as the Indians wish.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR INDO-BRITISH CO-OPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTER EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

The Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter referred to as "the Government of India") and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the Government of the United Kingdom");

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed at New Delhi on 16 April 1981 under which the two Governments entered into arrangements to cooperate in the area of application of computers in education and training;

Considering that the Government of India is contemplating initiation of a programme of computer education in secondary schools and that the Government of the United Kingdom has launched a similar programme for British schools;

Desiring to cooperate in the sharing of experience and education software and training programmes;

In accordance with the aforesaid Memorandum of Understanding, enter into the following arrangements:

- (1) The Government of the United Kingdom will extend an invitation to an Indian team to visit the United Kingdom and to understand first-hand the British programme of computer education in schools and all such programmes aimed at creating computer literacy and computer awareness at various levels in the British educational system. Experience in setting up this programme, in the infrastructure for training of teachers and in the

provision of appropriate hardware and software will also be shared fully with the visiting team;

(2) The Government of India will invite a team from the United Kingdom consisting of people who are intimately involved with aspects of implementation of the British programme with a view to jointly assessing the applicability of the British experience in Indian schools and to investigating how the programme should be modified to suit Indian requirements. The Government of the United Kingdom will consider supporting the Indian effort where necessary through the provision of computer hardware and software, educational software from appropriate sources in the United Kingdom and the provision of training and consultancy;

(3) The Government of the United Kingdom will consider a request from the Government of India to cooperate in developing computer assisted instruction software and related software tools;

(4) The Government of the United Kingdom will consider a request from the Government of India to provide films, audio-visual software, printed and other material which may be relevant to the above programme. The sources may include the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Open University, the Micro Electronic Education Programme and the National Computing Centre and any other agencies which may have developed such material;

/ (5)

(5) Any other activities which may be relevant to the objectives of the Indian computer education programme may also be incorporated under these arrangements.

Signed at New Delhi on 11 January 1984

Robert Walsley

For the Government of
the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

M. G. M. S.

For the Government of
the Republic of India



HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Ref B

Visit of
Shrimati Sheila Kaul
Minister for Education,
Culture and Social Welfare
of the Republic of India

10 to 15 FEBRUARY 1984

PROGRAMME AMENDMENTS

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

- 1920 hrs Leave the hotel
- 1935 Arrive at the Residence of
His Excellency the High Commissioner
for India
9 Kensington Palace Gardens, W.8
- 1930 Dinner given by His Excellency the
for High Commissioner for India and
2000 Shrimati Muhammad
Dress: Lounge Suit

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY

- 1550 hrs Leave the hotel
- 1600 Arrive 10 Downing Street
Call on the Prime Minister,
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
- 1645 Leave 10 Downing Street
- 1810 Arrive London Heathrow Airport
Hillingdon Suite

Shrimati Sheila Kaul, Minister for Education, Culture and Social Welfare of the Republic of India, will be accompanied by:

Professor A. Chandra,
Director, Manpower Division, Department of Electronics

Professor H. N. Mahabala,
Head, Department of Computer Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology,
Madras

Shri F. L. Kaushal,
Special Assistant

In attendance:

Group Captain Anthony O'Neill — *Government Hospitality*

The visitors will stay at:

The Savoy Hotel
Strand, W.C.2

Programme

FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY

1130 hrs Arrive London Heathrow Airport by Flight AI 109 from Bombay
Hillingdon Suite

Met by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Education and Science,
Mr. Robert Dunn, M.P.

1150 Leave the Airport by car accompanied by
(approx) Mr. Robert Dunn, M.P.

1240 Arrive Savoy Hotel
(approx) *Strand, W.C.2*

1300 Luncheon with Mr. Robert Dunn, M.P.
River Restaurant

1415 Leave the hotel

1425 Arrive Department of Education and Science,
Elizabeth House, York Road, S.E.1
North Entrance

1430 Call on the Secretary of State for Education and Science,
The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph, M.P.

1500 Meeting with the Assistant Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Education and Science,
Mr. D. G. Libby

1630 Leave Department of Education and Science

1640 Arrive at the hotel

Private engagement during the evening

SATURDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

- 1000 hrs Presentation of the Microelectronics Education Programme given by the Director, Microelectronics Education Programme, Department of Education and Science, Mr. Richard Fothergill
The Gondoliers Room
- 1230 Luncheon with Mr. Richard Fothergill
for
1245 *River Restaurant*
- 1430 Resume presentation of the Microelectronics
(approx) Education Programme
to
1600 *The Gondoliers Room*
- 1905 Leave the hotel
- 1915 Arrive London Coliseum
St. Martin's Lane, W.C.2
- 1930 Attend a performance of "La Traviata"
Host: Assistant Secretary, Department of
Education and Science,
Mr. G. J. Mungeam
Dress: Lounge Suit

SUNDAY, 12 FEBRUARY

Sightseeing during the morning

No official engagements during the afternoon and evening

MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY

0900 hrs Leave the hotel

1030 Arrive at the Open University
Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Met by the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Continuing Education),
Professor Ralph Smith

Presentation on "Distance Learning"

Luncheon given by the Open University
Host: The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Continuing Education),
Professor Ralph Smith

1410 Leave the Open University

1430 Arrive Stantonbury Campus
Milton Keynes

Met by the Deputy Chief Education Officer,
Buckinghamshire,
Mr. D. P. Davison
and the Director, Stantonbury Campus,
Mr. G. Cooksey
and the Head of Computer Studies,
Mr. A. Fluck

1600 (approx) Leave Stantonbury Campus

1730 (approx) Arrive at the hotel

1925 Leave the hotel

1935 Arrive 1 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1

1930 Dinner given by Her Majesty's Government
for
Host: The Secretary of State for Education and Science,
The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph, M.P.
2000 *Dress: Lounge Suit*

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY

0815 hrs Leave the hotel

0915 Arrive Nowerhill High School
Pinner Road, Pinner, Middlesex

Met by the Head Teacher,
Mr. S. P. Hensby
and the Teacher in charge of computers,
Mrs. S. Chambers

1030 Leave Nowerhill High School

1130 Arrive B.B.C.
Head Office, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, W.1

Met by the Head of the Educational Broadcasting Service
and Educational Secretary to the B.B.C.,
Dr. Jim Stevenson

1300 Luncheon given by the B.B.C.
Host: The Head of the Educational Broadcasting Service
and Educational Secretary to the B.B.C.,
Dr. Jim Stevenson

1530 Leave B.B.C.

1545 Arrive at the hotel

1645 Leave the hotel

1655 Arrive Department of Trade and Industry
1 Victoria Street, S.W.1

1700 Call on the Minister of State for Industry and
Information Technology,
The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, M.P.

1730 Leave Department of Trade and Industry

1740 Arrive at the hotel

Continued on next page

TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY (Contd.)

- 1900 hrs Leave the hotel
- 1910 Arrive Office of the High Commissioner for India
India House, Aldwych, W.C.2
- 1915 Dinner given by the Minister for Education,
for Culture and Social Welfare
1930 *Dress: Lounge Suit*

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY

- 0920 hrs Leave the hotel
- 0930 Arrive Department of Education and Science
Elizabeth House, York Road, S.E.1
North Entrance
- Meeting with the Assistant Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Education and Science,
Mr. D. G. Libby
- 1050 Leave Department of Education and Science
- 1100 Arrive British Council
10 Spring Gardens, S.W.1
- Met by the Deputy Director General,
Mr. R. Cavaliero
- Discussions with officials on training requirements
- 1235 Leave British Council accompanied by Mr. R. Cavaliero
- 1245 Arrive Claridge's
Brook Street, W.1
- 1245 Luncheon given by British Council
for Host: The Deputy Director General,
1300 Mr. R. Cavaliero
Mirror Room
- 1430 Leave Claridge's
(approx)
- 1440 Arrive at the hotel
(approx)
- No official engagements during the afternoon
- 1700 Leave the hotel

Continued on next page

WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY (Contd.)

- 1810 hrs Arrive London Heathrow Airport
Hillingdon Suite
- 1830 Board Flight AI 124 departing at 1850 hours for Bombay
- The Assistant Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Education and Science,
Mr. D. G. Libby,
will bid farewell

DIRECTORY

- Government Hospitality*
2 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1 01-214 8674
- Department of Education and Science*
Elizabeth House, York Road, S.E.1 01-928 9222 ext. 2288
- Office of the High Commissioner for India*
India House, Aldwych, W.1 01-229 7241
- London Heathrow Airport*
Hillingdon Suite 01-759 4321 ext. 5276
- Savoy Hotel*
Strand, W.C.2 01-836 4343
- London Coliseum*
St. Martin's Lane, W.C.2 01-836 3161
- Open University*
Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire 0908 71231
- Stantonbury Campus*
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire 0908 314055
- 1 Carlton Gardens, S. W. 1* 01-214 6352
- Nowerhill High School*
Pinner Road, Pinner, Middlesex 01-863 1306
- B. B. C.*
Head Office, Broadcasting House, Portland Place, W.1 01-580 4468
- British Council*
10 Spring Gardens, S.W.1 01-930 8466

KAUL, MRS SHEILA

Minister of State for Education since 1980

Born Lucknow 7 February 1915. Entered Parliament in 1971 becoming General Secretary of the Congress Party in 1975. Lost in 1977 election but re-elected from Lucknow in January 1980. Became Minister of State for Education in August 1980. Led the Indian delegation to the UN Commission on the status of women in 1980.

An aunt of Mrs Gandhi, she is reputed to be a close friend and confidante of the Prime Minister. A keen sportswoman with a wide range of pastimes including badminton, gardening, music, cinema, drama and art.

Warm and approachable. Her late husband (who died in 1982) was Professor K N Kaul, a former Vice-Chancellor of Kanpur Agricultural University. They lived in London during the Second World War when he was working at Kew Gardens. They have two sons and one daughter.

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INDIA

POLITICAL BACKGROUND BRIEF

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Mrs Gandhi has ruled India since 1966, except for the period March 1977-January 1980. She returned to power for a five-year term in January 1980. Mrs Gandhi rules in a highly autocratic and personalised manner, relying on a small group of advisers including her one surviving son, Rajiv.

2. 1983 was a difficult year for Mrs Gandhi. In January, her party, Congress (I) was badly and unexpectedly beaten in elections in the southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, two former strongholds. Congress (I) did somewhat better later in the year in elections in Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir, but the party's performance must still give Mrs Gandhi much cause for concern.

3. The authority of Mrs Gandhi's government and of her party has also been challenged by persistent demands for greater regional autonomy. In Assam, elections in February, 1983 were marked by widespread violence and many deaths. In Punjab, the extremist fringe of the Sikh opposition party, the Akali Dal, resorted to violence in pursuit of demands for greater autonomy, economic concessions and privileges for the Sikh religion. In early October 1983 Punjab was placed under

/President's

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President's Rule after the murder of Hindus by Sikh extremists, The police and army were given extensive powers in the state, but sporadic violence continues. Violence in Sri Lanka in Summer 1983 agitated Tamils in South India. Nonetheless, although these movements present a political and public order problem, there is no real threat to the integrity of the Indian state.

4. Mrs Gandhi must call a general election by January 1985. There has been speculation that she might call an early election, perhaps in the first half of 1984, but a date later in the year looks increasingly likely. At present, the opposition parties, none of them of genuinely all Indian scope, do not offer a coherent alternative, though several of them have recently coalesced into two main alliances and efforts continue to form a united front against Mrs Gandhi's party. She might therefore prefer to wait in the hope that their unity efforts collapse, and use the time to strengthen her party. Present trends suggest however that whenever the election takes place Congress (I) would win, though with a reduced majority. However, Congress, even at the height of its popularity, has never won more than 46% of the votes in a general election. It cannot therefore be assumed that Mrs Gandhi will still lead the Indian Government 12 months hence.

/EXTERNAL

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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

5. India is a leading member of the Non-Aligned Movement and currently chairman. As part of the follow-up to the Non-Aligned Summit in March 1983 Mrs Gandhi invited Heads of State and Government of UN member states to meet in New York during the General Assembly. Attendance at the two informal summit meetings in September 1983 was limited (the Prime Minister did not attend but met Mrs Gandhi on the margins). It is unlikely that the outcome met Mrs Gandhi's original expectations.

6. India continues to see the Soviet Union as her most consistent friend and supporter, providing a make-weight against both China and a US-backed Pakistan. Close relations with the Soviet Union are thus based on the perception that they are necessary to India's interests and reflect the Soviet Union's conduct towards her, rather than deriving from any ideological attraction.

7. Relations with the United States, very poor for over a decade, took an upward turn with Mrs Gandhi's visit there in the Summer of 1982. The main achievement was an improvement in atmosphere. However, the relationship remains vulnerable to misunderstandings, in particular about US support for the Pakistan Government and US failure to provide spares and support for an American-built nuclear power station in India, but, most recently, about allegations that US diplomats have been engaging in espionage in India. To help balance India's ties with the

/Soviet

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Soviet Union, Mrs Gandhi has placed particular emphasis on developing India's links with Europe, the UK and France in particular, and these are now much stronger than they were a few years ago.

8. After a long period of strained relations following the 1962 incident, China and India exchanged Ambassadors in 1976. Relations were set back in 1979 when China invaded Vietnam whilst the then Indian Foreign Minister was in China. India's recognition of the Heng Samrin regime in Phnom Penh in 1980 angered the Chinese. Nonetheless, border talks opened in Peking in December 1981, with further rounds in May 1982 and in January and October 1983. Little progress on issues of substance seems to have been made, but the atmosphere was good and both sides have made it clear that they wish the dialogue to continue.

9. Relations with Pakistan are often brittle. The key areas of difficulty are Kashmir and Indian concern that Pakistan is continuing its programme to acquire a nuclear explosive capability. Over the past two years, attempts at rapprochement by the two sides led to the conclusion on 10 March 1983 of an agreement establishing a Joint Commission. There have been talks aimed at reconciling a Pakistani draft of a 'No War Pact' and an Indian draft of a 'Friendship Treaty'. The atmosphere was chilled in the latter half of 1983 by Indian comment on political disturbances within Pakistan and the Pakistan

/Government's

Government's response and by Indian allegations of Pakistani complicity in Sikh extremist activity in Punjab. However, talks will resume at Foreign Secretary (PUS equivalent) level in February.

10. India publicly expressed concern about the widespread violence against Sri Lanka's Tamil minority in July 1983. Since then Mrs Gandhi's personal foreign affairs adviser, Mr Parthasarathy, has been attempting to mediate between the Tamil minority and the Sri Lankan Government. These efforts have made some progress, but the final outcome is very uncertain. Meanwhile, the Indian initiative has been widely resented as 'interference' by Sri Lanka's minority Sinhala community. India's relations with her other neighbours, Bangladesh and Nepal, are also influenced by fears of Indian domination and by territorial and other disputes.

11. Despite their differences the seven countries of the region have made some progress in identifying areas for co-operation (eg tourism, communications, health, agriculture). A series of exploratory meetings at official level led to a first ministerial meeting in Delhi on 1-3 August 1983, which formally agreed on a programme of South Asian Regional Co-operation in these fields. The programme explicitly excludes trade and other sensitive issues. Further meetings at Foreign Minister and summit level are planned for 1984.

12. India plays a prominent role in the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Delhi from 23-29 November 1983. The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign

/ and

and Commonwealth Affairs attended. The Meeting launched a number of initiatives. In particular, it set up a Consultative Group (Britain, Canada, Fiji, India, New Zealand, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe) to pursue consensus on a review of international, monetary, financial and relevant trade issues and on the calling of an international conference on these subjects. The group will report to Commonwealth Finance Ministers before their 1984 meeting.

INDO-BRITISH RELATIONS

13. Indo-British relations are in good shape, despite fundamental differences on many international issues. There is a personal rapport between Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher. The Prime Minister visited India in April 1981 and Mrs Gandhi paid a highly successful return visit to London in March 1982 for the opening of the Festival of India. The two Prime Ministers met briefly in New Delhi in September 1982; in New York in September 1983 in the margins of Mrs Gandhi's UN summit meetings; and in New Delhi on 22 November during CHOGM.

14. Mrs Gandhi's attitude is crucial. She is quick to take offence at slights, real or imagined. A continuing effort to convince her and her Government of the importance we attach to our relationship with India is necessary and has resulted in a steady flow of high level visits on both sides, including most recently, the visit of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh for 10 days in November 1983 when The Queen opened the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. In November 1983, both the Indian Minister for External Affairs and the Minister for Defence visited the UK.

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15. India is important to Britain as export market. 1982 UK exports to India were £805 million and imports from India £379 million. The equivalent figures for January-October 1983 were £651 million and £284 million respectively. British companies have won a number of valuable contracts for large scale projects - power stations, coal mines etc. Also substantial defence sales: Jaguar, Sea Harrier, Sea King helicopters and the Sea Eagle missile. A highly successful visit to India by the Royal Navy's Orient Express Task Group - the largest Royal Navy visit in over 20 years took place in October 1983. One large scale project in prospect is the modernisation of the Durgapur Steel Plant originally built by Britain in the 1950's.

16. India receives the largest proportion by far of UK bilateral aid (roughly one-quarter) - £110 million in 1983-84 - and Britain is India's largest net bilateral aid donor. All British aid since 1975 has been in forms of grants. India is also a major recipient of World Bank and European Community Aid Funds, in addition to benefiting from other international aid agencies to which UK makes substantial contributions.

17. Close cultural links were highlighted by the Festival of India which ran from March-November 1982. Mrs Gandhi, joint patron of the Festival with the Prime Minister, took a close personal interest.

/IMMIGRATION

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IMMIGRATION

18. Immigration is not at present an issue with India. There are about half a million people of Indian origin in the UK, and the Indian Government sometimes reacts to Indian press and parliamentary interest in racial problems here.

19. The presence in India of several thousand UK Passport Holders, chiefly of East African origin, constitutes a potential problem. But at a time of economic difficulty and high unemployment, Ministers have said that it is not possible to increase the quota for UK Passport Holders seeking admission to UK.

20. Revised immigration rules were introduced on 16 February 1983, following the introduction of the British Nationality Act 1981. The revised rules allow all women who are British citizens to be joined in the UK by husbands and fiancés, subject to safeguards against the marriage being used primarily as a means to obtain admission to the UK. The changes benefit women of Indian descent in particular. Many such women acquired their citizenship by registration, not having been born in the UK, and, under the old rules, could not have sponsored the entry of husbands or fiancés.

21. The community of Indian-origin in the United Kingdom also includes a small group (at most a few dozen) of Sikhs who actively support demands for the creation of a Sikh State out of the Indian State of Punjab. The Indian Government have privately expressed concern at the activities of these 'extremists' in the United Kingdom. We have taken the line that the expression of views within the law is not something to which we can object given the British tradition of freedom of speech.

MICROELECTRONICS EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP)

The MEP was announced in March 1980 as a 4-year programme costing £9m at 1980 prices. A 2-year extension, to March 1986, was announced last year. Total expenditure over the life of the Programme as a whole is expected to amount to some £21m.

The Programme is sponsored by the Education Department of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Scottish Education Department has its own arrangements. The Programme is run by a Directorate based at Newcastle Polytechnic. This is responsible for the execution of the Programme in the context of policy guidelines and resource allocation decisions determined by the Departments, who receive advice from an Advisory Committee made up of specialists in education IT, LEA representatives, HMI and officials.

The broad aim of the Programme is to help schools to prepare children for life in a society in which devices and systems based on microelectronics are commonplace and pervasive. More specifically, the Programme's objectives are

- i. to investigate the most appropriate ways of using the microcomputer as a teaching aid, and
- ii. to stimulate the introduction of new elements relating to the new technology into the curriculum.

The Programme's resources are allocated to three broad areas of activity - the development of educational software and teaching materials, courses of in-service teacher training, and the development and operation of a network of centres, serving groups of local education authorities, which exchange and disseminate software and act as a point of reference for teachers seeking guidance on training courses and equipment. Programme activities relating to special education are organised separately but contain all the main elements as outlined above.

To date some 650 educational software programs have been produced, some 40,000 teachers have attended training courses in the four MEP 'domains' (the computer as an instrument, electronics and control technology, computer-based learning, and the communication and

information systems), and an information network has been established comprising 14 centres for the use of primary and secondary schools, and 4 centres devoted exclusively to the needs of special education. The work of the Programme has been publicised and disseminated over the last 18 months through 4 major presentations in different parts of the country.

The MEP has been complemented by the Micros in Schools schemes, financed by the Department of Trade and Industry; virtually all secondary schools have acquired a micro under the schemes, and most primary schools are expected to have done so by the end of 1984. Teacher training institutions have also acquired micros under a DTI scheme.

The Department views the Programme as a developmental, pump priming exercise. It has always been the Department's intention that others would eventually take over and fund those activities which proved their worth. Thus, LEAs are being asked to take over and fund regional information activities and regional teacher training as from March 1986. It is not yet clear whether, after that date, central support will still be required for certain other activities (principally software development and special education). The Department will monitor the Programme carefully to assess its impact and any need for central support after March 1986.

In the final analysis, the MEP's success will be judged by the extent to which teachers, parents and pupils, come to see the microcomputer as a valuable aid to teaching and learning, and by the extent to which the curriculum changes to reflect the widespread and growing use of the new technology in the community at large.

THE DEATH OF THE INDIAN DIPLOMAT

Mr Mhatre, Indian Assistant Commissioner, Birmingham, was kidnapped on 3 February and found murdered on 5 February. An organisation espousing the creation of an independent Kashmir appear to have been responsible. Messages of regret and condolence have been sent from the Prime Minister to Mrs Gandhi, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to his Indian opposite number and from the Home Secretary to the Indian High Commissioner. The Indian Government have been assured that the police with the full support of Government will do everything possible to bring the perpetrators to book.

The one time princely state of Jammu and Kashmir became subject to conflicting Indian and Pakistan claims following independence in 1947. We regard Kashmir as an issue to be resolved by peaceful means by the Indian and Pakistan Governments. It is not an issue in which it would be appropriate for the British Government to intervene.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
8 February 1984

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THE KOHINOOR DIAMOND

In November 1983 the issue of the Kohinoor diamond was raised in the Indian Parliament. Opposition MPs called for its return to India. The Kohinoor is the property of the British nation. In 1976, the Pakistan Government requested that it be 'returned'; the request was refused. No formal approach has yet been made by the Government of India to Britain for its return, but it is unlikely that if one were our response would differ from that made to Pakistan in 1976.



FILE

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Mc: CR

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 February, 1984

Thank you for your letter of
3 February about the visit of the Indian
Minister for Education. The Prime Minister
would be glad to see Mrs. Kaul at 1030 hrs on
~~Tuesday, 14~~ February.

wed 15

I am copying this letter to Peter
Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

A. J. COLES

J.F. Bird, Esq.,
Department of Education and Science

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Mr Gles (of/r)

FCO advice requested

Dmb
3/2

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-928 9222

Prime Minister

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Marginal. Do you want

to see Mrs. Kaul at 1030 on

Tuesday, 14 February?

A. & C. 7/12.

3 February 1984

John Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Mr Coles

Yes not

The Indian Minister for Education, Mrs Shiela Kaul, is making an official visit to this country at the invitation of my Secretary of State. She is due to arrive in London on the morning of Friday 10 February and will be leaving in the early evening of Wednesday 15 February.

Officials here have been advised by FCO that, since Mrs Kaul is Mrs Gandhi's aunt, the Prime Minister may wish to have the opportunity to receive her for a short courtesy call. I would be grateful, therefore, if you could discover whether the Prime Minister would wish to meet Mrs Kaul.

I am copying this letter to Brian Fall (FCO).

Yours sincerely
Tony Blair

MR J F BIRD
Private Secretary