

GRS 700
CONFIDENTIAL AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 21 MARCH 1984
FM NEW DELHI 210515Z MAR 84
TO ROUTINE FCO LONDON
TELEGRAM NUMBER 233 OF 20 MARCH 1984
INFO ROUTINE KATHMANDU AND ISLAMABAD
INFO SAVING MADRAS (ACTIONED)

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Prime Minister

Please see page 6

overleaf.

A.S.C. 27/3

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LADY YOUNG'S VISIT TO INDIA

1. LADY YOUNG VISITED INDIA AS THE GUEST OF THE GOI FROM 05 TO 08 MARCH, AND TRANSITED INDIA FROM 16 TO 18 MARCH EN ROUTE HOME.
2. SHE HAD TWO SESSIONS OF TALKS WITH THE MEA (CHAIRER BY THE MINISTER OF STATE, RAHIM) AND SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, RASGOTRA (PUS EQUIVALENT), AND PARTHASARATHY (PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER). MORE TIME THAN IN RECENT ROUNDS OF TALKS WAS DEVOTED TO BILATERAL MATTERS ESPECIALLY REPERCUSSIONS OF THE MHATRE MURDER. THE INDIANS MENTIONED THEIR CONCERN AT ANTI-INDIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE UK OF DISSIDENTS OF INDIAN/PAKISTAN ORIGIN WHICH THEY RELATED TO AN ALLEGED ANTI-INDIAN BIAS OF THE UK MEDIA. THEY ALSO VOICED OTHER GRUMBLES, INCLUDING THE SMALLNESS OF THE QUOTA FOR UK PASSPORT HOLDERS IN INDIA WISHING TO SETTLE IN BRITAIN. ON THE MHATRE CASE LADY YOUNG DESCRIBED THE PROGRESS MADE BY POLICE (INCLUDING SIX ARRESTS) AND AGREED TO PUT TO THE WEST MIDLANDS CHIEF CONSTABLE THE INDIAN REQUEST TO BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THEIR INVESTIGATION. FOR OUR PART LADY YOUNG PRESSED VIGOROUSLY FOR RECONSIDERATION OF RECENTLY IMPOSED MEA RESTRICTIONS ON BRITISH COUNCIL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINANCING CULTURAL EVENTS, AND APPEARING TO ACHIEVE SOME PROGRESS ON THIS.
3. THERE WERE WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, WHICH PRODUCED FEW SURPRISES. THE INDIANS TOLD LADY YOUNG OF THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIAN AND PAKISTANI FOREIGN SECRETARIES (PUS LEVEL) ON POLITICAL ISSUES IN MAY, BUT LAID STRESS ON THE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND IN GENERAL GAVE LITTLE SIGN OF BELIEVING THAT RELATIONS WERE REALLY SET TO IMPROVE. THE INDIANS WERE GLOOMY ABOUT IRAN/IRAQ (AND HEDGED OVER WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF IRAN CLOSED THE STRAIGHTS OF HORMUZ): THEY WERE EVEN MORE GLOOMY ABOUT PROSPECTS IN LEBANON. ON SRI LANKA THE INDIANS RAISED REPORTS THAT THEY CLAIMED JAYEWARDENE HAD TOLD THEM) AS WELL AS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S BODYGUARD WAS BRITISH (ISLAMABAD TELNO 158 TO FCO): LADY YOUNG FIRMLY REBUTTED THESE ALLEGATIONS, BUT AGREED TO CHECK FURTHER, GIVEN THE ALLEGED SOURCE OF INDIA'S INFORMATION. LADY YOUNG TOLD THE INDIANS THAT SHE WOULD ANNOUNCE OUR NEW FORMULATION ON THE NEPALESE ZONE OF PEACE DURING HER VISIT TO KATHMANDU: THE INDIANS REACTED MILDLY.

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4. APART FROM HER OFFICIAL TALKS LADY YOUNG HAD A BUSY SCHEDULE OF OTHER ENGAGEMENTS. SHE GAVE A PUBLIC LECTURE ON 'BRITAIN AND SOUTH ASIA' WHICH ATTRACTED QUITE WIDE PUBLICITY. SHE ALSO VISITED THE BRITISH COUNCIL. SHE SPENT A FULL DAY IN MADRAS, WHERE SHE SAW A SUCCESSFUL UK/INDIAN JOINT VENTURE (LUCAS/TVS) AS WELL AS SEEING THE BRITISH COUNCIL OPERATIONS THERE. IN BOTH DELHI AND MADRAS SHE TALKED TO INDIAN JOURNALISTS, WHO COVERED HER VISIT WELL. SHE ALSO TOOK TROUBLE TO TOUR THE HIGH COMMISSION TO MEET MY UK AND LOCAL STAFF, TO LOOK OVER THE RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION, AND TO MEET THE DSWA: THIS WAS MUCH APPRECIATED.

5. COMMENT. IN PROTOCOL TERMS THE INDIANS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO WELCOME LADY YOUNG. IN CONTRAST TO THEIR PRACTICE FOR OTHER RECENT BILATERAL VISITS BY FCO MINISTERS (E.G. THOSE BY MR HURD IN JANUARY 1982 AND BY MR RIFKIND IN 1983) THEY MADE LADY YOUNG A GUEST OF GOVERNMENT, AND LAID ON A DINNER BY RAHIM AND LUNCH BY RAO, AS WELL AS SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH RAO AND MRS GANDHI. THE TALKS WERE CHARACTERISED BY AN INCREASING WARMTH AS THE VISIT PROGRESSED, EVEN IF, AS REGARDS INTERNATIONAL MATTERS, THEY REVEALED LITTLE NEW ABOUT INDIAN ATTITUDES OR PERCEPTIONS. ON BILATERAL MATTERS, ALTHOUGH THE DISCUSSIONS WERE SOMETIMES STICKY (ESPECIALLY ON THE ALLEGED ANTI-INDIAN BIAS OF THE UK MEDIA) THEY ENABLED SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES OF CONCERN TO BOTH SIDES TO BE AIRED.

6. LADY YOUNG SUFFERED A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE ON HER DEPARTURE, WHEN THE SUDDEN DECOMPRESSION OF HER AIRCRAFT AT ALTITUDE FORCED AN EMERGENCY RETURN TO DELHI AND DELAYED HER RETURN TO THE UK. I HOPE THIS DOES NOT TOO GREATLY CLOUD HER MEMORIES OF THIS VISIT, WHICH WAS FROM THE VIEW POINT OF THIS MISSION VALUABLE IN SETTING OUT BRITISH VIEWS, BOTH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND TO A WIDER INDIAN PUBLIC, AS WELL AS BEING CLEARLY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

WADE-GERY

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