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BY HAND



सत्यमेव जयते

Pushkar Johari  
Acting High Commissioner.

भारत का हाई कमीशन  
लन्दन

THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT,

INDIA HOUSE,

ALDWYCH,

LONDON WC2B 4NA

TELEPHONE: 01-836 8484 EXT.....

TELEGRAMS: HICOMIND, LONDON, W.C.2.

No. 431 /AHC/84

June 20, 1984

MT.

Prime Minister

Long heralded letter now received.  
Reply in preparation. CDD

Dear Mr Powell,

In continuation of my letter No. 430/AHC/84

20/6

dated June 20, 1984, enclosing a message from the Prime Minister of India to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, I am forwarding herewith a sealed envelope containing the signed letter from Shrimati Indira Gandhi to the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher.

with regards,

Yours sincerely,

( Pushkar Johari )

Mr Charles Powell  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

Encl: As above

RECEIVED  
20/6/84

20 JUN 1984

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

20 June 1984

Message to the Prime Minister from  
Mrs Gandhi

The much heralded message to the Prime Minister from Mrs Gandhi about the situation in the Punjab has finally been delivered. I enclose a copy. I should be grateful for a draft reply.

BF

C D Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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BY HAND

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Pushkar Johari  
Acting High Commissioner

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LONDON WC2B 4NA

TELEPHONE: 01-836 8484 EXT.....

TELEGRAMS: HICOMIND, LONDON, W.C.2.

No. 430 /AHC/84

June 20, 1984

Dear Mr Powell,

7  
Original now  
received  
see 1984/184  
14/6/84

I am enclosing a message from Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India to The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom with the request that it may kindly be placed before the Prime Minister urgently.

Yours sincerely,

( Pushkar Johari )

Mr. Charles Powell,  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

Encl: as above

Subject

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

cc MasGw

SERIAL No.

T98C/84

OPS

Message from Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India to The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

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New Delhi, June 14, 1984

Dear Prime Minister,

We have a troubled situation in Punjab. Of all malefactors, those who wear the religious garb are the most dangerous. As you know the Akali Dal Party lost to my party the Congress in the General Election of 1980. Towards the end of 1981, the Akalis raised a number of demands, hoping to regain their following among Sikhs. Government tried its utmost to come to some agreement with them. Unfortunately, as the talks proceeded they shifted their stand and in the end hardened their attitude considerably.

In the meantime, the terrorists were strengthening their position. It is now established that they were in contact with and receiving help from hostile outside elements. Their objective was secession and disrupting the unity of our country. The para military forces were insufficient in number to control growing terrorist activities. So we had to send in the army. The troops and officers included men of all faiths, including Sikhs. It is never easy to undertake security action involving a place of worship, especially in a country where religion is so easily and often used for political ends. But this place, so sacred to people of the Sikh faith, had been converted by terrorists into a base of operations. We did know that arms were being collected there. But only after last week's action did we realise how vast and sophisticated these weapons were. Many bore foreign markings. We also found some foreign nationals among the desperadoes. For months a reign of terror was unleashed from the temple complex, holding all Punjab to ransom. We had no choice but to send an army unit which exercised the utmost restraint, using a minimum of force. They had strict instructions not to damage the holiest shrine in the area, the Golden Temple proper. In the process they suffered heavy casualties.

Another area within the temple complex, the Akal Takht, which we had asked our forces to avoid, was found to be used by the terrorists as their hide-out and was full of grenades and other weapons. The damage there was also largely due to explosions from within. One of the main religious leaders incharge has told us that it was taken over by the terrorists and that he himself had not been allowed there for nearly 4 months.

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Although the hard core of the terrorists within has been liquidated, we have a difficult period ahead of us. Many in the Sikh community have been shaken by this traumatic event. The process of healing and conciliation will take time but we shall persevere.

I have written at some length because there are a large number of Sikhs in the United Kingdom and many of them, not owing loyalty to India, have been too ready to play into the hands of or even be the spokesmen of secessionists. Their propaganda, other activities and dire threats must have come to your notice. The international aspect of this problem is also worrisome. I am sure we can depend on your understanding. We appreciate the precautions your government has taken.

A few days ago I wrote to you about Sri Lanka. This morning I telephoned to President Jayewardene to ask him to stop over in Delhi on his return from the United Kingdom. He has agreed to do so.

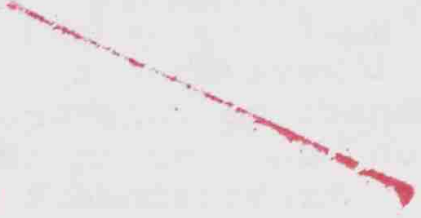
With warm regards,

INDIRA GANDHI

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20 JUN 1984

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PRIME MINISTER  
INDIA

New Delhi,  
June 14, 1984

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With warm regards,

Indira Gandhi

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,  
London.