

cc Sri Lanka: relations 5/79

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T118184

CONFIDENTIAL

29555 - 1

DD 301000Z NEW DELHI
GRS 800
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 301000Z
FM FCO 291630Z JUN 84
TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 483 OF 30 JUNE
INFO PRIORITY COLOMBO

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY TO MRS GANDHI'S LETTERS OF 9 AND 14 JUNE ABOUT SRI LANKA AND THE PUNJAB TROUBLES. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD DELIVER TEXT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BEARING IN MIND MRS GANDHI'S FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE.

'THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 14 JUNE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN THE PUNJAB. THESE HAVE BEEN ANXIOUS WEEKS FOR YOU, INVOLVING DIFFICULT DECISIONS. I HAVE FOLLOWED CLOSELY YOUR EFFORTS TO RESTORE CALM THERE, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE 'HEALING TOUCH' FOR WHICH YOU HAVE CALLED WILL OPEN THE WAY TO A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR THAT TROUBLED REGION. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FULLY SUPPORT INDIA'S UNITY.

'I WELL APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL SECURITY THREAT POSED BY EXTREMISTS OUTSIDE INDIA. WE ARE DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW OUR TRADITIONAL FREEDOMS TO BE ABUSED BY THOSE WHO SEEK TO USE VIOLENCE FOR POLITICAL ENDS. I KNOW THAT CERTAIN REMARKS CARRIED BY THE MEDIA IN BRITAIN HAVE CAUSED DISTRESS IN INDIA. WE HAVE MADE SURE THE POLICE ARE AWARE OF THESE STATEMENTS, AND THEY ARE INVESTIGATING THEM. AS YOU KNOW, THE MEDIA ARE INDEPENDENT IN BRITAIN, AS THEY ARE IN INDIA. THIS MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTERVENE IN MEDIA DECISIONS, HOWEVER MUCH WE MAY PERSONALLY REGRET THEM.

'I KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PERSONNEL AND PREMISES IN THIS COUNTRY. WE FIRMLY INTEND TO FULFIL OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THEM. THE POLICE ARE DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES TO THIS TASK. THEY WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO NEED THE FULLEST CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR PEOPLE.

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Despatched
on a special
CN

10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

Draft reply to Mrs.
Gandhi's two messages -
on Punjab & on Sri Lanka -
attached.

We ought if possible
get it to her before
she starts talks with
President Jayewardene late
tomorrow 30 June.

Duty Clerk can
arrange despatch of top copy
once you have approved.

C. D. P.

39/6

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 June 1984

Dear Charles,

Letters from Mrs Gandhi

In India File I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Mrs Gandhi's letters of 9 June about Sri Lanka, and of 14 June about recent events in Punjab and their repercussions here. The draft reply concentrates on the Punjab problem which is of greater consequence for Indo-British relations. *In Sri Lanka File*

Life is slowly returning to normal in Punjab but there is sporadic violence and the security forces are clearly in for a long haul. In this country the strong emotional reaction among the Sikh community as a whole to the storming of the Golden Temple has subsided somewhat. There have been no significant incidents involving Sikhs since 10 June. But we continue to take the threat of violence by Sikh extremists very seriously. The police are in close touch with the Indian High Commission about their security.

We have had a strong complaint from the Indian High Commission, and there have been several demonstrations outside the Mission in New Delhi, as a result of inflammatory remarks by Dr Chauhan, self-appointed head of the Khalistan 'Government in exile' which were carried by the BBC on 12 June. Chauhan's remarks, and other statements by Sikh extremist leaders, have been brought to the attention of the police, who are investigating them to see whether a criminal offence may have been committed.

President Jayewardene will travel to New Delhi from Britain on 29 June for talks with Mrs Gandhi from 30 June to 2 July. Mrs Gandhi would no doubt appreciate a brief account of the Prime Minister's meeting with President Jayewardene on 27 June before she meets him. The reply is drafted accordingly. If the Prime Minister is content

/with

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with it, we would propose to send the text by telegram tomorrow, 29 June.

Lady Young has seen this draft and agrees with it. Sir Geoffrey Howe is, as you know, in Oslo.

I am copying this letter to Hugh Taylor (Home Office).

*Yours ever,
Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

OUT TELEGRAM

↓	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE

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DESKBY
FM FCO 291630Z JUN 84
TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI
TELEGRAM NUMBER
INFO PRIORITY COLOMBO
1. Following is text of the Prime Minister's reply to Mrs Gandhi's letters of 9 and 14 June about Sri Lanka and the Punjab troubles. Grateful if you would deliver text as quickly as possible, bearing in mind Mrs Gandhi's forthcoming talks with President Jayewardene:
"Thank you for your letter of 14 June about the problems in the Punjab. These have been anxious weeks for you, involving difficult decisions. I have followed closely your efforts to restore calm there, and I very much hope that the 'healing touch' for which you have called will open the way to a peaceful and prosperous future for that troubled region. Needless to say, we in the United Kingdom fully support India's unity.
"I well appreciate your concern about the potential security threat posed by extremists outside India. We are determined not to allow our traditional freedoms to be abused by those who seek to use violence for political ends. I know that certain

As amended

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword remarks
File number	Dept SAD	Distribution India terrorism Sub-continent political
Drafted by (Block capitals) J C J RAMSDEN		
Telephone number 233 4162		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Page 2
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 remarks carried by the media in Britain have caused distress in
 India. We have made sure the police are aware of these state-
 ments, and they are investigating them. As you know, the media
 are independent in Britain, as they are in India. This means
 that the Government does not intervene in media decisions,
 however much we may personally regret them.
 "I know that you are also concerned about the safety of your
 Government's personnel and premises in this country. We firmly
 intend to fulfil our responsibility to protect them. The police
 are devoting considerable resources to this task. They will
 of course continue to need the fullest co-operation and
 assistance from your people.
 "The events of the last few weeks are a reminder that develop-
 ments in one of our countries can have a direct impact on the
 other. This underlines the need for continuous close contacts
 between us. In that spirit I have to say that I was disappointed
 at the decision to ^{impose} ~~issue~~ a new visa requirement for British
 visitors to India. I naturally understand the concerns which
 led to your decision but I very much hope that it will soon be
 possible for you to consider lifting the new requirement. I know
 that we both share the same interest in encouraging travel and
 contact between our two peoples at every level and especially
 among the young."
 "I was grateful for your letter of 9 June about Sri Lanka. The
 situation there remains a matter of considerable concern. When
 I saw President Jayewardene on 27 June he explained the diffi-
 culties he faces in reconciling the conflicting concerns of the
 Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority, but said he was
 reflecting on further possible proposals to meet the Tamil wish
 for a greater degree of provincial autonomy. No doubt he will

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OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

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2 give you a similar account when he passes through Delhi. I told
3 him that, while it was not for me to suggest how he should deal
4 with the problem, I thought it essential to find ways to
5 reconcile Tamil aspirations with those of the majority community,
6 so as to safeguard the rights of all communities in the island:

7 ^aAn issue about which there is much parliamentary and public
8 concern here.

9 "The President laid great emphasis on the terrorist problem in
10 the island. But as Mr Athulathmudali has said there can be no
11 solution to this through military means alone, and the Sri Lankan
12 Government's recent decision to relax some of the more stringent
13 aspects of their emergency regulations appears to reflect aware-
14 ness of this.

15 "I am sure you are right to counsel the greatest possible
16 restraint on the Tamil emigres in India. This ^{will but} ~~can be~~ help ^{to}
17 achieve a reduction in violence in Sri Lanka, which is essential
18 if President Jayewardene is to persuade the Sinhalese community
19 that concessions must be made to the Tamils.

20 "I would like to emphasise again, with reference to the last
21 sentence of your letter, that the British Government are not
22 ~~currently~~ providing any counter-insurgency training in Sri Lanka.

23 "Finally, I thought I should let you know that I have accepted an
24 invitation from President Jayewardene to attend the inauguration
25 of the Victoria Dam, for which we have provided considerable aid
26 funds, in September. This will be announced publicly in due
27 course."

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29 HOWE

30 NNNN

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NNNN ends
telegram

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Catchword

29 JUN 1984

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IMMEDIATE

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/MR WHITNEY
 PS/PUS
 MR WRIGHT
 SIR W HARDING
 MR ADAMS
 MR WILSON
 MR EGERTON

HD/SAD
 HD/MAED
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 DEP HD/PUSD
 SECURITY CO-ORD UNIT
 HD/CONSULAR DEPT
 CONSULAR EMERGENCY UNIT
 HD/SECURITY DEPT
 HD/PROTOCOL DEPT
 HD/COD
 HD/NEWS DEPT

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY)
 MR R E CLARKE (CAP 1)) DEPT OF
 MR S S HOLNESS (SP2)) TRANSPORT
 MR J F LANGLEY (IAT 30))

NO. 10 DOWNING ST
 ASSESSMENTS STAFF CABINET OFFICE
 D I O CABINET OFFICE

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
 SIR A DUFF) CABINET OFFICE
 MR MARTIN)
 MR D COLVIN)
 MR M D BRENNEN)

PS/ HOME SECRETARY) HOME OFFICE
 SIR BRIAN CUBBON)
 MR BIRT)
 MR D HILARY) FL HOME OFFICE
 MR HARRINGTON)

DS5)
 DS6) MOD
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SECURITY SERVICES (2 copies via
 PUSD Rm E203)



GRS 300
 RESTRICTED
 D E S K B Y 221200Z
 FM NEW DELHI 221135Z JUNE 84
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 544 OF 22 JUNE

MY TELNO 538

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE HIGH COMMISSION

SUMMARY

1. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO MORE DEMONSTRATIONS IN DELHI TO PROTEST ABOUT THE BBC INTERVIEW OF CHAUHAN, THE SIKH KHALISTAN LEADER. THE FIRST ONE LOOKED AS IF IT MIGHT TURN VIOLENT. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS I CLOSED THE HIGH COMMISSION OFFICE TEMPORARILY.

DETAILS

2. WE HAVE HAD TWO DEMONSTRATIONS TODAY TO PROTEST ABOUT THE BBC INTERVIEW OF CHAUHAN ON 12 JUNE. THE FIRST DEMONSTRATION WAS BY THE DELHI NATIONAL STUDENTS UNION (1). THE POLICE WARNED US IN THE MORNING THAT THE STUDENTS MIGHT BECOME VIOLENT. THE DEMONSTRATION STARTED AT 1.00 PM AND THE MAIN BODY WAS THROUGHOUT KEPT WELL AWAY FROM THE HIGH COMMISSION GATES. BUT AT 2.00 PM WE WERE INFORMED BY THE POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CONTINGENT GUARDING THE HIGH COMMISSION (WHO WAS CLEARLY ALARMED) THAT: FIRST THE NUMBERS OF DEMONSTRATORS WERE MUCH GREATER THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED AND THERE HAD BEEN SOME VIOLENCE (SEMI COLON) SECOND, A FEW MINUTES LATER, THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL OF THE POLICE: AND THIRD THAT THERE WAS A RUMOUR AMONG SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS THAT 200 SIKHS HAD JUST ENTERED AND WERE OCCUPYING THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON.

3. WE WERE ABLE TO VERIFY WITHIN MINUTES THAT THIS RUMOUR WAS FALSE (TELCON JANVRIN/PENDLETON). BUT IN ALL THE CIRCUMATANCES, PARTICULARLY AS IT SEEMED POSSIBLE THAT THIS RUMOUR (WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE) WOULD BE BELIEVED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS AND MIGHT PROVOKE A VIOLENT REACTION. I DECIDED TO SHUT THE HIGH COMMISSION