

GR 250

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

FM NEW DELHI 011011Z NOV 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 854 OF 01 NOVEMBER

AND TO ROUTINE BOMBAY (ACTIONED)

AND TO SAVING CALCUTTA, MADRAS (BOTH ACTIONED)

INFO ROUTINE KATHMANDU, DHAKA, ISLAMABAD

MY TELNO 849: LAW AND ORDER SITUATION

SUMMARY

1. VIOLENCE IN VARIOUS TOWNS IN NORTHERN INDIA. THE AUTHORITIES ARE TAKING STRICT MEASURES TO TRY TO MAINTAIN CONTROL.

DETAIL

2. ACCORDING TO BOTH THE PRESS AND ORAL REPORTS, LAST NIGHT SAW FAIRLY WIDESPREAD RIOTING AND ARSON IN NORTH AND SOUTH DELHI. IN THE OLD CITY IT IS REPORTED THAT THE SHI GANJ GURDWARA, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SIKH TEMPLES IN DELHI, HAS BEEN BURNT AND THE MAIN SIKH MARKET LOOTED. OTHER GURDWARAS HAVE ALSO BEEN ATTACKED. IN SOME OF THE SUBURBS IT IS REPORTED THAT LARGE CROWDS ARE GATHERING AND IN SOME CASES CONTINUING VIOLENCE AND ARSON. MORE THAN A DOZEN LARGE COLUMNS OF SMOKE ARE VISIBLE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY. THERE ARE LARGE AND NOISY BUT GENERALLY PEACEFUL CROWDS GOING TO TEEN MURTI HOUSE WHERE MRS GANDHI IS LYING IN STATE. BUT THERE ARE ALREADY SIGNS THAT SOME OF THE CROWDS HAVE HEARD OF CHAUHAN'S STATEMENT AND ARE BECOMING HOSTILE TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION VEHICLES.

3. IN ALL THE MAJOR URBAN CENTRES IN NORTHERN INDIA SPONTANEOUS OR ORGANISED BANDHS (SHUTDOWNS) ARE TAKING PLACE. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE IMPOSED CURFEWS IN SEVERAL PLACES INCLUDING KANPUR, PATNA, GWALIOR AND JAMMU. IN THOSE PLACES WHERE THE CURFEW IS NOT IN FORCE SECURITY PRESENCE HAS BEEN STEPPED UP. PROHIBITORY ORDERS BANNING DEMONSTRATIONS AND GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN FIVE PEOPLE ARE IN FORCE IN DELHI AND OTHER TROUBLESPOTS. THERE HAVE BEEN FURTHER REPORTS OF DEATHS.

4. IN PUNJAB AND HARYANA, WHERE THERE APPEARED TO BE THE GREATEST POSSIBILITY OF SIKH/HINDU TROUBLE, THE SITUATION IS DESCRIBED BY THE PRESS AS "WELL UNDER CONTROL". HERE TOO

RESTRICTED

/PROHIBITORY



RESTRICTED

PROHIBITORY ORDERS ARE IN FORCE AND ARMY AND PARAMILITARY FORCES ARE REPORTED TO BE CARRYING OUT INTENSIVE PATROLLING TO MAINTAIN THE PREVAILING QUIET.

5. WE SUGGEST THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES INTENDING VISITORS SHOULD BE ADVISED NOT TO TRAVEL TO INDIA IF THEY HAVE NO URGENT REASON FOR DOING SO.

WADE-GERY

FCO/WHITEHALL (PALACE)

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

SAD

SUB CONTINENT POLITICAL

2

RESTRICTED