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TO FLASH FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 867 OF 2 NOVEMBER

UK SIKH REACTION TO MRS GANDHI'S MURDER

1. I HAVE LEARNT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT FEELING IN VERY SENIOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES (INCLUDING THE NEW PRIME MINISTER) IS RUNNING VERY HIGH AGAINST BRITAIN IN THE LIGHT OF REPORTS OF CHAUHAN'S APPEARANCES ON THE BBC AND OF SIKH REJOICINGS IN LONDON. THERE IS EVEN TALK OF A TRADE BOYCOTT, INCLUDING THE CANCELLATION OF EXISTING DEFENCE CONTRACTS.

2. IF WE ARE TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS, AND ALSO MINIMISE THE SECURITY RISK TO PRINCESS ANNE AND MRS THATCHER DURING THEIR TIME HERE, WE NEED TO MOVE VERY FAST WITH A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL. THIS SHOULD EXPRESS THE GOVERNMENT'S REGRET AT CHAUHAN'S APPEARANCE AND STATEMENT ON TELEVISION AND THEIR ABHORRENCE AT ANY SECTION OF THE BRITISH POPULATION REJOICING AT AN ACT OF TERRORISM AND MURDER.

3. PLEASE PASS COPY TO SIR P MOORE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

WADE-GERY

ADVANCE COPY
FLASH
Prime Minister
We are working on a statement which could either be made by you at the airport, or issued in written form.
CDD