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OO NEW DELHI

GRS 654
UNCLASSIFIED
FB COI LONDON
TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI
TELNO RETRACT 001
OF 030700Z NOV 84
AND TO PRIORITY NO. 10

IMMEDIATE

IMMEDIATE - FOLLOWING FOR PRIME MINISTER AND CHIEF PRESS SECRETARY
COPY TO NO. 10 - PRESS OFFICE

FOLLOWING IS LPS SUMMARY OF FIRST EDITIONS OF PAPERS OF SATURDAY 3
NOVEMBER 1984:

THE TIMES' SPLASH IS WHAT IT CALLS THE APPALLING HINDU VENGEANCE
BEING EXACTED FROM THE SIKH COMMUNITY IT CONTINUED YESTERDAY AT A
SOMEWHAT LOWER LEVEL. BUT A NEW HORROR CAME TO LIGHT AS TRAINS,
WHICH HAD BEEN TRAVELLING OVERNIGHT BEGAN TO ARRIVE IN DELHI. MOBS
OF HOOLIGANS BOARDED THE CARRIAGES AND KILLED ANY SIKHS THEY FOUND.
THE STORY RUNS ALONGSIDE A PICTURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER
HUSBAND WALKING OUT TO THE PLANE WHICH WAS LATER BOARDED BY
OPPOSITION LEADERS. THE PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED AS DISMISSING
SECURITY RISKS AS "JUST SOMETHING ONE LIVES WITH". IT ALSO QUOTES
HER SAYING SHE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE OF INDIGNATION FROM THE INDIAN
GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE "REALLY OUTRAGEOUS BEHAVIOUR OF A TINY
MAJORITY OF PEOPLE" WHO GLOATED OVER THE MURDER. THE OVERWHELMING
MAJORITY IN BRITAIN, SHE ADDED, CONDEMN SUCH DESPICABLE BEHAVIOUR.
BOTH SHE AND OPPOSITION LEADERS APPEALED FOR CALMBETWEEN HINDUS AND
SIKHS IN BRITAIN. THE PAPER, AS DO OTHERS, HAS REUTER REPORTS SAYING
THAT PRESIDENT ZIA OF PAKISTAN WILL ATTEND THE FUNERAL DESPITE THE
SECURITY RISKS. HE WAS THE FIRST TO PHONE MRS GANDHI'S SON AND
SUCCESSOR RAJIV AND OFFERED HIM FULL SUPPORT FROM PAKISTAN, WHICH
HAS DECLARED THREE DAYS MOURNING AND FULL SUPPORT FOR ANY ATTEMPT TO
IMPROVE RELATIONS.

THE EXPRESS SAYS THAT MRS THATCHER "SLAMMED GLOATING SIKHS"
PRIOR TO LEAVING HEATHROW AND THE HOME SECRETARY HAS BANNED ALL
MARCHES IN WEST LONDON AFTER FEARS OF CLASHES AT A HINDU RALLY IN
SOUTHALL TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO MOURN MRS GANDHI'S DEATH.

THE MAIL CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY AND PICTURE OF SIKHS BEING
BURNED ALIVE. IT ADDS THAT MANY OF THE PICTURES COMING OUT OF INDIAN
WERE TOO HORRIFIC TO PRINT AND THAT THE INDIAN CABINET WAS SHOCKED
AT THE SCALE OF THE MASSACRE. THE MAIL ALSO QUOTES THE SURVIVING
ASSASSIN AS BEING JUBILANT IN HOSPITAL DESPITE THE REMOVAL OF FOUR
BULLETS AND CLAIMING THAT AN INDIAN GENERAL ORGANISED THE PLOT. THE
PAPER ADDS THAT AS MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED WORLD LEADERS GATHERED IN
THE CAPITAL, A GROUP CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLING WARNED
THAT THEY WOULD STRIKE AGAIN AT THE FUNERAL.

THE SUN, PUTTING THE RIOT TOLL AT 500, HAS A PICTURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER LEAVING HEATHROW SAYING THAT SHE MUST LIVE WITH THE RISKS.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES ALSO REPORTS THAT 500 ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS AND THAT AS WORLD LEADERS ARRIVED FOR THE CREMATION, POLICE OPENED FIRE AT 20 DIFFERENT PLACES IN THE CAPITAL TO TRY TO QUELL RIOTING. IT ALSO HAS AN INTERVIEW WITH RAJIV GANDHI LAST JANUARY WHEN HE WAS ASKED IF HE WAS REALLY READY FOR THE TOP POST. HIS REPLY WAS: "THAT'S A VERY DIFFICULT QUESTION BECAUSE I'VE ONLY BEEN IN THIS GAME FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS. YES, I THINK I'M IN IT FOR LIFE, BUT I DO THINK I NEED MORE EXPERIENCE." IT COMMENTS THAT HE HAS MADE AMAZING PROGRESS, GRADUATING FROM DOMESTIC AIRLINE PILOT TO PRIME MINISTER IN UNDER FOUR YEARS AND AT THE AGE OF ONLY FORTY.

AS DO OTHER PAPERS, THE FINANCIAL TIMES SAYS THAT THE FUNERAL WILL PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH-LEVEL TALKS BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS A CHANCE OF IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. IT REFERS TO OTHER STATE FUNERALS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND SAYS THAT DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN AND PRESIDENT CHERNENKO, MR SHULTZ AND MR TIKHONOV ARE SUFFICIENTLY SENIOR TO MAKE USEFUL CONTACTS.

THE TIMES SAYS THAT MR RAJIV GANDHI FACES THE PROBLEM OF WHEN TO HOLD A GENERAL ELECTION. IT SUGGESTS THE MOST APPROPRIATE TIME WOULD BE THE TURN OF THE YEAR WHEN THE FIVE YEARS LIFE OF THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT ENDS ON 20 JANUARY. THIS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND WOULD SEE A NEW GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLING EARLY IN FEBRUARY. IT ADDS THAT THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENTS REAGAN AND CHERNENKO WILL LIMIT THE PROSPECT OF THE FUNERAL BECOMING A HIGH-LEVEL INFORMAL SUMMIT LIKE SOME STATE FUNERALS IN THE PAST.

OTHER ITEMS BEING COVERED INCLUDE REPORTS OF TENSION SPREADING THROUGH POLAND AS 10,000 WAIT FOR THE BODY OF THE MURDERED PREIST TO ARRIVE AT THIS WARSAW CHURCH WHERE IT WILL LIE IN STATE THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.

THE US HAS CARRIED OUT ITS FIRST EXECUTION OF A WOMAN FOR 22 YEARS WITH REPORTS SAYING THAT WHEN SHE WAS FINALLY EXECUTED CELEBRATING MODS WAVED PLACARDS AND OPENLY ENJOYED THE DEATH.

TALKS ON THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE US WHICH HAVE RAISED HOPES OF A SETTLEMENT TO THE NAMIBIAN DISPUTE ARE TO CONTINUE NEXT WEEK WITH MR RF BOTHA LIKELY TO MEET DR CROCKER IN MUNICH ON TUESDAY.

CARDINAL BASIL HUME IS FLYING TO ETHIOPIA TOMORROW (SUNDAY) FOR A STUDY OF THE FAMINE AID CONDITIONS. TASS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SVETLANA STALIN HAS RETURNED TO MOSCOW.

ENDS LPS SUMMARY OF FIRST EDITIONS
COI LONDON

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