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AND TO ROUTINE 10 DOWNING STREET (PRESS OFFICE)

AND TO ROUTINE FCO (NEWS DEPARTMENT)

IMMEDIATE NEWSROOM

BRITISH PREMIER SPEAKS OF SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING WITH MRS GANDHI

BY JACK ENSOLL, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

1. NEW DELHI (LPS) TOGETHER WITH ABOUT 100 OTHER WORLD LEADERS, PRINCESS ANNE AND BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER ATTENDED THE FUNERAL TODAY (3 NOVEMBER) OF MRS INDIRA GANDHI IN THE BANK OF THE YAMUNA RIVER HERE. THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS CREMATED AFTER A FUNERAL PROCESSION THROUGH THE HISTORIC STREETS OF THE INDIAN CAPITAL WHERE SHE HAD LAIN IN STATE SINCE HER ASSASSINATION LAST WEDNESDAY.
2. AMONG OTHER BRITISH NOTABLES WHO ATTENDED THE TENSE BUT EXTREMELY MOVING CEREMONY WERE THE LEADER OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION, MR NEIL KINNOCK; THE LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, MR DAVID STEEL; AND THE HEAD OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DR DAVID OWEN; AS WELL AS FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, MR JAMES CALLAGHAN.
3. MRS THATCHER TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS EVENING (3 NOVEMBER): "THIS IS A JOURNEY I HAD HOPED NOT TO MAKE BUT THE MOMENT I HEARD THE TERRIBLE NEWS OF MRS GANDHI'S ASSASSINATION THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. I HAD TO COME."
4. THIS THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WAS BECAUSE OF HER ENORMOUS RESPECT FOR MRS GANDHI'S WORK AS AN INDIAN LEADER, FOR THE WAY IN WHICH SHE HAD DOMINATED INDIAN POLITICS OVER THE YEARS, FOR HER INFLUENCE IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. MRS THATCHER ALSO FELT THAT SHE HAD SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING WITH MRS GANDHI BECAUSE BOTH OF THEM WERE FAMILY WOMEN. "WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO BE WARM, HUMAN AND LOVING AND AT THE SAME TIME FIRM, DETERMINED AND DECISIVE. IT IS A PARADOX THAT WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD. FOR INSTANCE WE BOTH KNEW LONELINESS BUT I THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS A SPECIAL QUALITY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WHEN WE MET."
5. MRS THATCHER WENT ON TO SAY THAT AMONG THE PEOPLE THAT SHE REPRESENTED IN BRITAIN WERE PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN IN THE COUNTRY FOR GENERATIONS. THEY HAD BEEN JOINED MORE RECENTLY BY SOME SIKHS, MUSLIMS AND HINDUS. ALL THESE BRITISH PEOPLE HAD BEEN DEEPLY MOVED BY WHAT HAD HAPPANED TO MRS GANDHI AND SHARED THEIR SORROW AT THAT "TREACHEROUS DEED".

6. SPEAKING OF TODAY'S EVENTS THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO FIND WORDS TO DESCRIBE HOW DEEPLY IMPRESSIVE THE FUNERAL HAD BEEN. IT HAD BEEN CONDUCTED WITH DIGNITY AND THERE HAD BEEN A SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS WHICH MADE HER FEEL THAT SHE HAD BEEN PRESENT WITH THE FAMILY OF INDIA IN MOURNING.

7. SHE WENT ON: "I FELT ALSO THE FINALITY OF IT BECAUSE IT REPRESENTED THE CLOSING CHAPTER IN THE LIFE OF MRS GANDHI BUT AS ONE CHAPTER CLOSED ANOTHER ONE OPENED," SAID MRS THATCHER, REFERRING TO A BRIEF MEETING THAT SHE HAD THIS MORNING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS GANDHI'S SON, RAJIV. OF HIM SHE SAID THAT SHE RESPECTED HIM GREATLY, ADMIRING HIS QUIET COURAGE AND HIS DIGNITY. HIS GREAT SORROW AT THE FUNERAL TODAY HAD BEEN THERE FOR ALL TO SEE. "I FEEL INDIA AND HE ARE ONE TOGETHER IN THEIR DESTINY OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS." IN THE TASK THAT LAY AHEAD SHE PLEDGED THAT HE WOULD HAVE ALL THE LOYALTY, SUPPORT, AFFECTION AND RESPECT BRITAIN COULD GIVE HIM.

8. THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED GREATLY IN INDIA AND FELT THAT IT WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN WORLD AFFAIRS. "I BELIEVE ITS PEOPLE HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AND HAVING SUFFERED THIS GREAT SORROW THEY WILL MAKE EVEN MORE OF THE FUTURE THAT IS YET TO COME."

9. MRS GANDHI HAD ALWAYS BEEN STRONG ON THE UNITY OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE AND AT THE FUNERAL TODAY THIS COULD BE FELT AND PEOPLE BECAME CONSCIOUS OF A UNITY IN WHICH MHAATMA GANDHI AND PANDIT NEHRU HAD PLAYED A PART. SHE BELIEVED THAT OUT OF THE PRESENT TROUBLES AND TRAGEDIES COULD COME STRENGTH AND THAT UNITY WOULD BE PRESERVED. INDIA WAS A DEMOCRACY AND MRS THATCHER BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD REMAIN SO AND IN A SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION WOULD BE AN INSPIRATION FOR THE THIRD WORLD.

10. THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WAS ASKED IF DURING TODAY'S ACTIVITIES SHE HAD BEEN REMINDED THAT ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO SHE HERSELF SURVIVED AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WHEN THE IRA EXPLODED A BOMB DURING THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE IN BRIGHTON. SHE REPLIED THAT HER THOUGHTS TODAY HAD BEEN ONLY OF MRS GANDHI WHO AFTER THE BRIGHTON OUTRAGE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST TO WRITE A LETTER OF SYMPATHY TO THE BRITISH LEADER.

11. ASKED IF SHE HAD ANY MISGIVING ABOUT THE UNITY OF RELIGIOUS SECTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, MRS THATCHER SAID THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF BRITISH SIKHS, HINDUS AND MUSLIMS WERE MOURNING MRS GANDHI'S DEATH. SHE ADDED: "WE SAW A TINY IRRESPONSIBLE MINORITY BEHAVING OUTRAGEOUSLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION. AS A RESULT THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN WERE ANGERED, DISMAYED AND DISGUSTED." PEOPLE ABROAD SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THE ACTIONS OF A TINY MINORITY.

12. ASKED ABOUT INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS FROM OVERSEAS WHICH BASED IN LONDON, MRS THATCHER SAID: "WE CANNOT CONTROL THEM BUT IF THEY INFRINGE THE LAW THE POLICE AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS I HAVE NOT THE LEAST SHRED OF DOUBT WOULD TAKE THEM TO COURT. SO IF THEY INFRINGE THE LAW THE NORMAL PROCESSES OF JUSTICE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM."

13. ASKED IF THAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS A PROBLEM WHICH WORRIED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT A GREAT DEAL. "IT IS A QUESTION WE ARE ASKED A GREAT DEAL BY MANY MANY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WHO COME TO LONDON AND WHO SAY TO ME THAT THERE IS A DISSIDENT MOVEMENT IN THE CAPITAL WHICH IS PREACHING HATRED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF AN OVERSEAS COUNTRY. I SAY I AM SORRY BUT I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT UNLESS THEY GET INVOLVED IN VIOLENCE WHICH, OF COURSE, IS DIFFERENT. THAT OF COURSE WOULD BE AN OFFENCE BUT I DO GO ON TO SAY, 'YOU SHOULD HEAR WHAT SOME OF THEM SAY ABOUT ME BUT I CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT EITHER'."

14. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS OF LIVING IN A FREE SOCIETY WAS THAT THERE WERE MANY MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DOING WRONG THINGS THAT WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN A TYRANNY. "WE ARE WELL AWARE," SHE ADDED, "OF THE ADVOCATES OF VIOLENCE AND THE DIFFICULTY OF GETTING EVIDENCE TO BRING CASES TO COURT."

15. TOWARDS THE END OF MRS THATCHER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NEW DELHI, SIR ROBERT WADE-GERY, SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF THE ENGLISH CRICKET TEAM, AT PRESENT IN INDIA, PLAYING WHILE THE COUNTRY WAS IN A STATE OF MOURNING. HE ADDED THAT A NUMBER OF MATCHES HAD BEEN ARRANGED IN SRI LANKA. IN FACT AFTER MEETING THE PRESS THIS EVENING MRS THATCHER HAD TALKS WITH MR J R JAYAWARDENE, THE PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA.

16. HE WAS AMONG A NUMBER OF WORLD LEADERS WITH WHOM MRS THATCHER HELD DISCUSSIONS INCLUDING GEN. M ZIA-UL-HAQ, PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN. SHE WAS ALSO DUE TO SEE PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL OF MOZAMBIQUE AND POSSIBLY UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ. BEFORE SHE STARTS HER JOURNEY BACK TO LONDON TOMORROW (4 NOVEMBER) MRS THATCHER HOPES TO HAVE A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE OF JAPAN.

WADE-GERY

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Retract 99 of 3/11

Immediate Newsroom

097 / 975

BRITISH PREMIER SPEAKS OF SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING WITH MRS GANDHI

by Jack Ensoll, Chief Political Correspondent

New Delhi (LPS) Together with about 100 other world leaders, Princess Anne and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher attended the funeral today (3 November) of Mrs Indira Gandhi on the bank of the Yamuna River here. The Indian Prime Minister was cremated after a funeral procession through the historic streets of the Indian capital where she had lain in state since her assassination last Wednesday.

Among other British notables who attended the tense but extremely moving ceremony were the Leader of the British Parliamentary Opposition, Mr Neil Kinnock; the Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr David Steel; and the Head of the Social Democratic Party, Dr David Owen, as well as former British Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan.

Mrs Thatcher told a press conference this evening (3 November): "This is a journey I had hoped not to make but the moment I heard the terrible news of Mrs Gandhi's assassination there was no doubt about it. I had to come."

This, the Prime Minister said was because of her enormous respect for her work as ^{Mrs Gandhi's} ~~the~~ Indian leader, for the way in which she had dominated Indian politics over the years, for her influence in the Commonwealth and in the Non-Aligned Movement. Mrs Thatcher also felt that she had special understanding with Mrs Gandhi because both of them were family women. "We both understood that it was possible to be warm, human and loving and at the same time firm, determined and decisive. It is a paradox that we both understood. For instance we both ^{knew} ~~understood~~ loneliness but I thought that there was a special quality in our relationship when we met."

Mrs Thatcher went on to say that among the people that she represented in Britain were people who had been in the country for generations. They had been joined more recently by some Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus. All these British people had been deeply moved by what had happened to Mrs Gandhi and shared their sorrow at that "treacherous deed".

↓ (Note)

Speaking of today's events the British Prime Minister found it difficult to find words to describe how deeply impressive the funeral had been. It had been conducted with dignity and there had been a sense of togetherness which made her feel that she had been present with the family of India in mourning.

She went on: " I felt also the finality of it because it represented the closing chapter in the life of Mrs Gandhi but as one chapter closed and another one opened," said Mrs Thatcher, referring to a brief meeting that she had this morning with the new Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi's son, Rajiv. Of him she said that she respected him greatly, admired his quiet courage and his dignity. His great sorrow at the funeral today had been there for all to see. " I feel India and he are one together in their destiny over the next few years. In the task that lay ahead she pledged that he would have all the loyalty, support, ~~and~~ affection and respect that Britain could give him.

The British Prime Minister believed greatly in India and felt that it was an extremely important country in the world affairs. " I believe its people have a great future and having suffered this great sorrow they will make even more of the future that is yet to come."

Mrs Gandhi had always been strong on the unity of the Indian people and at the funeral today this could be felt and ^{people} ~~one~~ became conscious of a unity in which Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru had played a part. She believed that out of present trouble and tragedies could come strength and that unity would be preserved. India was a democracy and Mrs Thatcher believed that it would remain so and in a spirit of reconciliation would be an inspiration for the Third World.

The British Prime Minister was asked if during today's activities she had been reminded that only a few weeks ago she herself survived an assassination attempt when the IRA exploded a bomb during the Conservative Party Conference in Brighton. She replied that her thoughts today had been only of the ^{Mrs Gandhi} ~~Indian leader~~ who after the Brighton outrage had been one of the first to write a letter of sympathy to the British leader.

Asked if she had any message about the unity of religious sects in the United Kingdom, Mrs Thatcher said that the overwhelming majority of British Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims were mourning Mrs Gandhi's death. She added: "We saw a tiny irresponsible minority behaving outrageously after the assassination. As a result the people of Britain were angered, dismayed and disgusted." People abroad should not be misled by the actions of a tiny minority.

If independence movements infringed the law the normal processes

↓ More

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Office) and FCO News Dept

Immediate Newsroom
For Butler from Ensell

CORRECTION : THATCHER AT FUNERAL

Please delete fourth paragraph from end beginning "if independence movements
infringed the law" and insert.:-

Asked about independence movements from overseas which based in London,
Mrs Thatcher said: "We cannot control them but if they infringe the law ~~in~~
~~respect of~~ the Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions I have not the
least shred of doubt would take them to court. So if they infringed the law
the normal processes of justice would take care of them."

Asked if that was good enough, the Prime Minister said that it was
a problem which worried the British Government a great deal. "It is a question
we are asked a great deal by many many heads of ~~state~~ government who come to
London and who say to me that there is a dissident movement in the capital which
is preaching hatred against the government of an overseas country. I say I am
sorry but I do not think there is anything I can do about it unless they
get involved in violence which, of course, is different. That of course would
be an offence but I do go on to say, ' You should hear what some of them say
about me but I cannot do anything about that either'."

(Then go on to pick up paragraph beginning: " One of the problems
of living in a free society etc....)

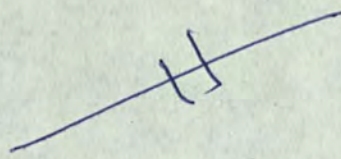
of the law could be invoked but evidence in such cases was often difficult to obtain and this worried the British authorities a great deal. Referring to a recent broadcast on British television in which a n immigrant speaker had apparently approved of the murder of Mrs Gandhi, the British Prime Minister said that she shared India's horror at what had been said. The police had apparently looked into the matter and had come to the ^{nc} conclusion that they were unable to prosecute.

One of the problems of living in a free society was that there were many more opportunities for doing wrong things that would not be available to people who lived in a tyranny. "We are well aware," she added, "of the advocates of violence and the difficulty of getting evidence to bring cases to court."

Towards the end of Mrs Thatcher's press conference, the British High Commissioner in New Delhi, Sir Robert Wade-Gery, said that there would be no question of the English cricket team, at present in India, playing while the country was in a state of mourning. He added that a number of matches had been arranged in Sri Lanka. In fact after meeting the press this evening Mrs Thatcher had talks with Mr J.R. Jayawardene, the President of Sri Lanka.

He was among a number of world leaders with whom Mrs Thatcher held discussions including Gen. M. Zia-ul-Haq, President of Pakistan. She was also due to see President Samora Machel of Mozambique and possibly United States Secretary of State George Shultz. Before she starts her journey back to London tomorrow (4 November) Mrs Thatcher hopes to have a meeting ~~Prime~~ with Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan.

JE 3/11/84



Private Secretary

PM'S BILATERAL WITH MR SCHULTZ

The US Embassy say that the Secretary of State would like to be accompanied for his meeting with the Prime Minister by the following

Senator Baker

Senator Moynihan

Mr. Charlie Hill (Chief Exec
Asst. to S/S)

Mr. John Hughes (Dept of State
Press spokesman)

One or Two Note takers.

A total delegation of up to seven.

Please would you let me know if this is not acceptable, so that I can tell the US Embassy. The contact is Mr. Street, 600651 ext 469.

M.J. Williams

2 November 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE : SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OBVIOUSLY THIS IS A JOURNEY I HAD HOPED NOT TO HAVE TO MAKE, BUT THE MOMENT I HEARD THE TERRIBLE NEWS OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MRS. GANDHI THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, I HAD TO COME. I HAD TO COME BECAUSE OF MY ENORMOUS RESPECT FOR HER WORK AS PRIME MINISTER AND THE WAY IN WHICH SHE HAS DOMINATED INDIAN POLITICS FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. BECAUSE OF MY ENORMOUS RESPECT FOR HER WORK FOR THE COMMONWEALTH AND HER WORK AS A WORLD STATESMAN BOTH IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, THE CANCUN CONVENTION, WHERE WE WERE BOTH PRESENT, AND IN SO MANY THINGS. ALSO BECAUSE I FELT THAT IN ONE WAY, A VERY SPECIAL WAY, SHE AND I HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON. WE WERE BOTH PRIME MINISTERS; WE WERE BOTH FORTUNATE IN HAVING A WONDERFUL FAMILY; AND I THINK PERHAPS WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD WHAT TO SOME PEOPLE IS A PARADOX - NAMELY THAT ONE CAN BE WARM, HUMAN, LOVING, KNOWING ALL OF THE LITTLE THINGS OF LIFE AND AT THE SAME TIME FIRM, DETERMINED AND DECISIVE. IT WAS A PARADOX WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD. WE UNDERSTOOD THE LONELINESS OF THE WORK AND THEREFORE WHENEVER I SPOKE WITH MRS. GANDHI THERE WAS A QUALITY THAT WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN I SPOKE WITH OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, AND SO OF COURSE I HAD TO COME. WE ARRIVED, PRINCESS ANNE OF COURSE IS REPRESENTING HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, AND I CAME REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT AND I HOPE THAT WE BOTH REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN WHO WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN IN BRITAIN FOR GENERATIONS OR WHETHER THEY HAVE COME TO BRITAIN RECENTLY, SOME OF THE HINDUS, SIKHS, MUSLIMS, SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS, I THINK I SPEAK FOR THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY WHEN I SAY THAT WE ALL DEEPLY MOURN THE LOSS OF MRS. GANDHI AND WE SHARE THE SORROW AND SHOCK IN INDIA AT THAT TREACHEROUS DEED. WHEN WE CAME THIS MORNING WE WENT TO THE LYING IN STATE. I WAS VERY GLAD TO GO BECAUSE IN A WAY ONE CAME A LITTLE BIT NEARER TO MRS. GANDHI AT THAT MOMENT. AND THEN WE WENT THIS AFTERNOON TO THE FUNERAL. IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND WORDS TO DESCRIBE HOW DEEPLY IMPRESSIVE THAT OCCASION IS. IT IS IMPRESSIVE BECAUSE OF ITS DIGNITY, ITS TOGETHERNESS, AND THE FACT THAT ONE FEELS ONE IS PRESENT WITH THE FAMILY OF INDIA IN MOURNING A LOSS. I FELT TOO IN A WAY THE FINALITY OF IT AS A CLOSING CHAPTER OF THE LIFE OF MRS. GANDHI. THAT VOLUME HAS NOW BEEN CLOSED. BUT AS ONE VOLUME IS CLOSED, SO ANOTHER ONE BEGINS.

AND SO I SAW RAJIV GANDHI THIS MORNING. I HAVE KNOWN HIM FOR QUITE A LONG TIME. I LIKE HIM VERY MUCH INDEED. I RESPECT HIM GREATLY. I ADMIRE HIS QUIET COURAGE, HIS DIGNITY. HIS GREAT SORROW AT THE FUNERAL CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON WERE THERE FOR ALL TO SEE AND I FELT THAT INDIA AND HE ARE ONE TOGETHER IN THEIR DESTINY FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS. WHEN I SAW HIM THIS MORNING WE SPOKE OF COURSE OF THE DEEP PERSONAL THINGS AND OF THE DEEP PERSONAL SORROW, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT HE WILL HAVE ALL THE LOYALTY, SUPPORT, AFFECTION AND RESPECT THAT WE CAN GIVE HIM IN THE DAYS AND MONTHS AND YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD. I BELIEVE GREATLY IN INDIA. I LOVED IT THE DAY I FIRST VISITED IT AND I LOVE IT STILL. IT IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN WORLD AFFAIRS. I BELIEVE THAT ITS PEOPLE HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AND I BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL, HAVING SUFFERED THIS GREAT SORROW, MAKE EVEN MORE OF THE FUTURE THAT IS YET TO BE. THANK YOU.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Q. IT WAS DUE TO MRS. GANDHI'S SPECIAL QUALITIES THAT INDIA HAS HELD TOGETHER AS ONE NATION OVER THE PAST 16 OR 17 YEARS AND NOW THAT SHE HAS GONE, AND HOWEVER CAPABLE RAJIV GANDHI MAY BE, HE IS NOT AS EXPERIENCED A POLITICIAN IN A LONG, LONG WAY. ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE STABILITY OF INDIA AND ABOUT INDIA'S SPECIAL PLACE IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT?

PM. MRS. GANDHI WAS ALWAYS VERY STRONG ON THE UNITY OF INDIA. TODAY ONE FELT THE UNITY OF INDIA. I BELIEVE THAT WITH THE HISTORY OF PANDIT NEHRU, FIRST MAHATMA GANDHI, PANDIT NEHRU, MRS. GANDHI AND NOW RAJIV GANDHI, I FEEL THAT THERE WILL BE A PULLING TOGETHER, A RECONCILIATION TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF INDIA. OUT OF THESE TERRIBLE TRAGEDIES CAN COME STRENGTH AND A QUIET FEELING OF WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE. AND I BELIEVE THAT FEELING WILL BE THAT RECONCILIATION IS NEEDED AND THE UNITY OF INDIA WILL CONTINUE.

Q. DO YOU THINK THAT INDIA WILL RETAIN ITS NEUTRAL POSITION AS IT HAS DONE FOR SO LONG?

PM. I BELIEVE THAT INDIA WILL CONTINUE IN THIS VERY VERY IMPORTANT

POSITION THAT SHE HAS. NO COUNTRY CAN DENY ITS GEOGRAPHY EVER. BUT INDIA IS A DEMOCRACY. SHE REMAINS A DEMOCRACY, I BELIEVE SHE WILL REMAIN A DEMOCRACY. THEREIN LIES A HOPE AND INSPIRATION FOR THE THIRD WORLD AND A HOPE AND INSPIRATION FOR MANY OF THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE DEMOCRACIES BUT DO NOT YET HAVE THE CHANCE TO BE SO.

Q. MRS. THATCHER, A QUESTION OF A RATHER PERSONAL NATURE. A FEW WEEKS AGO YOU YOURSELF COULD HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. WERE YOU REMINDED OF THAT TODAY?

PM. IN A STRANGE WAY IT DIDN'T BECAUSE MY THOUGHTS WERE ALL UPON MRS. GANDHI, AND THE TERRIBLE LOSS TO INDIA. MY THOUGHTS WERE WITH THE FAMILY WHO WERE ALL THERE TAKING SUCH A CLOSE PART AND ALL TOGETHER IN THE FUNERAL CEREMONY. I DO RECALL THAT MRS. GANDHI WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO SEND ME A MESSAGE AND I DO RECALL THAT EARLY IN THE MORNING AT ABOUT HALF PAST SIX WHEN I SWITCHED ON TO HEAR THE NEWS OF THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION, AND WE DID NOT THEN KNOW THE RESULT, THAT I COULD NOT THEN BELIEVE IT. BUT SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO SEPARATE THE TWO THINGS IN MY MIND EXCEPT THAT I UNDERSTAND AGAIN PERHAPS IN HAVING THIS IN COMMON WITH HER, YES THERE ARE DANGERS BUT THE WORK MUST GO ON. WITH HER THE WORK DID GO ON. WITH ME THE WORK WILL GO ON.

Q. MR. GANDHI HAS ASKED FOR UNITY BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT SECTS ...

PM. LOOK, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE SIKHS, HINDUS AND THE MUSLIMS MOURN MRS. GANDHI'S DEATH. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY WILL ACT TOGETHER AS DIFFERENT RELIGIONS BUT IN ONE COUNTRY AND A COUNTRY HAS MANY, MANY DIFFERENT VARIETIES, MANY DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, MANY DIFFERENT HABITS, AND MANY DIFFERENT CUSTOMS. BUT IT HAS AN ESSENTIAL UNITY THAT HAPPENS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM - IT HAPPENS WITH INDIA TOO. YES, WE SAW A TINY IRRESPONSIBLE MINORITY BEHAVING OUTRAGEOUSLY, AND THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN WERE ANGRY AND DISMAYED AND DISGUSTED. AND SO WERE THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SIKHS, MUSLIMS AND HINDUS, AND THEY SHOWED IT. AND THOSE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO REPRESENTED CONSTITUENCIES WHO HAVE MANY HINDUS AND MUSLIMS AND SIKHS WERE JUST AS SORROWFUL, JUST AS SINCERE AND DEEP IN THEIR ADMIRATION FOR MRS. GANDHI AND WHAT SHE HAD DONE

AS OTHERS WERE REPRESENTED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN BRITAIN FOR MANY GENERATIONS. DO NEVER NEVER NEVER BE MISLED BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN IN BRITAIN FOR MANY GENERATIONS. DO NEVER NEVER NEVER BE MISLED BY A TINY MINORITY. JUST LOOK AT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY THAT FEEL THE SAME WAY AS WE DO. AND WOULD USE THEIR STRENGTH TO GO FORWARD TO SECURE THE UNITY AND PROGRESS OF INDIA.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE MINORITIES, THESE REVOLUNTIONARY INDEPENDENT MOVEMENTS IN BRITAIN?

PM. WE CANNOT CONTROL THEM. IF THEY INFRINGE THE LAW THEN OF COURSE THE POLICE AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS WOULD, I HAVE NOT THE SLIGHTEST SHRED OF DOUBT, TAKE THEM TO COURT. SO THAT IF THEY INFRINGE THE LAW NORMAL PROCESSES OF THE LAW WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM.

Q. BUT IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH?

PM. IT IS SOMETHING THAT WORRIES US A GREAT DEAL. IT IS A QUESTION WE ARE ASKED A GREAT DEAL BY MANY MANY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WHO COME TO LONDON AND THEN WHO TURN AND SAY TO ME THERE IS A DISSIDENT MOVEMENT IN LONDON WHICH IS PREACHING HATRED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF AN OVERSEAS COUNTRY. I SAY WELL I'M SORRY THAT I DO NOT THINK THAT THERE IS ANYTHING THAT I CAN DO ABOUT THAT UNLESS THEY DO INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE, THAT OF COURSE IS DIFFERENT. THAT OF COURSE WOULD BE AN OFFENCE. BUT THEN I DO GO ON TO SAY YOU SHOULD HEAR WHAT SOME OF THEM SAY ABOUT ME. I CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT EITHER.

Q. (NAME) ACTUALLY CALLED FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF MRS. GANDHI ON BRITISH TELEVISION.

PM. LOOK, I SHARE YOUR SHOCK ABOUT THAT AND WAS PRETTY OUTSPOKEN ABOUT IT TOO. WHETHER OR NOT WHAT HE SAID ACTUALLY AMOUNTED TO A POSSIBLE CRIME WAS A MATTER FOR THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS AND THE POLICE, NOT FOR A POLITICIAN. BUT I BELIEVE THEY LOOKED AT IT, LOOKED VERY CAREFULLY AT WHAT WAS SAID, AND CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY COULD NOT IN FACT PROSECUTE. YOU KNOW THERE ARE SOMETIMES VERY DIFFICULT CASES. BUT WHETHER

THEY DECIDE TO PROSECUTE OR NOT IS A MATTER FOR THEM. BUT THEY DID NOT AND THAT MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE THERE WAS IN THEIR VIEW NOT A SUFFICIENT CASE TO PROSECUTE.

Q. PRIME MINISTER, DO YOU NOT FEEL THAT THERE IS A CASE THEREFORE FOR TIGHTENING UP OR ALTERING THE LAW ... INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE?

PM. INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE - I THINK THE LAW IS FAIRLY CLEAR. SOMETIMES IT IS NOT EASY TO GET THE PRECISE EVIDENCE BUT WE WILL HAVE A LOOK AT IT IF NEED BE. VIOLENCE IS SOMETHING WHICH IS AFFLICING MANY DEMOCRACIES AT PRESENT. AND AS YOU KNOW, I FIGHT IT ON ALL FRONTS WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT APPEARS. IT IS THE NEGATION OF DEMOCRACY, AND I DO STAND VERY FIRMLY FOR DEMOCRACY. BUT WE MUST RECOGNISE AGAIN WHAT IS AN APPARENT PARADOX THAT IF YOU ARE A FREE COUNTRY THEN YOU ARE FREE TO SAY WHAT YOU THINK WITHIN THE LAW, BUT A FREE SOCIETY OFFERS MANY MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DOING THE WRONG THING THAN OF COURSE A TYRANNY. BUT THEN OF COURSE WHO WOULD WISH TO LIVE UNDER TYRANNY. AND THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHEN YOU DO HAVE A DIFFICULT QUESTION TO ASK. DO YOU RESORT TO THE METHODS OF A TYRANNICAL SOCIETY IN ORDER TO PRESERVE FREEDOM? YOU CAN SEE THE PARADOX. NOW I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE GOT JUST ABOUT THE RIGHT ANSWER IN BRITAIN. BUT WE ARE VERY WELL AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF VIOLENCE AND OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF GETTING EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE OUR POLICE AND THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INDICTING THESE PEOPLE TO BRING CASES TO COURT.

Q. DURING YOUR MEETING WITH MR. GANDHI DID HE COMMENT ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE SIKHS?

PM. LOOK, THE MEETING I HAD THIS MORNING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ENTIRELY PRIVATE. WE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL. I HAD MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR AND REPEATED AGAIN THE SAME THING WHICH I HAVE SAID TO YOU IN MY OPENING STATEMENT THIS EVENING, BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WHATEVER THEIR BACKGROUND ARE ABSOLUTELY AT ONE WITH ALL OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS AND POLITICAL LEADERS WHO HAVE COME TO THE FUNERAL. WE GREATLY MOURN THE LOSS OF MRS. GANDHI

WE GREATLY ADMIRE HER AND MANY OF US HAD A VERY GREAT AFFECTION FOR HER AS WELL.

Q. DID YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MRS. GANDHI HELP BRITAIN TO WIN CONTRACTS IN THIS COUNTRY? DO YOU THINK THAT YOU WILL HAVE EXACTLY THE SAME SORT OF RAPPORT WITH THE NEW PRIME MINISTER?

PM. WELL ONE CANNOT WIN CONTRACTS UNLESS ONES PEOPLE ARE EFFICIENT AND PUT IN VERY GOOD OFFERS AND VERY GOOD TENDERS FOR THE CONTRACTS. I OBVIOUSLY HOPE THAT WILL CONTINUE. I THINK WE DO HAVE A SPECIAL FEEL FOR INDIA AND THAT ALWAYS HELPS. IN ADDITION TO THAT I THINK OUR COMPANIES ARE NOW VERY EFFICIENT AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING FUTURE CONTRACTS IN INDIA BECAUSE OF THEIR EFFICIENCY. AND OF COURSE WE COME IN BEHIND THEM BECAUSE SOMETIMES IT IS A QUESTION OF ONE COMPANY IN ONE COUNTRY PLUS A GOVERNMENT IN THAT COUNTRY AGAINST ANOTHER COMPANY IN ANOTHER COUNTRY PLUS THE GOVERNMENT IN THAT COUNTRY. WE TRY TO SUPPORT OUR OWN COMPANIES JUST AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS SUPPORT THEIRS.

Q. YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MRS. GANDHI AT SOME POINT ...

PM. I THINK IT WAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA, A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND INDIA. DOUBTLESS IT HELPED THAT I SAW MRS. GANDHI AND MADE A POINT OF SEEING HER QUITE FREQUENTLY AND IF EVER I CAME THROUGH INDIA OF COURSE I SAW MRS. GANDHI. BUT I THINK YOU HAVE TO MAKE CONTRACTS ON YOUR PERFORMANCE.

Q. PRIME MINISTER, CAN I ASK YOU HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU ARE SEEING TODAY, THIS EVENING?

PM. QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE, INDEED IT GOES UP RATHER FAST. PRESIDENT ZIA, PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE, PRESIDENT MACHEL, AND MR. SHULTZ, - THAT IS 4 THIS EVENING. I HAD JUST A BRIEF WORD WITH MR. GARRET FITZGERALD. OF COURSE I DO SEE HIM QUITE OFTEN. TOMORROW, WE LEAVE AS YOU KNOW AT 1030 BECAUSE I HAVE TO GET BACK FOR THE STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT EARLY NEXT WEEK, AND I AM SEEING MR. NAKASONE EARLY TOMORROW MORNING BEFORE I LEAVE.

Q. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ENGLAND CRICKET TEAM ARE CONSIDERING THE FUTURE, OR INDEED THE LAUNCHING OF

INDIA. HAS YOUR GOVERNMENT MADE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CRICKET AUTHORITIES?

PM. NOT AS FAR AS I AM AWARE. OBVIOUSLY IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE RIGHT TIME TO MAKE SUCH A REPRESENTATION. CRICKET MATTERS I AM SURE WILL BE DEALT WITH BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE MANAGING THE CRICKET TEAM AND THEIR INDIAN HOSTS. UNTIL TODAY WAS OVER I DOUBT VERY MUCH WHETHER THEY COULD HAVE CONSIDERED THE FUTURE OF THE TOUR OR WHAT TO DO IN THE INTERIM.

HIGH COMMISSIONER. COULD I SAY A WORD HERE? I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE BRITISH TEAM WHO ARE HERE AND THEY HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE INDIAN CRICKETING AUTHORITIES AND THEY HAVE REACHED FULL AGREEMENT WITH THEM THAT OF COURSE THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE BRITISH TEAM PLAYING CRICKET IN INDIA, PUBLICLY, OR INDEED PRIVATELY, IN THE PERIOD OF NATIONAL MOURNING - NOBODY WILL BE DOING SO. THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF WORKING OUT WHAT SOUND TO ME ARE GOING TO BE VERY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESUMING THEIR INDIAN TOUR AS SOON AS THE PERIOD OF MOURNING IS OVER WITH THE MINIMUM ALTERATION TO IT. MEANWHILE, WITH THE FULL AGREEMENT AND CONSENT OF THE INDIAN CRICKETING AUTHORITIES, THEY ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO SPEND A FEW DAYS NEXT WEEK OUT OF INDIA PLAYING CRICKET IN SRI LANKA. IT HAS BEEN SORTED OUT JUST IN THE LAST HALF HOUR.

Q. PRIME MINISTER, WHEN YOU SPOKE TO THE NEW PRIME MINISTER DID HE GIVE YOU THE IMPRESSION ... ASSASSINATION?

PM. LOOK, IT WAS BOTH A PRIVATE AND A COURTESY VISIT, AND OBVIOUSLY ON THE MORNING OF THE FUNERAL OF A DEARLY LOVED MOTHER AND PRIME MINISTER, IT WAS NOT THE OCCASION TO GET INTO GREAT DIFFICULTY, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TACTLESS AND HEARTLESS AND THOUGHTLESS TO HAVE DONE SO.

Q. COULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT YOU WILL BE TALKING ABOUT TO PRESIDENT ZIA?

PM. I DO NOT NORMALLY DESCRIBE WHAT I AM GOING TO TALK ABOUT BEFORE I TALK ABOUT IT. I DO NOT THINK THERE WILL BE ANY SURPRIZES IN THE CONVERSATION THAT WE HAVE.

Q. AND THE SAME APPLIES TO EVERYONE ELSE I PRESUME?

PM. I THINK SO.