

UK 521/08

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OO FCO

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CONFIDENTIAL

FM NEW DELHI 081135Z JAN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 032 OF 8 JANUARY

YOUR TELNO 23: VISIT BY INDIAN PRIME MINISTER

Ps (2)
Ps/Lady Young
Ps/W. Harding
MR. Wilton?
HD P.A.
HD to coll.
HD News
Ps. No 10 D.M.
x9

1. AT OUR MEETING THIS AFTERNOON ALEXANDER THANKED ME FOR OUR TENTATIVE SUGGESTION ABOUT THE WEEK OF 17 JUNE, TO WHICH HE WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO REPLY. THERE WAS STILL UNCERTAINTY OVER MR GANDHI'S PRECISE DATES IN AMERICA: THE AMERICANS WERE SUGGESTING TALKS ON 13 AND 14 JUNE WITH THE FESTIVAL INAUGURATION ON 17 JUNE AS THE FINAL ITEM IN THE PROGRAMME, BUT THE INDIANS HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER THEY COULD ACCEPT THIS. HE WAS INCLINED TO THINK THAT STOPPING IN LONDON ON THE WAY HOME FROM AMERICA MIGHT MAKE THE TOTAL ABSENCE FROM INDIA TOO LONG. IN THAT CASE A LONDON VISIT MIGHT BE ARRANGED SEPARATELY LATER IN THE YEAR, EG THE AUTUMN. BUT THE WEEK OF 17 JUNE MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO LET ME HAVE A CLEARER REPLY NEXT WEEK.

2. I WILL TRY AND KEEP HIM UP TO THAT. MEANWHILE I HOPE WE CAN KEEP OUR JUNE SUGGESTION OPEN AS AN OPTION. I HAVE STRESSED THAT IT IS STILL TENTATIVE ON OUR SIDE. BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD GET ME AUTHORITY BY NEXT WEEK TO GO A BIT FIRMER THAT THAT IF HE CAN. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH HE WILL SUGGEST 18 AND 19 JUNE (OR POSSIBLY 19 AND 20) IF HE GOES FOR JUNE AT ALL.

3. HE DID NOT MENTION MOSCOW, NOR ANY OTHER POSSIBLE PORTS OF CALL.

CCN PARA 2 LINE 4 A BIT FIRMER THAN THAT IF HE CAN.

WADE-GERY