

# CONFIDENTIAL

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FM NEW DELHI 000540Z FEB 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 175 OF 6 FEBRUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE DTI, ODA, MODUK (FOR RMD.3)

BY TELNO 167: INDO-BRITISH RELATIONS

1. I HAD HALF AN HOUR ALONE WITH PARTHASARATHY (ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER) YESTERDAY EVENING. WE SPENT MOST OF THE TIME ON CHAUHAN AND WESTLANDS. I WAS ABLE TO COVER THE SAME GROUND AS WITH SHAREKHAN THE DAY BEFORE AND TO LEAVE THE SAME SPEAKING NOTE. HE WAS NOT ABBREAST OF THE WESTLANDS CASE, WHICH HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO URGENTLY; BUT HE SEEMED FULLY AWARE BOTH OF ALEXANDER'S MID-JANUARY ASSURANCES AND OF THE EXTENT OF COOPERATION

HE ACKNOWLEDGED, WITHOUT ENDORSING, THE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT WHICH EXISTED IN SOME GOI QUARTERS TO THE EFFECT THAT PRESSURE ON CONTRACTS SHOULD BE USED TO TRY AND MAKE BRITIAN MORE COOPERATIVE OVER CHAUHAN AND CO.

2. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT, AND THERE SEEMS AT LEAST A CHANCE THAT HE WILL USE HIS INFLUENCE AGAINST WESTLANDS-CHAUHAN LINKAGE.

3. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF DRAWING HIS ATTENTION TO THE OUTCOME OF THE MHATRE TRIAL, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS VERY SATISFACTORY.

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