

GRS 395

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TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY FCO

TELNO 206 OF 12 FEBRUARY 1985

INFO IMMEDIATE ODA, DTI, MOD (FOR PS/HDS, PS/PUS, PS/ACDS (O) AND RMD 3)

YOUR TELNO 161: CALL ON PRIME MINISTER GANDHI

1. MY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY EVENING SEEMED TO GO VERY WELL. HIS MANNER WAS FRIENDLY AND RELAXED THROUGHOUT.

2. I SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN YOUR PARAS 3 AND 4. BY THE TIME I HAD DONE SO WE WERE ALREADY TALKING ABOUT SIKH EXTREMISTS IN THE UK, WHO HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN ALEXANDER'S JANUARY ASSURANCES. I THEREFORE FELT OBLIGED TO GO ON TO COVER THE GROUND IN YOUR PARA 5 AS WELL. HIS REACTION SEEMED SYMPATHETIC AND REASSURING.

3. MIFT RECORDS HIS ENCOURAGING RESPONSE ON PRIME MINISTERIAL VISITS IN APRIL AND OCTOBER.

4. ON WESTLANDS HE SEEMED QUITE UNAWARE OF MY APPROACH TO GHAREKHAN A WEEK EARLIER. HE ASKED ONE OR TWO DETAILED QUESTIONS AND CONFIRMED WITH SOME EMPHASIS THAT ALEXANDER'S JANUARY ASSURANCES HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ME WITH HIS FULL AUTHORITY. THEY CORRECTLY REFLECTED HIS VIEWS. HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE STILL HELD UP. BUT HE WOULD ENQUIRE AT ONCE, BEFORE SETTING OFF ON HIS NEXT ELECTION TRIP ON 13 FEBRUARY. HE QUITE SAW THE NEED FOR SPEED, IF THE DEADLINE OF THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR WAS NOT TO BE MISSED.

5. HE MADE NO COMMENT ON SEA HARRIER.

6. ON MINISTERIAL VISITS, HE SPECIFICALLY CONFIRMED THAT THEY WOULD BE WELCOME IN PRINCIPLE ANY TIME THE STATE ELECTIONS WERE OVER. HE SUGGESTED AT FIRST THAT THAT MEANT ANY TIME FROM MID-MARCH BUT ADDED ON REFLECTION THAT THE BUDGET WOULD BE PREOCCUPYING SOME OF HIS ECONOMIC COLLEAGUES UNTIL THE END OF MARCH.

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7. ON SIKH EXTREMISTS HE SEEMED SURPRISINGLY UNFUSSED. HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE CLOSE COLLABORATION NOW GOING ON AND AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE WAY TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM. HE ALSO SPOKE APPRECIATIVELY OF THE OUTCOME OF THE MHATRE TRIAL, WHICH I MENTIONED IN PASSING. THE NEAREST HE CAME TO CRITICISM WAS WHEN HE SAID THAT HIS PEOPLE HAD WONDERED WHETHER WE COULD NOT DO MORE TO CURB THE ACTIVITIES OF CHAUHAN AND HIS ASSOCIATES BY MORAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE. BUT HE APPEARED TO ACCEPT THAT WE HAD IN FACT DONE A GOOD DEAL BY MINISTERIAL SPEECHES AND POLICE QUESTIONING: AND THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO EMBARK ON ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT MAKE A MARTYR OF CHAUHAN OR WHIP UP THE JOHN HAMPDEN LOBBY IN HIS SUPPORT.

WADE-CERY

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