

SUBJECT

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PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T118/83

New Delhi,

August 4, 1983

Dear Prime Minister,

Yesterday our Finance Minister, Mr. P.K. Mukherjee, spoke to your Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, about Sri Lanka.

The lives and properties of Indian citizens and persons of Indian origin have been affected. Many of the Tamils, even of Sri Lanka citizenship, are asking for our help and wanting to come to India. President Jayewardene agreed to my suggestion that my Foreign Minister should go to Colombo to meet him. But the report Mr. Rao brought back about the ability or even the willingness of the Sri Lanka Government to deal firmly with the situation and to restore confidence among the minority community was not very convincing.

We regret that the Sri Lanka Government is spreading an entirely fictitious story about threats of foreign, particularly Indian, invasion. We appreciate the British Government's decision not to encourage these rumours by declining to send military assistance. We have assured

the Sri Lanka Government of our willingness to extend any help it may need.

As you know we do not believe in interference in the internal affairs of other countries. But I am terribly worried about the recent tragic developments in Sri Lanka. They are having grave repercussions for us. Our people are greatly agitated.

I hope you don't mind my burdening you with this brief explanation of my Government's attitude towards the events in Sri Lanka at a time when you are indisposed.

With all good wishes,

*Jas sweeny*  
*Indira Gandhi.*

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,  
London

MOST IMMEDIATE/BY HAND

भारत का हाई कमीशन  
लन्दन

THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA,

POLITICAL

DEPARTMENT,

INDIA HOUSE,

ALDWYCH,

LONDON, W.C.2.

R. S. Kalha,  
Minister (Political) and  
Financial Adviser

TELEPHONE: 01-836 8484 EXT. ....

TELEGRAMS: HICOMIND, LONDON, W.C.2.

*copy of* PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE

No. Lon/Pol/104/17/83

SERIAL No. T118/83

AUGUST 11, 1983

*My dear Richard,*

I am desired to convey the text of the following letter from our Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi to the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom with the request that this may kindly be placed before the Prime Minister -

Begins:

New Delhi

August 4, 1983

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With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

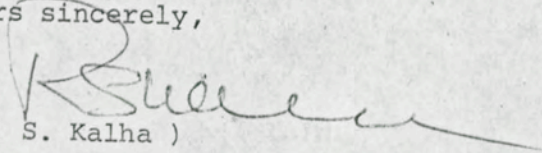
( INDIRA GANDHI )

The RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,  
LONDON.

Ends.

*Best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

  
( R. S. Kalha )

Mr. Michael St. E. Burton,  
Head of the South Asian Department,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,  
King Charles Street,  
LONDON SW 1