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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 May 1987

Dear Charles,

EDP  
7/5.

Letter from Mr Rajiv Gandhi :  
Non-Aligned Movement Africa Fund

With your letter of 17 March you enclosed a message to the Prime Minister from Mr Rajiv Gandhi, seeking a contribution to the Non-Aligned Movement's Africa Fund. I am sorry that you have not had an earlier response.

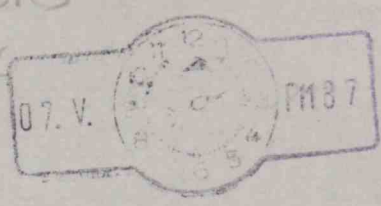
FCO Ministers considered carefully the terms of a possible draft reply from the Prime Minister. They concluded that, however it was couched, such a reply would at this difficult moment in Indo-British relations inevitably be seen as a negative signal at the highest level. Both the Foreign Secretary and Mrs Chalker have already told Indian Ministers that we are unwilling to contribute to the Fund. The Foreign Secretary therefore does not believe that we need feel obliged to repeat our views at Prime Ministerial level simply in response to a round-robin letter from Mr Gandhi.

We therefore arranged for a response to be delivered orally and in lower key in the course of Sir Robert Wade-Gery's farewell call on Mr Gandhi on 21 April. This passed off quite uneventfully. Unless the Prime Minister particularly wants to send a personal written message to Mr Gandhi on this unpromising subject, we think it now best to let sleeping dogs lie.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

SOUTH AFRICA - Relations  
PE 14



*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*