

DD 121330Z COLOMBO

GRS 650

CONFIDENTIAL
 FROM NEW DELHI 121230Z APRIL 1985
 TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY COMOMBO
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 013 OF 12 APRIL 1985
 REPEATED TO (FOR INFO) IMMEDIATE FCO LONDON

143

**CLOSED UNDER THE
 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
 ACT 2000**

FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY

FCO TELNO 213 TO YOU: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDIA

1. FOLLOWING ARE LATEST RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS HERE.
2. EXTERNAL: THERE ARE INCREASING SIGNS THAT GANDHI AND HIS NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY (=PUS) BHANDARI FAVOUR A LESS CONFRONTATIONAL AND HEGEMONISTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS THAN DID THEIR RESPECTIVE PREDECESSORS. THIS WELCOME DEVELOPMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PERSONAL TEMPERAMENTS. BUT IT WILL NOT BE POPULAR IN PARLIAMENT NOR WITH MUCH OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESTABLISHMENT. BHANDARI'S MODERATION HAS BEEN EVIDENT DURING HIS VISITS TO NEPAL, SRI LANKA AND PAKISTAN, AND HE IS IN AFGHANISTAN TODAY.
3. MY SRI LANKAN COLLEAGUE AGREES THAT THE GANDHI/BHANDARI POLICY REPRESENTS A DISTINCT CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN INDIA'S ATTITUDE TO THE SRI LANKAN CRISIS.

THE NEW LINE SEEMS TO

INVOLVE JOINT MANAGEMENT OF THE CRISIS BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ACTING IN CONCERT AND IN PARALLEL, WITH THE INDIANS CLAMPING DOWN ON THE TERRORISTS AND THE SRI LANKANS OFFERING MATCHING POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONCESSIONS.

4. INTERNAL: GANDHI'S STAFF EXPECT HIM TO TALK TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT PUNJAB, WHICH IS HIS TOP POLITICAL PRIORITY. HE IS CLEARLY TRYING HARD FOR A SETTLEMENT. IN MARCH HE RELEASED THE SIKH LEADER LONGOWAL AND OTHER DETAINEES, AND ANNOUNCED ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS TO THE KEY FARMING COMMUNITY DURING A VISIT TO THE STATE. YESTERDAY THE GOVERNMENT LEGALISED THE SIKH STUDENT MOVEMENTS, PROMISED FURTHER RELEASES, AND IN A DRAMATIC CONCILIATORY GESTURE AGREED TO A JUDICIAL ENQUIRY INTO THE ANTI-SIKH RIOTS IN DELHI AFTER MRS GANDHI'S DEATH, IN WHICH PROMINENT MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY WERE IMPLICATED. HE TOLD GREVILLE JANNER MP LAST NIGHT THAT HE HAD NOW PLAYED ALL HIS CARDS: IT WAS UP TO THE SIKHS TO RESPOND: BUT THEIR LEADERS WERE DISCOURAGINGLY FRIGHTENED OF BEING ASSASSINATED IF THEY DID.
5. BILATERAL: JANNER SPOKE HELPFULLY TO BOTH GANDHI AND BHANDARI YESTERDAY ABOUT SIKH EXTREMISTS IN THE UK. NO BRITISH GOVERNMENT COULD IN HIS VIEW DO MORE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THAN WE WERE ALREADY DOING. HE HOPED OUR GOOD FAITH WAS ACCEPTED. BOTH SAID IT WAS. I BELIEVE THEY MEANT IT. BUT THIS ATTITUDE TOO WILL BE UNPOPULAR WITH PARLIAMENT AND THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESTABLISHMENT.
6. OTHER: THE PRIME MINISTER MAY LIKE TO ASK GANDHI ABOUT THE HEALTH OF PARTHASARATHY (DE FACTO FOREIGN MINISTER) WHO IS 73 AND HAS BEEN IN HOPITAL THIS WEEK, AND ALSO OF MRS PANDIT (NEHRU'S SISTER AND THE FIRST INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON) WHO IS OVER 80 AND IN BED SUFFERING FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE.
7. GANDHI TOLD JANNER ON 11 APRIL THAT HE WAS HOPING TO SPEND SOME DAYS IN BRITAIN IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER ON HIS WAY TO NEW YORK. THIS IS COMPATIBLE WITH OUR PROPOSAL THAT HE SHOULD VISIT LONDON ON 14-15 OCTOBER ON THE WAY TO CHOGM IN NASSAU. IT SUGGESTS THAT HE HAS NOT YET FOCUSED ON DATES BUT HAS ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF COMING TO LONDON.

00 COLOMBO (FOR PM'S PARTY)

GRS 380

CONFIDENTIAL

FM NEW DELHI 111000Z APR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 474 OF 11 APRIL

INFO IMMEDIATE COLOMBO (FOR PM'S PARTY)

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. I CALLED ON ARORA (IN CHARGE OF PM'S OFFICE) ON 10 APRIL. GHAREKHAN (ADDITIONAL SECRETARY) WAS ALSO PRESENT. WE DISCUSSED THE MAIN ISSUES WHICH WERE LIKELY TO BE ON GANDHI'S MIND FOR HIS TALKS WITH MRS THATCHER. LITTLE NEW EMERGED.
2. ARORA AGREED THAT A COMMON OBJECTIVE FOR THE VISIT WOULD BE TO REINFORCE THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS. IN THIS CONTEXT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR MRS THATCHER TO REMIND GANDHI OF THE DATES PROPOSED FOR HIS BILATERAL VISIT TO LONDON (14/15 OCTOBER, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE CHOGM AND THE UN 40 TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS); BUT GHAREKHAN WAS NOT SURE THAT GANDHI'S DIARY WAS YET FIRM ENOUGH TO FIX DEFINITE DATES.
3. ARORA CONFIRMED THAT GANDHI WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN AN ACCOUNT OF MRS THATCHER'S DISCUSSIONS IN SRI LANKA, BUT DOUBTED IF HE WOULD HAVE PARTICULAR POINTS TO RAISE ON THIS. (COMMENT: THE TONE OF PRESS AND OFFICIAL COMMENT HERE ON SRI LANKA IS MARKEDLY MORE UP-BEAT IN THE PAST WEEK OR TWO).
3. ON STAR EXTREMISTS, GHAREKHAN ENDORSED BHANDARI'S VIEW (REPORTED IN MY TELNO 432) THAT MRS THATCHER MIGHT BEST TAKE THE INITIATIVE HERSELF IN RAISING THIS ISSUE, WHICH WAS VERY MUCH ON GANDHI'S MIND.
4. ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ARORA THOUGHT THAT GANDHI WOULD WELCOME AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SUPER-POWER RELATIONS, DISARMAMENT ETC, AS WELL AS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES (IN THE RUN-UP TO THE BONN SUMMIT). ARORA MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE HELPFUL ATTITUDE WHICH MRS THATCHER HAD ADOPTED TWO YEARS AGO ON IDA, AN ISSUE WHICH WAS FAR FROM RESOLVED. GANDHI WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO RAISE THIS HIMSELF BUT WOULD NO DOUBT WELCOME A DISCUSSION IF MRS THATCHER DID SO. ARORA SAID THAT GANDHI MIGHT HIMSELF MENTION INDIA'S APPRECIATION FOR OUR BILATERAL AID PROGRAMME. I SAID MRS THATCHER MIGHT ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS COMMERCIAL MATTERS, PARTICULARLY WESTLANDS, OF WHICH SHE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GANDHI IN MOSCOW AND IN A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. (WE THEN RAN BRIEFLY THROUGH THE MAIN ISSUES ON THE WESTLANDS CONTRACT; I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT NO NEW DECISIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED HERE). FINALLY ARORA THOUGHT THAT GANDHI MIGHT WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT INDIA'S INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROSPECTS; THE LATTER WOULD INCLUDE THE PUNJAB.

WADE-GERY

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CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 111330Z

FM NEW DELHI 111230Z APR 85

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY FCO

TELNO 475 OF 11 APRIL 1985

AND TO IMMEDIATE COLOMBO (FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY)

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER

1. WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING WHAT ADDITIONAL ISSUES, NOT INCLUDED IN THE SETS OF BRIEFING PROVIDED, THE INDIANS MIGHT RAISE DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. THE FOLLOWING APPEAR TO US PROBABLES:-

(A) IRAN/IRAQ, INCLUDING THE INDIAN INITIATIVE;

(B) QUOTAS FOR SPECIAL VOUCHERS TO ALLOW BRITISH OVERSEAS CITIZENS OF INDIAN ORIGIN AND WITH AN EAST AFRICAN CONNECTION NOW LIVING IN INDIA, TO BE ADMITTED FOR SETTLEMENT IN THE UK;

(C) KASHMIR, FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE ON KASHMIR BY SOME BRITISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

2. ON THE FIRST, YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A LINE TO TAKE, WITH BACKGROUND AS NECESSARY.

3. ON THE SPECIAL VOUCHERS QUOTA, INDIAN MINISTERS HAVE IN THE PAST REQUESTED US, BUT NOT INSISTENTLY, TO INCREASE THE NUMBER FROM THE PRESENT FIGURE OF 600 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR. IF THIS IS RAISED, I SUGGEST THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD TAKE THE NORMAL LINE THAT THE NUMBER WE CAN ACCEPT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RATE AT WHICH NEW ARRIVALS CAN BE ABSORBED INTO BRITISH SOCIETY WITHOUT DISRUPTION AND ALSO THE PRESENT EMPLOYMENT SITUATION, AND THAT THEREFORE THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES OVER RAISING THE QUOTA.

4. REGARDING KASHMIR, IF MR GANDHI RAISES THE SUBJECT, THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT PREVENT A GROUP OF MP'S WHO HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST FROM ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE TO PURSUE IT. THE PRESENT COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF ONLY 3 CONSERVATIVE MP'S AND ONE LABOUR MP. THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS ARE BEING INFORMED OF HMG'S VIEW REGARDING KASHMIR I.E. THAT IT IS A QUESTION FOR THE INDIAN AND PAKISTANI GOVERNMENTS, ON WHICH WE HAVE NO WISH TO COMMENT OR TO INTERFERE.

WADE-GERY

CONFIDENTIAL

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COLOMBO

GRS 300

RESTRICTED
FM NEW DELHI 111245Z APR 85
TO IMMEDIATE COLOMBO
TELNO 11 OF 11 APRIL 1985

RESTRICTED

FOR CONFERENCE OFFICER

MY TELNO 6 TO JAKARTA: PM'S VISIT: AIRPORT

1. PARA 1 OF TUR: THE INDIANS HAVE SCHEDULED A FEW MINUTES BETWEEN ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM THE AIRPORT DURING WHICH THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS WOULD CHAT ON THE TARMAC, GANDHI WOULD INTRODUCE ANY OTHER INDIAN GREETERS (PROBABLY LIMITED TO KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN AND - IF OUT OF HOSPITAL - G PARTHASARATHY: THERE ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE ANY OTHER INDIAN MINISTERS PRESENT): AND THERE WOULD BE A PRESS PHOTO OPPORTUNITY. THIS TIME WILL BE USEFUL IN ASSEMBLING THE CONVOY, COLLECTING THE PRIME MINISTER'S BAGGAGE ETC. THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS WOULD THEN LEAVE IN THEIR SEPARATE CARS SOME 5 MINUTES LATER.

2. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH HOLMES, SUGGEST THAT DETECTIVES ARE ALLOCATED TO CARS FROM AIRPORT AS FOLLOWS:

1 : HOLMES - 2 : PARKER - 4 : EDGAR - 5 (NOT 6) : STREVENS -
12 : KINGSTON.

3. ATTENDANCE AT DINNER. THE INDIAN SIDE WILL BE QUITE LARGE - 17 IN ALL - WHEREAS THERE WOULD AT PRESENT BE ONLY THE EIGHT BRITISH PARTICIPANTS WHOM WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO PROTOCOL (MR AND MRS THATCHER, ACLAND, BUTLER, POWELL, INGHAM, MY WIFE AND MYSELF). IF MRS THATCHER WOULD LIKE THIS, I BELIEVE THE INDIANS WOULD NOT TAKE IT AMISS IF WE SUGGESTED ADDING THE NAMES OF SUE AND MARTIN WILLIAMS (HEAD OF CHANCERY). AGAIN SUBJECT TO MRS THATCHER'S VIEWS, WILLIAMS MIGHT ALSO USEFULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS WITH OFFICIALS (WE DO NOT KNOW THE INDIAN TEAM FOR THESE, BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY THEY WILL BE MORE THAN OUR OWN GROUP OF FIVE). IF WE ARE TO PUT THIS TO THE INDIANS, OBVIOUSLY THE SOONER THE BETTER.

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