



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

*Hope to see Mrs Jayakar
for 15 minutes - it is a
marginal case?*

London SW1A 2AH

- Yes of course.

5 June 1981

Phnt 5/6

*Can we provide
a little more
money if
necessary?
no.*

Dear Michael,

Festival of India

Mrs Jayakar, the President of the Committee which is organising the Indian side of the Festival, is in Britain until Wednesday next. The purpose of her visit is to discuss with her counterparts here the arrangements for the Festival. She is close to Mrs Gandhi and is to report back to her on her visit.

She has of course learnt while here of the current rather parlous state of the Festival finance and of the Prime Minister's letter to Sir Michael Walker declining to provide more government money for the event. Officials have explained to Mrs Jayakar that the government's negative reply on that point does not in any way imply a negative attitude to the event itself. They have added that, on the contrary, as the Prime Minister's remarks in India and in her letter show, she attaches considerable importance to it.

Mrs Jayakar has made it plain that she fully accepts that point and that, like us, she believes it should be possible to raise the money from private industry.

We think it important that the Indian Government should continue to realise that we want the Festival, on which Mrs Gandhi is personally very keen, to be a major success. During her visit to India, the Prime Minister invited Mrs Gandhi to visit the United Kingdom at the time of the opening of the Festival (March 1982). Any impression that we were not putting our weight behind the Festival might make Mrs Gandhi reluctant to accept the invitation in due course. Should the Prime Minister, in her capacity as patron of the Festival, have a quarter of an hour free in which to receive Mrs Jayakar during the first half of next week, this would of course help the cause - though it is clearly not essential. Mrs Jayakar has struck those who have met her here as pleasant, friendly and very able.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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no 13

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 June 1981

Festival of India

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 5 June. She has agreed to receive Mrs Jayakar at 1145 on Monday 15 June for 15 minutes.

The Prime Minister has asked that we should not rule out the possibility of providing a little more money for the Festival of India if this proves to be absolutely necessary.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Rob