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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 June 1981

Dear Michael,

Festival of India 1982

Thank you for your letter of 8 June, notifying us of the Prime Minister's agreement to see Mrs Jayakar. We note that the time of the meeting has now been changed to 08.45 a.m. on 10 June.

Departments concerned have noted the Prime Minister's view in your second paragraph.

/ I enclose a short draft brief in the form of points to make and essential facts.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

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CALL BY MRS JAYAKAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE FESTIVAL OF INDIA, ON THE PRIME MINISTER AT NO 10, WEDNESDAY
10 JUNE AT 9.30 AM

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Aware of Mrs Gandhi's interest in the Festival as Co-Patron, and hope that Mrs Jayakar will convey warm personal regards on her return to Delhi.
2. No new Government money available. But no shortage of goodwill. Hope that the Festival will be a considerable success.
3. Believe that Mrs Jayakar shares our opinion that private sources ought to be able to raise the amount outstanding.
4. FCO and Arts Council are looking into the question of further help as regards fund raising and administrative support.



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ESSENTIAL FACTS

1. Mrs Pupul Jayakar, the Chairman of the Indian Coordinating Committee of the Festival of India, is in Britain for ten days for discussions about the Festival. She had a meeting with the British Committee on 4 June and has visited the major museums who are participating in the Festival.
2. The Festival of India was originally conceived in 1977 as a limited number of exhibitions of Indian art centred on the Hayward Gallery, with modest inputs of the living and performing arts. But the concept has grown and the present ambitious programme includes a series of exhibitions, events and performances reflecting many aspects of Indian civilisation from prehistoric times to the present day. There are to be 16 major exhibitions and numerous events, including the performing arts.
3. To coordinate the work of the Festival, committees have been set up in India and Britain. In Britain this work has been undertaken by the Arts Council and a Festival Trust, set up under the Chairmanship of Sir Michael Walker, a former High Commissioner to India. The Committee in India is chaired by Mrs Jayakar who is a close friend of Mrs Gandhi.
4. The Festival will open officially with a gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall on 22 March 1982. Efforts are being made to arrange for Ravi Shankar and Zubin Mehta to take part.
5. Much of the funding for the main exhibitions is being provided through the vote provision of the various British constituent organisations. We ourselves are in no position to assess the total amount provided by the bodies concerned. But the Arts Council assure us that

/ this is



this is nearer to £1 million than three-quarters of a million pounds. More money is required from private sources, ie an additional £200,000 to £250,000 is likely to be needed if both the main exhibitions and the supporting events are to be a real success.

6. Mrs Jayakar not only does not contest our view that the money could be raised from private sources but is confident that it can be.

7. We are exploring ways of providing the Festival Committee with some administrative support to help the fund raising.

8. Mrs Jayakar sees the Festival as an opportunity to project the picture of an emergent, vital India, not only through Indian objects in English hands, but through the crafts, performing arts, industry and science and technology.

Cultural Relations Department
June 1981