

India <sup>Sh</sup>

C.C. BINGHAM.

CF

1 February 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 28 January concerning the programme which you are planning about the Prime Minister of India and to reply as follows.

The Prime Minister does not of course have a view on the principle of your arranging to interview Mrs. Gandhi. That would appear to be a matter entirely for Mrs. Gandhi herself. So the question of clearance with No.10 does not arise.

As to the practical arrangements, the programme for the visit is not yet firm. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office are discussing the details with the Government of India. May I suggest that you discuss with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office when it might be possible to fit an interview into the programme?

A. J. COLES

The Lord Boston of Faversham Q.C.



# TVS

60 Buckingham Gate · London SW1E 6AJ  
Telephone 01-828 9898  
Telex 291602

*A Bingham*

from the Chairman

2 February 1982

A J Coles Esq.  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London S W 1

*Thank you.*  
*Mr. Khyal*  
*to me*  
*AK 4/2*

*Dear Mr Coles,*

Thank you very much for your letter of 1 February 1982 about our plans for a programme on the Prime Minister of India.

We are, as you suggest, now getting in touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to seek to make appropriate arrangements.

Thank you again for your help.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Boston of Faversham*

Boston of Faversham



# TVS

60 Buckingham Gate · London SW1E 6AJ  
Telephone 01-828 9898  
Telex 291602

*at Bingham*

from the Chairman

28 January 1982

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury  
10 Downing Street  
London S W 1

IN CONFIDENCE

*My dear Prime Minister,*

We are planning a major programme on the Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and hope very much that it might be possible to arrange to interview her, as part of the programme, whilst she is here on her visit from 21 to 25 March. We would be very grateful indeed for your help.

We have been in touch with India House and we understand that the High Commission is very much in favour of these plans and is keen to co-operate if suitable arrangements can be made. I felt it best to approach you as I understand that Mrs Gandhi is coming at your invitation for the Festival of India and that the arrangements for her visit are in the hands of Number Ten and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Our Director of Production Operations, Malcolm Truepenny, who knows India and is known to the Indian Government, has had discussions with the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Pushkar Johari, and with the Assistant High Commissioner, Mr Kunti Gaiind. India House has told Malcolm Truepenny that Mrs. Gandhi will be fully committed on 21 and 22 March, but it would be possible to fit arrangements in on either 23 or 24 March; and India House has also indicated that it would be happy if it were possible for arrangements to be made on either of those days. We also understand from the High Commission that no arrangements for television coverage of the visit have been made so far.

continued



The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
28 January 1982

page two

The programme itself will be a profile of Mrs Gandhi lasting just under an hour. (It will not, therefore, form part of any news coverage of the visit).

Mr Johari has indicated to Mr Truepenny that all that is needed by India House is clearance from Number Ten, in order that arrangements may be made.

I have spoken briefly today to Mr Johari, and he has confirmed that he hopes very much that it will prove possible for the plans mentioned above to be fitted into Mrs Gandhi's schedule.

Any help you felt able to give would be appreciated greatly.

Kindest regards and all good wishes

*Yours ever,  
Yenny*

Boston of Faversham