

PRIME MINISTER

①

f.a.
M 2/2

Visit by Mrs. Gandhi

You approved an outline programme earlier. This has since been discussed with the Indians and there have been one or two other developments. The latest draft programme is attached. It would be helpful if you could now take decisions on the following points.

Talks

We have allowed two hours for talks on 22 March, followed by lunch. Mrs. Gandhi has said she would fall in with your wishes about the format but would prefer a tete-a-tete session with no officials present. You may think that a tete-a-tete for two hours would be a bit hard to sustain.

Agree that we should suggest:

- a) tete-a-tete for one hour ✓
- ~~b) Private Secretaries to be present for a)~~
- c) then Plenary talks with Foreign Ministers and officials present? ✓

Festival Hall Concert

This will begin at 2000 hours and end at 2215. The Prince of Wales will attend. Caroline is asking Mr. Thatcher whether he wishes to accompany you. It is proposed that the concert should be followed by a Government reception at the Festival Hall, mainly for those concerned with the Festival of India. You will have given a large lunch for Mrs. Gandhi earlier in the day.

Agree that:

- a) Mr. Channon, as Minister of Arts, should host the reception (he is very willing to do so)

b)

Yes

Yes
b) you and, if she is willing, Mrs. Gandhi should attend the reception briefly before leaving the Festival Hall

Yes
c) *Passage deleted and closed, 60 years, under
FOI Exemption. O'Wayland, 27 Sept. 2012*

Dinner given ^{by} for Indo/British Association

You originally agreed to attend this dinner, together with Mrs. Gandhi, on 24 March and the FCO were so informed. Mr. Swarj Paul, the Chairman of the IBA who as you may know is a bit inclined to go his own way, has in fact arranged the dinner for 23 March instead and has invited a large number of guests. This is irritating but it would mean that the bulk of your involvement in Mrs. Gandhi's visit during what is going to be a very busy week would be completed on the Monday and Tuesday. You are free on the evening of 23 March except that you have an Audience at 1830. You would have time to change after the Audience and get to the Dorchester by 2015.

Agree to attend the dinner, together with Mrs. Gandhi, on 23 March on the understanding that both Prime Minister's arrive at 2015? *Yes*

Indian Science Exhibition at Science Museum

The Indians attach much importance to this event and Mrs. Gandhi has expressed a particular wish that you should open the Exhibition on 24 March (a Wednesday) at 1600 hours. The Duke of Edinburgh will now not be able to attend owing to absence abroad.

Yes
Agree to open Exhibition and to spend a little time immediately afterwards at the Indian Government reception which will be held at the Science Museum?

Departure

Mrs. Gandhi plans to stay on privately on Thursday 25 March and leave at about 2200 hours. The FCO have suggested that Mr. Hurd

/should

should see her off.

Agree that I should ask whether, in view of Indian sensitivities, a Cabinet Minister should not do this?

Speeches

I should do it. The P.R. later speak that a Cabinet Minister should do this. Add 1/2

You agreed earlier to make a speech at the Indo/British Association dinner. This should probably be about 20 minutes long. I am still working on the problem of Mr. Foot - Douglas Hurd is talking to Eldon Griffiths.

In addition, a brief speech will be required at the opening of the Science Exhibition.

I shall let you have some ideas for the speeches in due course.

A. J. C. 7

10 February 1982



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 February 1982

Visit by the Prime Minister of India

Thank you for your letter of 9 February. I will take your points seriatim.

Talks

The Prime Minister would like the first hour of the two hour period to be tête-à-tête with Mrs. Gandhi with no officials present. She would then like the plenary talks to begin at 12 noon with Ministers/officials present as appropriate. We shall want to restrict delegations to a manageable size and I shall let you know later who should participate on our side.

Festival Hall Concert

We shall let you know separately whether Mr. Denis Thatcher wishes to attend this and other events on the programme. I shall accompany the Prime Minister to the inaugural concert and all other events in the programme which she is attending. (I should be grateful if the organisers could be told where necessary.)

As to the reception which will follow the concert, the Prime Minister would be grateful if the Minister for the Arts would host it. She would be glad to attend the reception briefly before leaving the Festival Hall. *

Dinner Given by Indo/British Association

The Prime Minister agrees to attend the dinner on 23 March but would like it to be made clear to the organisers now that she cannot arrive until 2015. It seems desirable that Mrs. Gandhi should arrive at the same time (the Prime Minister would not wish to keep Mrs. Gandhi waiting). For your own information the reason

~ Passage deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FOI Exemption.
O'Wayland, 27 Sept. 2012

/for this

for this timing is that the Prime Minister is likely to have an Audience earlier that evening). I shall be grateful if the organisers can be told straightaway of the likely time of arrival of the Prime Minister in case this affects the other invitations for the event.

Indian Science Exhibition

The Prime Minister agrees to open this exhibition at 1600 hours on 24 March and to spend a little time immediately afterwards at the Indian Government reception.

Mrs. Gandhi's Departure

I shall let you have later the views of the Prime Minister on who should see Mrs. Gandhi off.

Speeches

I shall write separately about these but you may take it that the Prime Minister agrees to make the three speeches referred to in your letter.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

file EK
cc: Mrs. Goodchild

MR. THATCHER

Mrs. Gandhi's Visit

1) Would you be happy to co-host a lunch in honour of Mrs. Gandhi on Monday, 22 March at 1300 hours for 1315 hours?

2) Would you like to attend a Gala Concert to mark the Festival of India at the Royal Festival Hall at 2000 hours that evening?

CAROLINE STEPHENS

10 February 1982

PRIME MINISTER

Lunch for the Prime Minister of India

I suggest that in considering the attached draft guest list you will bear in mind that there are rather more people than usual who might be offended by being left out. Not only do we need to cover those who would normally be associated with an inter-Governmental visit of this kind, but you will probably also want to invite representatives of the Festival of India, the Indo/British Association, the Indian community etc.

I think it will therefore be difficult to include many of those suggested by Ian Gow. You may think that they should be regarded as reservéee

AJC

23 February 1982

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 February 1982

Dear John,

Visit by the Prime Minister of India

Thank you for your letters to Roderic Lyne of 12 and 21 January and to me of 8 February.

We have now consulted the Indian Government about the detailed programme for Mrs Gandhi's visit in the light of your letter of 12 January. A revised draft, which takes account of Indian wishes and other developments since Roderic Lyne's letter of 8 January, is enclosed. I am sorry that you have had to wait so long for it, but drawing together so many different threads has proved very time-consuming, even without the confusing contributions of Swraj Paul and others. Once again events which we hope Mrs Thatcher will undertake personally are marked 'XX'.

The following are our comments on those aspects of the draft programme that are either new or still unresolved, some of which require decisions or guidance from the Prime Minister. They are intended, where appropriate, to cover the matters raised in your letters of 21 January and 8 February.

Sunday 21 March

Arrival. The Indian High Commission expect Mrs Gandhi's aircraft to arrive no later than 1800 hours. Provided it is before sunset, we shall arrange for a ceremonial guard to be present.

Monday 22 March

Talks. Mrs Gandhi is content to fall in with the Prime Minister's wishes regarding format, but would prefer a tête-a-tête session with no officials present. Subject to Mrs Thatcher's views, official talks might either take place in parallel or be held at some later point in the programme. If the Indian Foreign Minister accompanies Mrs Gandhi we would of course have to match him on our side. The Indians well understand that we foresee no need for a second session of talks with Mrs Thatcher, and are content.

Lunch. We shall let you have a draft guest list by the end of this week.

Meeting with intellectuals. The British Academy and the Royal Society have responded favourably to our suggestion of a gathering under their joint sponsorship. This is acceptable in principle to Mrs Gandhi, but she has asked to see a list of those who might attend. We are making further soundings.

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/ Inaugural



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Inaugural Concert. The Prince of Wales will attend. The Festival Trust have asked whether the Prime Minister will be accompanied by Mr Thatcher and/or members of her staff. We should be grateful for your advice.

Reception. We now propose to hold this in the ballroom of the Festival Hall, thus obviating the need to move guests across the river. Given that this function is largely intended to cater for those attending the opening event of the Festival, it might most appropriately be hosted by the Minister for the Arts. Mr Channon would be happy to take this on if the Prime Minister so wishes. If Mrs Thatcher is content with our revised proposals for the reception, we hope she will find it convenient to make a brief appearance before returning home at the conclusion of the concert. The Festival Trust have let us know that they attach some importance to both Prime Ministers and the Prince of Wales looking in on this event. * ~~~~~ *

Tuesday 23 March

Nehru Exhibition. According to advice given to our High Commission in New Delhi, Mrs Gandhi does not wish there to be a formal opening of this event, though she will look in on it at some point during her stay. We have made it clear to Mr Swraj Paul on more than one occasion that the Prime Minister will be unable to accompany Mrs Gandhi to this event but he apparently could not resist trying his lunch with you. A draft reply to Mr Paul's letter of 19 January is enclosed.

Visit to Selfridges. This is a very recent addition to the programme, which the Indian High Commission say has been approved by Mrs Gandhi.

Hayward Gallery. The opening of this exhibition is being timed to take account of Question Time. Sir John Thomson hopes to be able to persuade Mrs Gandhi to conduct the actual opening ceremony, as suggested by Mrs Thatcher. We suspect from our recent exchanges with the Indian High Commission that Mrs Gandhi hopes that a favourable response from her will influence the Prime Minister's reaction to the suggestion that in turn she would open the Science Museum Exhibition (see below).

IBA Dinner. Mr Swraj Paul had earlier assured us that he would be content for the dinner to take place on Wednesday 24 March even though 23 March was the date originally proposed. We learned of his intention to confirm his booking at the Dorchester on 23 March only after he had consulted you and told us that (as he appears to claim in his letter to you) he had received an assurance that you saw no objection in principle to that day (his letter of 19 January to you refers). As you know from your own contacts with him, Mr Paul is adept at getting his way by playing one side off against another. On this occasion he seems to have convinced himself that he was on strong ground in unilaterally changing the date of the dinner, even to the extent of issuing formal invitations to a host of Cabinet Ministers



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and other persons of consequence before Mrs Thatcher's views had been sought. We accept the blame for having failed to check back on the Prime Minister's convenience before sending our telno 81 to Delhi. For our part, we left him in no doubt of the risks involved in his proceeding on the assumption that the concurrence of the two Prime Ministers could be taken for granted. As it is Mrs Gandhi has now confirmed that she will attend. Despite the unsatisfactory way in which this has been dealt with, I hope that the Prime Minister will also be able to agree to attend on 23 March. The enclosed draft reply to Mr Paul's letter of 19 January on this subject assumes that she will. The Indians understand that the attendance at the IBA by both Prime Ministers makes it difficult to arrange return hospitality hosted by Mrs Gandhi.

Wednesday 24 March

Meeting with Sir Denis Hamilton. This event is being arranged by the Indian High Commission following a direct approach made to Mrs Gandhi by Sir D Hamilton.

Press Conference. The Indians are content for this to be an opportunity for Mrs Gandhi to face the press on her own, possibly under the auspices of the Indian Journalists Association and the Commonwealth Press Union. We have been asked to help identify a suitable venue.

* ~~~~~ *

Science Museum. The Indians have asked that the opening of this exhibition be put back one hour to fit in with peak TV viewing time in Delhi. The Duke of Edinburgh will not be able to attend because of a commitment abroad. Mrs Gandhi has expressed a particular wish that the Prime Minister should open the exhibition. It seems that she derived much pleasure from the remarks made by Mrs Thatcher in India last April about the achievements of Indian science and would like to hear more of the same on this occasion. This is of course the event of the Festival to which the Indians themselves attach most importance. They are clearly concerned that if it is not inaugurated by someone of the Prime Minister's standing it will go relatively unmarked by the British press. We should be grateful if the Prime Minister would agree to Mrs Gandhi's request, and to the timing preferred by the Indians.

Indian Reception. This will be held at the Science Museum. It will not now be a separate event, but will instead follow immediately after the inauguration of the exhibition. As this will be the only hospitality offered by the Indian side throughout Mrs Gandhi's visit, we hope that the Prime Minister will agree to put in an appearance. It would very likely offend the Indians were she not to do so.

CONFIDENTIAL

/Thursday



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Thursday 25 March

Departure. Mrs Gandhi is now thinking in terms of spending this extra day privately with friends. Subject to the Prime Minister's views, Mr Hurd would be prepared to see off Mrs Gandhi.

Speeches

There will be a requirement for the Prime Minister to make speeches at her lunch on 22 March, at the Indo-British Association dinner on 23 March and, if Mrs Thatcher agrees to open it, at the Science Museum Exhibition on 24 March. The first and last of these will be very short and might deal with, respectively, aspects of Indo-British bilateral relations and India's contribution to scientific development. The IBA function is rather different. It seems to us that it presents an opportunity for a more substantial speech aimed at a wider audience than that attending the dinner. In addition to Indo-British relations, Mrs Thatcher might, for example, say something of the problems and opportunities which the world will face in the next decade and of the need for statesmen to find solutions. Another possible theme might be community relations in Britain. We should be grateful for your views. We note that drafts should reach you by Friday 5 March.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing St

**~* Passages deleted and censored, 40 years,
under FOI Exemption.*

*Wayland
25 September 2012*

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VISIT TO THE UK BY MRS INDIRA GANDHI

21-25 MARCH 1982

Sunday 21 March

XX 1800 Arrival

Monday 22 March

XX 1100-1300 Talks with Prime Minister

XX 1300 for 1315 Lunch given by Prime Minister

PM Meeting at British Academy/Royal Society

XX 2000 Inaugural Concert of Festival of India,
followed by

XX 2215 HM Government Reception

Tuesday 23 March

0900 Call by Leader of Opposition

1030 Event linked to Spastics Society

1115 Visit to Nehru Exhibition

1230 for 1300 Lord Mayor's lunch

1530 Visit 'See India' exhibition at Selfridges

XX 1630 Opening of Hayward Gallery Exhibition

1800-1900 Reception by Indian High Commissioner for
Indian Community

XX 2000 Indo/British Association Dinner

Wednesday 24 March1000 Meeting with Sir Denis Hamilton and senior
representatives of the media

1115 Press Conference

1300 Lunch with HM The Queen

XX 1600 Opening of Science Museum Exhibition, followed by
Indian Government Reception

1745 Tea with the Speaker

1815-1915 Address Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

PM Private visit to theatre

/Thursday 25 March

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Thursday 25 March

To be spent privately

2200

Departure

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B/F 9/2/82

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 February 1982

Visit by the Prime Minister of India

As I told you on the telephone this afternoon, I am somewhat concerned about the arrangements for this visit. I must stress that the Prime Minister has agreed only to the arrangements set out in my letter of 12 January to Roderic Lyne.

I have, however, noted subsequently that other arrangements are under consideration. FCO telegram no. 80 of 25 January authorised the High Commission in Delhi to say that if a second round of talks proved necessary, we would fit it in as best we could. I explained to Roderic Lyne at the time that this was not consistent with my letter of 12 January since the Prime Minister's clear preference is that there should be no second round of talks. I imagine, therefore, that nothing has been said to the Indians to suggest to them that a second round can be arranged.

Rather more seriously, my letter of 12 January conveyed the Prime Minister's agreement to attend the Indo-British Association dinner on Wednesday, 24 March. I have since seen a number of references to this dinner taking place on 23 March. Indeed Mr. Swraj Paul has invited a number of people to attend on that day. This was one of the points which I hoped would be taken up in response to my letter of 21 January to Roderic Lyne, a reply to which I am still awaiting.

I further notice that, while my letter of 12 January stated that the Prime Minister could attend the opening of the Science Museum exhibition at 1500 hours, FCO telegram no. 81 of 25 January refers to the exhibition being opened at 1600 hours.

I must stress, as I did in my letter of 12 January, that the Prime Minister's diary for the week in question is very heavily committed, quite apart from the visit of Mrs. Gandhi. It is therefore more than usually necessary that great care should be taken to ensure that the Prime Minister's wishes in respect of the programme are precisely met.

/Finally,

Finally, my letter asks for an early indication of any requirement that there may be for the Prime Minister to make a speech or speeches during Mrs. Gandhi's visit. I should now be grateful for a reply on this point so that some preliminary planning may begin.

B.F. | It would be most helpful if I could receive by close of play tomorrow advice on the various programme points mentioned above.

A. J. COLES

~~A. J. COLES~~

John Holmes Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr. Finlayson(4162)

CAROLINE

Gala Concert on Monday, 22 March

The Foreign Office have asked who will be accompanying the Prime Minister to the Gala Concert on 22 March?

Sue

John Gales
Who do you think?

et.

5 February 1982

8/2

Caroline

We shall have to ask the P.M. - but I don't want to put all the points on this visit to her separately. Let the F./C.O. give us a list of points to discuss.

2. I think I should probably accompany her. There will be a question of whether Mr. Thatcher should. Who have

are the Indians bringing?

A.T.C. $\frac{1}{2}$.

CONFIDENTIAL attachment.

Arts Council of Great Britain 105 Piccadilly London W1V 0AU Telephone 01-629 9495 Telegrams Amec London W1

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

Chairman The Rt Hon Kenneth Robinson
Secretary-General Sir Roy Shaw, D.Litt.

1st February, 1982.

Dear John,

*A.P.C. 72
f-a-*

Festival of India

You may like to have a copy of the attached paper (AIT(82)7) which I have circulated for the next meeting of the Festival Trust.

Thank you for your help over nomenclature, which is always a problem. As regards the presence of Mr. Thatcher at the Inaugural Concert, I have asked Michael Burton to include the point in his next submission to you about the arrangements in general.

*Yours sincerely,
- Keith J.*

Keith Jeffery
Adviser for External Affairs

Enc:

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THE Festival of India

AIT(82)7

FESTIVAL TRUST

Visit of the Prime Minister of India

Note by the Administrative Director.

Trustees will wish to be aware at this stage of the outline of the programme that Mrs. Thatcher is suggesting to Mrs. Gandhi for her visit to London from 21st to 25th March. This is attached.

Trustees are asked to bear in mind the confidential nature of this programme at the present time; and also that, pending Mrs. Gandhi's response, the programme must be regarded as a draft.

K. H. Jeffery

KHJ/NVC.

29th January, 1982.

CONFIDENTIALDRAFT PROGRAMME FOR MRS. GANDHI'S VISIT.

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>Sunday,</u> <u>21st March</u>	Arrival (probably by special aircraft).	Mrs. Thatcher will be at the airport, unless touchdown time is unduly late.
<u>Monday,</u> <u>22nd March</u>		
11.00 a.m.	10 Downing Street for <u>trade</u> talks with Mrs. Thatcher, supported by other Government Ministers as appropriate.	
12.45 p.m. for 1 p.m.	Luncheon at 10 Downing Street, as guest of Mrs. Thatcher.	Luncheon party totalling probably 48.
7.50 p.m.	Arrive Royal Festival Hall	
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.	Inaugural Concert at Royal Festival Hall.	H.R.H. The Prince of Wales and Mrs. Thatcher will be present.
10.15 p.m.	Reception to be given by H.M.G. at the Royal Festival Hall, with the U.K. Minister for the Arts as Host.	Mrs. Thatcher will attend for at least part of the time.
<u>Tuesday,</u> <u>23rd March</u>		
9 a.m.	Call by Leader of the Opposition.	
? 11 a.m.	? Meeting with the Speaker of the House of Commons.	
12.30 p.m. for 1 p.m.	Luncheon as guest of the Lord Mayor of London.	
4.30 p.m.	Opening of Hayward Gallery Exhibition	Mrs. Thatcher will be present.
5.30 p.m.	Reception by Indian High Commissioner at Commonwealth Institute for the expatriate Indian community in the U.K.	
7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.	Banquet at Dorchester Hotel given by Mr. Swraj Paul, as Chairman of Indo-British Association.	<u>Major</u> speeches by Mrs. Gandhi and Mrs. Thatcher. Mr. Foot and Mr. Paul will also speak.

Wednesday,
24th March

- 11 a.m. Opening of Nehru Exhibition at
Ambika House.
- 1 p.m. Luncheon with H.M. The Queen.
- 4 p.m. Opening of Science Museum Exhibition. Mrs. Thatcher will be
present.
- c. 4.45 p.m. Indian Government Reception at Science
Museum, with the Chairman of the Indian
Advisory Committee as host.

Thursday,
25th March

a.m. Departure.

Still to be fitted into the programme:

- (1) Visit to Childrens Hospital, Spastics' Unit or Spastics Society.
- (2) Press Conference.
- (3) ? Meeting with Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

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FM FCO 251200Z JANUARY 82
TO IMMEDIATE DELHI
TELEGRAM NUMBER 81 OF 25 JANUARY
MIPT: MRS GANDHI'S VISIT

1. SUGGESTED PROGRAMME IS AS FOLLOWS:

SUNDAY 21 MARCH

LATE PM ARRIVAL (MET BY PRIME MINISTER)

MONDAY 22 MARCH

1100-1300 TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER

1300 LUNCH GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER

2000 INAUGURAL CONCERT OF FESTIVAL OF INDIA

(PRIME MINISTER AND PRINCE OF WALES WILL ATTEND)

2215 HM GOVERNMENT RECEPTION (PM WILL MAKE BRIEF
APPEARANCE)

TUESDAY 23 MARCH

0900 CALL BY LEADER OF OPPOSITION

1230 FOR 1300 LORD MAYOR'S LUNCH

1630 OPENING OF HAYWARD GALLERY (PM WILL ATTEND)

1730 RECEPTION BY INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIAN
COMMUNITY

2000 INDO/BRITISH ASSOCIATION DINNER (PM WILL ATTEND)

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH

1100 OPENING OF NEHRU EXHIBITION

1300 LUNCH WITH THE QUEEN

1600 OPENING OF SCIENCE MUSEUM EXHIBITION FOLLOWED
BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT RECEPTION (PM WILL ATTEND)

THURSDAY 25 MARCH

AM DEPARTURE

2. IN ADDITION, MRS GANDHI MIGHT CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING OTHER
ENGAGEMENTS TO BE FITTED IN AS TIME ALLOWS:

A) COFFEE WITH THE SPEAKER (AM TUESDAY 23 MARCH PENCILLED IN
DIARY)

B) MEETING WITH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

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(1800-1900 WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH PENCILLED IN DIARY)

- C) BASATA SEMINAR
- D) MEETING WITH BRITISH INTELLECTUALS INVOLVING BRITISH ACADEMY AND ROYAL SOCIETY
- E) PRESS CONFERENCE BY MRS GANDHI
- F) EVENT LINKED TO SPASTICS SOCIETY.

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TO IMMEDIATE DELHI

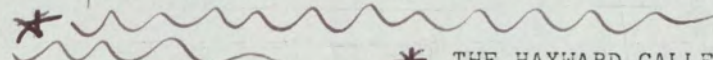
TELEGRAM NUMBER 80 OF 25 JANUARY

MY TELNOS 21 AND 22: MRS GANDHI'S VISIT

1. WE NOW KNOW THE WISHES OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRINCE OF WALES ABOUT MRS GANDHI'S PROGRAMME. MIFT CONTAINS A REVISED DRAFT PROGRAMME WHICH YOU SHOULD NOW PUT TO THE INDIANS. WE SHALL ALSO SPEAK TO THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION HERE.

2. IN PRESENTING THE PROGRAMME TO THE INDIANS YOU MAY LIKE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE PRIME MINISTER WISHES TO PLAY THE FULLEST POSSIBLE PART IN MRS GANDHI'S PROGRAMME WHICH HER OTHER FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMITMENTS WILL ALLOW. SHE WOULD HOWEVER FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERTAKE MORE THAN 2 EVENING ENGAGEMENTS. IN ADDITION TO THE INAUGURAL CONCERT, THE PRIME MINISTER IS PREPARED TO ATTEND THE INDO/BRITISH ASSOCIATION DINNER, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT MRS GANDHI WILL DO SO. THIS FUNCTION OR THE GOI RECEPTION ON 24 MARCH, WHICH CAN BE SAID TO CLOSE THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME, CAN PRESUMABLY TAKE THE PLACE OF A RETURN DINNER WHICH MRS GANDHI MIGHT HAVE OFFERED IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. SWRAJ PAUL CONTRARY TO ADVICE HAS ALREADY ISSUED INVITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER (WHO HAS ACCEPTED) AND NUMEROUS OTHER PERSONALITIES FOR THE IBA DINNER ON 23 MARCH.

B. *  * THE HAYWARD GALLERY OPENING WILL THEREFORE REVERT TO ITS ORIGINAL TIME ON 23 MARCH.

C. THE PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT WISH TO HOST THE GOVERNMENT RECEPTION AFTER THE INAUGURAL CONCERT. INSTEAD THE RECEPTION WILL BE HOSTED BY ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE 2 PRIME MINISTERS WILL PUT IN AN APPEARANCE. MR PAUL CHANNON HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACT AS HOST BUT WE HAVE YET TO PUT THIS TO NO 10.

D. IT IS NOT USUALLY NECESSARY TO HAVE 2 SESSIONS OF

/TALKS ON

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TALKS ON A VISIT OF THIS KIND, WHEN 2 PRIME MINISTERS MEET FREQUENTLY. SHOULD A SECOND ROUND PROVE NECESSARY, WE WOULD FIT IT IN AS BEST WE COULD.

? | X

E. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ANSWERING QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE ON 23 MARCH AND WILL CONSEQUENTLY NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE LORD MAYOR'S LUNCH. THIS CONSTRAINT ALSO EFFECTS THE TIMING OF THE OPENING OF THE HAYWARD GALLERY EXHIBITION.

F. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT SWRAJ PAUL'S INVITATION TO OPEN THE NEHRU EXHIBITION (OF PHOTOGRAPHS), UNLESS SHE COULD WITHDRAW FROM ONE OF THE OTHER MAJOR EVENTS, WHICH IS CLEARLY NOT DESIRABLE.

G. * ~

No. I have
looked the F.I.C.O.
that this is not
consistent with
my letter of 12
Nov and must
be retracted.

A.T.C.?

H. THE SPEAKER IS KEEN TO ENTERTAIN MRS GANDHI AND HAS INVITED HER TO DINNER ON THURSDAY 25 MARCH. HE APPRECIATES THAT THIS IS PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE AND IS CONTENT TO SETTLE FOR MORNING COFFEE ON 23 MARCH, IF MRS GANDHI WOULD LIKE THIS.

I. THE PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT WISH TO PURSUE THE SUGGESTION THAT MRS GANDHI MIGHT ADDRESS A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. SHE SUGGESTS THAT THE BEST ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE A MEETING WITH THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, AT WHICH MRS GANDHI MIGHT MAKE A SPEECH. THE CPA WELCOME THE IDEA. IDEALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE LINKED THIS OCCASION WITH HER RECEPTION BY THE SPEAKER BUT THIS DOES NOT LOOK PRACTICABLE.

J. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET MRS GANDHI AT THE AIRPORT, PROVIDED THAT THE AIRCRAFT ARRIVES AT A REASONABLE TIME IN THE AFTERNOON.

K. BASATA ARE ARRANGING A SEMINAR ON INDO/BRITISH TRADE TO COINCIDE WITH MRS GANDHI'S VIIT AND THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL. THEY HAVE ASKED IF MRS GANDHI MIGHT INAUGURATE IT OR PUT IN AN APPEARANCE. WE THINK THIS WOULD GIVE A USEFUL COMMERCIAL CONTENT TO THE VISIT, WITHOUT OVER-TONES OF THE HARD-SELL. IF MRS GANDHI ADDRESSED THE SEMINAR, SHE COULD PRESUMABLY SPEAK

* ~ * Passages deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FOI Exemption.

Wayland
25 September 2012

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ABOUT THE IMBALANCE OF TRADE.

L. IN ORDER TO FULFILL MRS GANDHI'S WISH TO MEET INTELLECTUALS, THE BRITISH ACADEMY ARE WILLING TO ARRANGE A MEETING, POSSIBLY ALSO INCLUDING SOME FELLOWS FROM THE ROYAL SOCIETY. THIS MIGHT BE AT TEATIME ON 22 MARCH.

M. IT IS CLEAR FROM SOUNDINGS WE HAVE MADE THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IN THE TIME REMAINING TO MAKE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS WITH THE NEHRU CHAIR TO MAKE A VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE WORTHWHILE. MEANWHILE, CAMBRIDGE HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR HONORARY DEGREES FOR 1982 WHICH ARE GIVEN AT A SPECIAL ANNUAL CEREMONY IN JUNE. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IN ANY CASE TO FIT IN A VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE BUT THESE CONSIDERATIONS LEAD US TO THINK THAT WE MUST AVOID ANY QUESTION OF THE INCLUSION OF A VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE, LEST THERE SHOULD BE ANY EXPECTATION OF AN HONORARY DEGREE OR OF INAUGURATING THE NEHRU CHAIR.

N. THE DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS WILL POSE A PROBLEM WHICH WE SHALL NOT TRY TO RESOLVE UNTIL WE KNOW WHEN MRS GANDHI WILL WANT TO LEAVE. YOU WILL BE AWARE THAT CABINET AND PM'S QUESTIONS MEAN THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER IN PERSON TO SEE OFF MRS GANDHI. |?

3. PLEASE LET US KNOW MRS GANDHI'S WISHES ABOUT THE RESERVE ENGAGEMENTS SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 OF MIFT, HER TRAVEL DETAILS AND THE COMPOSITION OF HER PARTY.

CARRINGTON

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India

BIC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 January 1982

Visit by the Prime Minister of India

My letter of 12 January dealt with a number of points relating to the programme for the above visit.

Mr. Swraj Paul of the Indo-British Association rang me a few days ago to say that Mrs. Gandhi attached particular importance to the opening of the Nehru Exhibition. He hoped, therefore, that the Prime Minister would agree to perform the inauguration ceremony. I said that the Prime Minister might well be sympathetic to this idea but that I did not think she could reasonably take on another commitment in respect of this visit. Perhaps a solution could be found by substituting the opening of the Nehru Exhibition for some other event.

Mr. Paul has now written me a letter about this matter. I enclose a copy. I also enclose a second letter of the same date which he has written to me in connection with the Indo-British Association Dinner. I should be grateful if these two letters could be considered against the background of my letter of 12 January and if you could let me have draft replies to them in due course.

A. J. COLES

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Caparo House
103 Baker Street
London W1M 1FD
Telephone 01-486 1417



SP/EBA/IBA

21 January 1982

Dear John.

19
2
f-a.

The Indo-British Association has arranged a special dinner to welcome Mrs Indira Gandhi on her forthcoming visit to this country.

The dinner will be held in the Ballroom at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London W1 on Tuesday 23 March 1982 at 8.00 p.m. and I very much hope that you and Mrs Coles will join us as our guests on this occasion.

The Association had the privilege of welcoming Mrs Gandhi three years ago and we are proud that she has again accepted our invitation to address the members and friends of the IBA. The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker on this occasion and the function will also be graced by the presence of the Rt Hon Mr Michael Foot, MP, who will speak on behalf of H.M. Loyal Opposition.

I should be pleased if you would let me know whether you are able to attend and, if so, I will forward to you the formal invitation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Swraj Paul', written over a large, loopy scribble.

Swraj Paul

Mr John Coles
The Prime Minister's Office
Downing Street
London SW1

Caparo House
103 Baker Street, London W1M 1FD
Telephone: 01-486 1417. Telex: 8811343

SP/EBA/CH

19 January 1982

Dear John,

Re: Nehru Exhibition

I have spoken to you regarding the Nehru Exhibition which we are opening at Ambika House, 11 Portland Place, London W1 on 22 March 1982.

It will be a permanent exhibition on the life of Nehru and his contribution to Indo-British friendship.

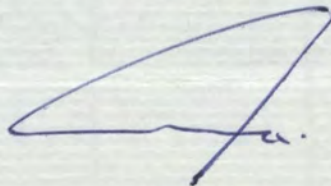
We would very much like Mrs Margaret Thatcher to open this exhibition and could you kindly make a request on our behalf.

Mrs Indira Gandhi has agreed to attend the opening, but she also thought it would be more appropriate if Mrs Thatcher were to open it, and I look forward to hearing from you.

We would like the exhibition to be opened at about 11.00 a.m. and it will be followed by a short Reception in order that we may take as little of the Prime Minister's time as possible.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Swraj Paul', with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

Swraj Paul

Mr A.J. Coles
The Prime Ministers Office
10 Downing Street
London SW1

P.S. If the time of the opening of the exhibition needs to be changed to suit the Prime Minister we would be happy to do so.



bc: Mr. Hagan
Miss Stephens

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 January 1982

B/F

VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Thank you for your letter of 8 January. Given the fact that the Prime Minister is a Patron of the Festival of India and given the programme arranged by Mrs. Gandhi for Mrs. Thatcher's visit to India last year, the Prime Minister wishes to play the fullest possible part in the programme outlined in your letter. But there are a number of other important foreign and domestic commitments at the time and it would therefore be difficult for the Prime Minister to undertake all the commitments you suggest. I shall take them in chronological order.

Sunday 21 March

Provided Mrs. Gandhi's aircraft arrives at a reasonable time in the afternoon, the Prime Minister agrees to receive her at the airport. You will be aware that this is an unusual gesture. The Prime Minister has asked whether a guard of honour should be provided. Perhaps you would let me have your comments on this in due course.

B/F
19/1/82

Monday 22 March

The Prime Minister agrees to hold talks with Mrs. Gandhi but these should be timed for 1100 to 1300 hours. The talks would be followed by lunch for up to 48 people. I should be grateful for a draft guest list by 24 February.

B/F
23/2/82

The Prime Minister agrees to your putting to the Palace the suggestion that Prince Charles might attend the Gala Concert at the Festival Hall. Mrs. Thatcher would in any case attend. The suggestion of a reception after the Concert is less attractive. This would appear to be a somewhat unnecessary commitment for the Prime Minister at the end of the day. The business of moving guests across the River from the Festival Hall might be rather cumbersome. The Prime Minister is therefore not inclined to undertake this engagement.

Tuesday 23 March

It is unusual for the Prime Minister to have two sessions of talks during a visit of this kind. The provision for a second session should therefore be deleted. If, after the first round of

/ talks

talks, it appeared that there was a real need for a further short session, it might be possible to find time for this, but we hope the requirement will not arise.

B/F
9/1/82
The Prime Minister agrees with your suggestion that a formal request should be put to the Lord Mayor to host a lunch for Mrs. Gandhi. The Prime Minister would not of course be able to attend since she will be answering Questions in the House early in the afternoon.

The constraints of Question Time will also affect the timing of the opening of the Hayward Gallery Exhibition. The Prime Minister would be prepared to attend the opening during any half-hour between 1615 and 1715 hours. She has commented that she thinks the actual opening should be conducted by Mrs. Gandhi. You will no doubt let me know the precise arrangements in due course.

Wednesday 24 March

The Prime Minister agrees that a formal proposal should be put to the Palace that The Queen should give lunch for Mrs. Gandhi.

Mrs. Thatcher could attend the opening of the Science Museum Exhibition at 1500 hours. Again, it would be helpful to have precise details of the arrangements in due course. Mrs. Thatcher has noted the suggestion that the Duke of Edinburgh might conduct the opening ceremony and considers this would be an excellent arrangement.

B/F
9/1/82
The remaining two events proposed for this day present some problems. If the Indian Government decide to give a reception at 1700 hours the Prime Minister will certainly not wish to give offence by not putting in an appearance. On the other hand, it would really be much more convenient if she only had to attend one social event on that day. One possibility might be for the reception to take place immediately before the Indo-British Association Dinner and at the same venue. The Prime Minister would be prepared in any event to attend the Indo-British Association Dinner. I should be grateful to know in due course whether you are able to make a rather more satisfactory arrangement for the Indian Government reception.

The enclosure to your letter raises one or two other questions. On the whole, the Prime Minister does not favour the suggestion that Mrs. Gandhi might address a joint session of both Houses of Parliament. She believes that the best arrangement would be a reception given by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, at which Mrs. Gandhi might make a speech.

The Prime Minister does not favour the idea of a joint press conference. We should prefer Mrs. Gandhi to give her own press conference, if she so wishes. Our own press briefing would be conducted in the normal way by the Prime Minister's Press Secretary.

B/F
4/3/81
Finally, I should be grateful for an early indication of any requirement there may be for the Prime Minister to make a speech or speeches. Drafts for these should reach me by Friday, 5 March.

A. J. COLES

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 January 1982

Dear John,

Visit by the Prime Minister of India

In your letter of 21 December you enquired about Mrs Gandhi's programme. I now enclose a working draft, on which the events likely to involve Mrs Thatcher personally are marked 'xx'.

The draft programme is built around the three main opening events of the Festival of India: the gala concert, ~~at~~ the Hayward Exhibition Gallery and the Science Museum. The Lord Mayor's lunch on 23 March and lunch with The Queen on 24 March have been pencilled in by the Mansion House and the Palace respectively. If the Prime Minister is content we shall formally request them.

*Passage deleted and closed, 40 years,
under FoI Exemption.*

Wayland

25 September 2012

As regards the other two opening events in the Festival, we would now propose that the two Prime Ministers should jointly open the Hayward Gallery exhibition on the afternoon of 23 March and also the Science Museum Exhibition on the afternoon of 24 March.

/We

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



We hope these two engagements can be pencilled into Mrs Thatcher's diary

* ~

We do not know whether Mrs Gandhi will be accompanied by her Foreign Minister. We shall not encourage it, for Lord Carrington will almost certainly have to attend a meeting of the EC Council of Ministers on 22 and 23 March.

~ *

We are once again presented with an awkward problem about who should meet Mrs Gandhi at the airport on her arrival. If our normal practice is to be followed, the Prime Minister would not go to the airport for an official visit of this kind (cf the arrangements for the reception of the Spanish Prime Minister on 8 January). However, as you will remember, Mrs Thatcher was welcomed at the airport in Delhi, with some ceremony, by Mrs Gandhi in person. Mrs Gandhi will doubtless look for this compliment to be returned. On the assumption that she will reach London Airport at a reasonable hour on the afternoon of Sunday 21 March, would the Prime Minister agree to meet her? If not, we shall naturally try to arrange for the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to do so, before his own departure for Brussels.

If you are content, we would like to put a programme along the lines of the attached draft to the Indian Government as soon as possible.

It would be particularly appropriate if this could be done by Mr Hurd who is sure to see Mrs Gandhi on Monday 11 January

The letter arrived too late for this. AM 11

* ~

very early reply would therefore be most helpful. The Resident Clerk will be briefed in case a reply is available before Monday morning, 11 January.

~ * A

*yours ever
Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

* ~ * Passages deleted and closed, 40 years, under FOI Exemption.

AWayland

25 September 2012



VISIT TO THE UK BY MRS INDIRA GANDHI; 22 - 24 MARCH 1982

Sunday 21 March

xx Late pm Arrival

Monday 22 March

xx 1030 - 1230 Talks with Prime Minister

xx 1245 for 1300 Lunch at No 10 Downing Street (for up to 48)

xx 2000 Inaugural concert of Festival of India followed by

xx 2215 approx HM Government Reception (Banqueting House/ Lancaster House) *PM Host* ?Tuesday 23 March

0900 Call by Leader of Opposition

xx Second session of talks

1230 for 1300 Lord Mayor's lunch

xx pm Opening of Hayward Gallery Exhibition

2000 Reception by Indian High Commissioner for Indian Community

Wednesday 24 March

1100 Opening of Nehru Exhibition

1300 [Lunch with Her Majesty The Queen]

xx 1500 Opening of Science Museum Exhibition

xx 1700 Indian Government Reception

xx 2000 Indo/British Association Dinner

Thursday 25 March

am Departure

Reserve engagements: Meeting with British Intellectuals: Meeting with British Parliamentarians



Comments and Points for Decision relating
to the Draft Programme
at Annex A

1. The following are comments on the firm ideas in the draft programme:

a. Political talks: the draft programme suggests that there should be two sessions of political talks between the two Prime Ministers. The first session, on the morning of Monday 22 March, might cover international political and economic questions. The second (which could be either on the Monday afternoon, or on the morning of Tuesday 23 March) might concentrate on bilateral matters, including any major commercial deals which are ripe for conclusion at the time.

b. Press Conference: although not yet written into the programme, a press conference will obviously be required at a convenient point. It could either be immediately after the political talks, or towards the end of the third day of the programme. The Indians are not accustomed to joint conferences and may prefer Mrs Gandhi to conduct it alone. If it were held after the political talks, then a joint conference at No 10 would seem more suitable; questions would tend to focus on the content of the talks. Otherwise it might be held by Mrs Gandhi after the opening of the Science Museum Exhibition, in which case the questions would range more widely over the visit as a whole. We should be grateful for your views.

c. Government hospitality: Although it would be usual on a visit of this kind for the Government to offer a dinner early in the programme, this is precluded on this occasion by the gala concert. We therefore suggest that Mrs Thatcher should offer a lunch on the first day. The Government's reception that evening is intended to be more closely related to the Festival.

d. Nehru Exhibition: Mr Swraj Paul, the industrialist of Indian origin who is close to Mrs Gandhi, is anxious to play a part in the visit. He tells us that Mrs Gandhi has agreed to open a Nehru Exhibition which he is personally financing and arranging.

e. Indo/British Association function: Mr Swraj Paul has also told us that he plans to hold the annual dinner of the Indo/British Association during Mrs Gandhi's visit and that she has agreed to attend this function also. He invited the Prime Minister in October last year and Mrs Thatcher sent a holding reply which implied that she would go if Mrs Gandhi did. However, if the Indian Government wish to include a return dinner in the programme in addition to the reception which they have proposed should follow the Science Museum exhibition, then the Indo/British Association dinner might have to be dropped.



2. As regards the less firm items, our comments are as follows:

a. Meeting with British intellectuals: The Indians have proposed that Mrs Gandhi might meet British intellectuals at some point during her visit. We believe that the idea has come from Mrs Gandhi herself, and a similar meeting was arranged during her visit to Paris in November. Although this suggestion does not lie easily in the British context, it is possible that the British Academy or the Royal Society might be persuaded to lay on a suitable gathering. Alternatively, if the visit to Cambridge goes ahead, she could meet a selection of outstanding academics while she was there. We are therefore treating this as a reserve item at present.

b. Meeting with British Parliamentarians: Another idea which the Indians may favour is for Mrs Gandhi to meet British Parliamentarians. This could take place at the House of Commons, possibly under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. However an alternative idea which will obviously prove more difficult to arrange, is that Mrs Gandhi might address a joint session of both Houses of Parliament. As you know, when the Prime Minister visited Delhi, she addressed both Houses of the Indian Parliament. Although joint addresses of this kind are arranged much less frequently in Britain than in India, such a facility would obviously have a tremendous impact on the visit. Over the past forty years, both Houses of Parliament have been addressed jointly (normally in Westminster or the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords) by Field Marshal Smuts of South Africa, Mr MacKenzie-King of Canada, Mr U Thant (as UN Secretary-General), Mr Kosygin of the USSR, Signor Saragat of Italy, Herr Brandt of the FRG, President de Gaulle of France and - during the American bi-centennial celebrations in 1976 - by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. In the light of these precedents, we consider that the possibility of a joint address by Mrs Gandhi may be worth exploring. However, we shall need to consider carefully what sort of reception Mrs Gandhi might expect from Members of Parliament. If the Prime Minister favours the idea in principle, Lord Carrington would consult the Whips and then take soundings of the Speaker.

c. Visit to Cambridge: This would turn on whether it could coincide with the announcement of the setting up of a Nehru Chair at the University which the Indian High Commissioner and Sir John Thomson have suggested in memory of Mrs Gandhi's father (who was at Trinity). An endowment of £500,000 would be required for this and soundings at Cambridge are still at a preliminary stage. Fund raising for this is basically an Indian responsibility and is being handled in the UK by the Indian High Commissioner. Although it seems unlikely that the full sum of money can be raised before March, the High Commissioner appears reasonably confident that sufficient progress might be made for an announcement to be possible, although his evidence seems rather shaky. The afternoon of 22 March might be a suitable time for the Cambridge visit. An alternative, which would certainly make the programme less rushed,

/would be



would be for Mrs Gandhi to stay on for part of another day, 25 March (although pressures for her to return to Delhi may make this difficult).

d. The Indians wish to allow time for Mrs Gandhi to meet Indian Community leaders, and this is provided for by the Indian High Commissioner's reception suggested for the Tuesday evening. If they also suggest that she meets a large gathering from the community there is some flexibility in the programme to incorporate this as well.



1-8 JAN 1982

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