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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 February 1982

Thank you for your letter of 19 January inviting the Prime Minister to open the Nehru Exhibition at Ambika House next month.

I now understand from Sir John Thomson in New Delhi that although Mrs. Gandhi intends to look in at the exhibition at some point during her stay in London she no longer wishes there to be a formal opening ceremony.

Other commitments would in any case have made it difficult for the Prime Minister to be present but she has asked me to send you her best wishes for a successful exhibition.

A. J. COLES

Mr. Swraj Paul

JS

DRAFT: ~~XXXXX~~ letter / ~~XXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

A J Coles Esq

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:
Mr Swraj Paul
The Indo-British Association
Capero House
103 Baker Street
London WIM IFD

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 19 January inviting the Prime Minister to open the Nehru Exhibition at Ambika House next month.

I now understand from Sir John Thomson in New Delhi that, although Mrs Gandhi intends to look in at the exhibition at some point during her stay in London, she no longer wishes there to be a formal opening ceremony. This is perhaps just as well because I very much regret that, owing to other commitments ^{connected with} ~~in respect of~~ Mrs Gandhi's visit, the Prime Minister would find it impossible to visit Ambika House between 22 and 24 March.

Other commitments would in any case have made it difficult for the Prime Minister to be present but she has

The Prime Minister has however asked me to send you her best wishes for a successful exhibition.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

MR 19.2

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BK

21 January 1982

Thank you for your two letters of 19 January, the first about the Nehru Exhibition and the second about the Indo-British Association Dinner.

I am in touch with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about your suggestions which must obviously be considered against the background of the whole programme for Mrs. Gandhi's visit. I shall write again in due course.

A J COLES

Mr. Swraj Paul



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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. 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.

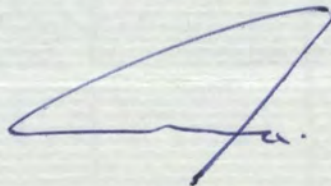
We would very much like Mrs Margaret Thatcher to open this exhibition and could you kindly make a request on our behalf.

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.