

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 2357A/82

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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 61	
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India

GRS 219

RESTRICTED

FM FCO 091100Z DEC 82

TO PRIORITY NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 836 OF 9 DECEMBER

FESTIVAL OF INDIA

GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD PASS ON THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MRS GANDHI:

SINCE WE OPENED THE FESTIVAL OF INDIA TOGETHER IN MARCH, IT HAS BEEN A GREAT DELIGHT TO ME TO FOLLOW THE MAGNIFICENT SUCCESSION OF EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ALL OVER BRITAIN IN THE NAME OF THE FESTIVAL. IT WAS A PARTICULAR PLEASURE TO RECEIVE RAJIV AND SONIA HERE LAST MONTH WHEN THEY CAME TO ATTEND THE CLOSING EVENT. BY ALL ACCOUNTS IT WAS A SPLENDID OCCASION, WHICH I WAS MOST DISAPPOINTED TO MISS.

THE FESTIVAL HAS JUSTLY CELEBRATED NOT ONLY THE RICH TRADITIONS BUT ALSO THE LIVING AND POTENTIAL TALENTS OF INDIA. THE EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES WE HAVE SEEN HAVE BEEN REMARKABLE FOR THEIR QUALITY, VARIETY AND SPIRIT AND HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH ENORMOUS INTEREST AND ENTHUSIASM BY PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.

I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR YOUR SHARED INTEREST: TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ALL THE INSTITUTIONS WHO PUT IN SO MUCH DEVOTED WORK: AND TO THE PERFORMERS AND PARTICIPANTS FOR THE INSPIRATION AND PLEASURE THEY GAVE.

ALTHOUGH THE FESTIVAL LASTED ONLY FOR 8 MONTHS I AM SURE THAT IT WILL ENRICH RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

PYM

DISTRIBUTION:

MINIMAL

SAD

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INFO

NEWS D.



ll

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 December 1982

Thank you so much for your letter of 15 November and the small souvenir which accompanied it and which commemorates the Festival of India.

It has been very pleasant to have been associated, even in a minor way, with such a successful event. An enormous part of the credit for this success is due to your own efforts. I very much hope that ways will be found of building on the achievements of the Festival.

A. J. COLES

Mrs. Pupul Jayakar

ll

HL

6 December 1982

Festival of India

Thank you for your letter of 3 December.

The Prime Minister agrees that the proposed message to Mrs. Gandhi, marking the successful conclusion of the Festival, should be despatched. I take it that you will arrange for this to be telegraphed.

JOHN COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Prime Minister

Agree to send message
as proposed?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Logan
Duty Clerk

4.12.82

3 December 1982

Dear John,

Agreed
ms

Festival of India

Now that the Festival of India has formally ended (Sir Michael Walker's report to the Prime Minister of 15 November and your reply of 17 November), we think it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send a message to her Joint Patron, Mrs Gandhi, to mark the Festival's successful conclusion.

/ I attach a draft of the kind of message we have in mind.

// The Secretary of State has already written a letter of thanks to Sir Michael Walker. You may like to see a copy of this and of Sir Michael's reply.

Yours ever
for Hades

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Shrimati Indira Gandhi

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Since we opened the Festival of India together in March, it has been a great delight to me to follow the magnificent succession of events that have taken place all over Britain in the name of the Festival. It was a particular pleasure to receive Rajiv and Sonia here last month when they came to attend the closing event. By all accounts it was a splendid occasion, which I was most disappointed to miss.

The Festival has justly celebrated not only the rich traditions but also the living and potential talents of India. The exhibitions and performances we have seen have been remarkable for their quality, variety and spirit and have been received with enormous interest and enthusiasm by people of all ages.

I should like to express my gratitude to you and your Government for your shared interest; to the members of the Indian Advisory Committee and all the institutions who put in so much devoted work; and to the performers and participants for the inspiration and pleasure

Enclosures—flag(s).....

/they

gave.

Although the Festival lasted only for 8
months I am sure that it will enrich relations between
our countries and peoples for many years to come.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

From the Secretary of State

23 November 1982

PC 293112

See (272)
See (270)
Dear Sir Michael,

See (276)

83 26/4 "9 27.11

Now that the Festival of India has been brought formally to a close I should like to express my thanks, on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to you and your fellow Trustees, the Festival Administrators and Committee members, for your contribution to this landmark in Indo-British relations.

To mount a Festival of such size, scope and duration has been an enormous undertaking. That it has succeeded so splendidly over its wide-ranging and constantly expanding programme of activities is a tribute to the unflagging energy, enthusiasm and devotion of you and your colleagues, and not least to your steady and able Chairmanship throughout.

The Festival has revitalised Indo-British relations at many levels and its value will continue to be felt in the years to come. I am most grateful to you and your colleagues for all your efforts.

Yours very sincerely
Francis Pym

(FRANCIS PYM)

Sir Michael Walker, GCMG

Trustees
 Sir Michael Walker GCMG Chairman
 The Rt Hon Lord Aldington KCMG CBE DSO
 Mr John Burgh CB
 Mr R P Chandaria
 The Lord Chitnis
 Sir John Cuckney
 Mr Maneck Dalal
 The Earl of Harewood
 Sir Ronald McIntosh, KCB
 Mr Swraj Paul
 The Rt Hon Kenneth Robinson
 HE Dr VA Seyid Muhammad
 Dr K S Shelvankar
 Mr A J Shepperd



Festival of India

Patrons
 The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
 Shrimati Indira Gandhi

Festival of India Office,
 Room 64/G Government Offices,
 Great George Street,
 London SW1A 1AA.
 Telephones: 01 233 5986 and 233 3603

PC 293/12

24 November 1982

→ Top copy to
C.R.A.

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP
 Secretary of State for Foreign
 and Commonwealth Affairs

cc SAA (Mr. P. ...)
 26/11
 G.P.S.
 P.S./R.H.D.
 (274) P.O.A.

Your Secretary of State.

I was most grateful for your letter of 23 November and for your extremely generous tribute to all of us who have been working for the Festival of India. It has been a privilege for us to work for this imaginative joint venture with India and we are naturally delighted by its success and particularly pleased by your assessment of the contribution the Festival has made to closer Indo-British relations.

Your letter arrived in time for me to circulate it to the Members of the Trust at our meeting yesterday and I will see that it is also conveyed to the Members of the other Committees and of the Festival Office. I know that all of them would wish to join me in thanking you for your kind letter which will give everyone much pleasure.

Perhaps I may take this opportunity of telling you how much we have been helped by the consistent backing we have received from both the South Asian Department and Cultural Relations Department. It has been a great reassurance for us always to be able to turn to Michael Burton or John Macrae and their Departments for help or advice and I should like you to know how grateful I am to them all for the consistent support they have given.

Yours sincerely,
 Michael Walker

Michael Walker
 Chairman
 Festival of India Trust

2. Re We shall have to consider possible rewards in conjunction with ...

1. Lord N. G. ...
 2. C.C. ...
 26/11

[Handwritten signature]