



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 July, 1983

*Dear Sir*

India: UN Summit Proposal: Call by Mr L K Jha, Monday,  
11 July, at 11 am

Thank you for your letter of 7 July confirming that the Prime Minister has agreed to see Mr L K Jha at 11 am on Monday, 11 July. I enclose a brief, which I shall be submitting in parallel to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

We shall be writing separately with advice on the Prime Minister's proposed visit to North America in September. You will see that we think it would be prudent for the visit to be so arranged as to allow the Prime Minister to spend a day in New York, seeing Mrs Gandhi and one or two of the other Heads of Government who may turn up for the 'Summit', if this seemed desirable nearer the time. We do not recommend that the Prime Minister should allude to this possibility, or to her plans for a visit to North America, to Mr Jha; nor does the brief mention it. But the possibility is something the Prime Minister may wish to have in mind when she discusses the proposed 'Summit' with him.

*Am, Mr,  
Jha*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MR L K JHA, MONDAY 11 JULY 1983 AT  
11 AM

POINTS TO MAKE

PROPOSED UN SUMMIT

1. Open mind on Mrs Gandhi's proposal. Reactions of other countries?
  
2. Frankly, difficult to give firm view on a proposal which is still so vague. Summit of indeterminate number of World Heads of Government poses obvious problems of organisation. Does Mrs Gandhi intend
  - (a) a meeting or a series of meetings attended by all Heads of Government who choose to turn up in New York that week?  
or
  - (b) more selective gatherings? or
  - (c) a series of bilaterals, with Heads of Government addressing the General Assembly as on previous such occasions?
  
3. If (a), or (b), what agenda? What Chairmanship? What sort of conclusions? And if (b), who to choose? If (c), do not recall much coming from previous UN Summits: occasions more for rhetoric than for serious negotiation.
  
4. Preserve open mind at this stage. Certainly do not dismiss idea of attending. But still need to see carefully whether attendance would be useful and what our partners have in mind. In any event, look forward very much to seeing Mrs Gandhi at CHOGM.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CONFERENCE [IF RAISED]

5. Not mentioned in closing statement of UNCTAD VI. Williamsburg Declaration represents our ideas correctly.



CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MR L K JHA, MONDAY 11 JULY 1983  
AT 11 AM

ESSENTIAL FACTS

PROPOSED UN SUMMIT

Mr Jha

/ 1. Personality note attached. Here for a meeting at Cambridge. Mrs Gandhi's senior economic adviser. Member of Brandt Commission. Also calling on Governor of the Bank of England, Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Minister for Overseas Development.

Mrs Gandhi's Invitation

/ 2. Letter of 2 April attached, following discussion at NAM Summit (but probably an Indian idea in the first place). Indians have added that Summit should be in week beginning 26 September.

Attitude of others

3. Americans instinctively opposed (although Shultz careful not to take a negative line when in India last week): not ready for Reagan/Andropov summit. Most Europeans privately sceptical, publicly non-committal - but French equivocal. UN Secretary-General not keen.

UK Line so far with Indians

4. Sir R Wade-Gery told Mrs Gandhi on 16 May that the Prime Minister could not, in the circumstances of the elections, then give a substantive reply. The Prime Minister has recently agreed that we should say (if asked) that she continues to be entirely open minded about the idea; and we should press the Indians, if they raise the matter, to explain their ideas for agenda, objectives and organisation.

Previous 'Summits' at the UN

5. 1960 - 23 Heads of State/Government addressed General Assembly (Macmillan, Kruschev, Nehru etc): plus some bilaterals, but no collective 'summit' as such.

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1970 - Special 10-day 25th Anniversary Commemorative session of the General Assembly addressed by 42 Heads of State/Government (Heath, Mrs Gandhi etc): again, no collective 'summit' discussions.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CONFERENCE

6. Agreed at Williamsburg to invite Finance Ministers and IMF to "define the conditions for improving the international monetary system and to consider the part which might, in due course, be played in this process by a high level international monetary conference".

United Nations Department  
8 July 1983

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JHA, L K

Chairman of the Economic Administrative Reforms Committee.

Born 1913; educated at Banares Hindu University and Trinity College Cambridge. Joined ICS in 1937. In 1947 was appointed Joint Chief Controller of Exports. He subsequently served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry when he became internationally well known as India's outstanding representative at meetings of the GATT. He acted as Chairman of the GATT 1957-58 and was Chairman of the UN Interim Committee for Co-ordination of International Commodity Arrangements, 1959-61. He became Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance in 1960, in effect the official head of the Indian "Treasury". Appointed Secretary to the Prime Minister July 1964. Governor of the Reserve Bank July 1967. Appointed Indian representative on the governing body of the IMF, July 1969. Indian Ambassador to the US 1970-73; Governor of Jammu and Kashmir 1973-80. A member of the Brandt Commission on North/South questions which he chaired during Willy Brandt's illness.

As Secretary to the Prime Minister he exerted a great deal of influence on Mr Shastri and initially on Mrs Gandhi. He was an active Governor of the Reserve Bank and was able to exert a good deal of influence on the Finance Ministry under Mr Morarji Desai. But in 1969 Mrs Gandhi disregarded his advice against nationalisation of the major banks. He was sent to Kashmir to get him out of the way though he subsequently played an important role when Sheikh Abdullah returned to power in 1975. After Janata's victory in 1977 many were surprised that he did not return to the Centre. He combines his present job with a general role as Mrs Gandhi's economic adviser and acts particularly as her special representative on North/South questions.

L K Jha is an outstandingly able man with great experience and a sure political touch. He is both pragmatic and imaginative. He is moderate on international economic policy and always looks for opportunities for collaboration rather than confrontation between developed and developing countries. He does not support everything in the Brandt Report. His ambition is to be Finance Minister and, technically, he could make a very good one. However, he is clearly a member of the Old Guard and has no political base of his own. It is doubtful whether Mrs Gandhi will promote him. Since he feels he has inadequate influence in his present job he might be offered and might accept the post of High Commissioner in London.

He is pro-British, friendly to this Mission and has a delightful Bengali wife (Mekhala) who has done outstanding work in the social services. He has a good collection of Hindu sculpture and enjoys the amenities of life, including a drink.