

**IMMEDIATE**

PS  
 PS/LADY YOUNG  
 PS/MR WHITNEY  
 PS/PUS  
 MR WRIGHT  
 SIR W HARDING  
 MR ADAMS  
 MR WILSON  
 MR EGERTON

HD/SAD  
 HD/MAED  
 HD/PUSD  
 DEP HD/PUSD  
 SECURITY CO-ORD UNIT  
 HD/CONSULAR DEPT  
 CONSULAR EMERGENCY UNIT  
 HD/SECURITY DEPT  
 HD/PROTOCOL DEPT  
 HD/COD  
 HD/NEWS DEPT

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY )  
 MR R E CLARKE (CAP 1) ) DEPT OF  
 MR S S HOLNESS (SP2) ) TRANSPORT  
 MR J F LANGLEY (IAT 30) )

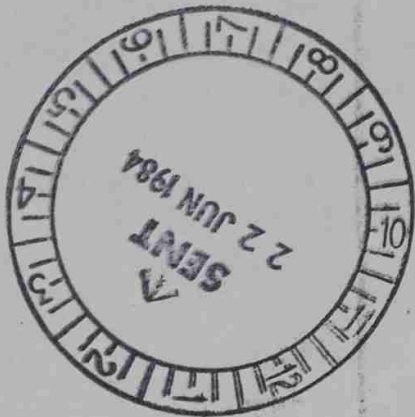
NO. 10 DOWNING ST  
 ASSESSMENTS STAFF CABINET OFFICE  
 D I O CABINET OFFICE

SIR R ARMSTRONG )  
 SIR A DUFF ) CABINET OFFICE  
 MR MARTIN )  
 MR D COLVIN )  
 MR M D BRENNEN )

PS/ HOME SECRETARY ) HOME OFFICE  
 SIR BRIAN CUBBON )  
 MR BIRT )  
 MR D HILARY ) FL HOME OFFICE  
 MR HARRINGTON )

DS5 )  
 DS6 ) MOD  
 DSC )

SECURITY SERVICES (2 copies via  
 PUSD Rm E203)



GRS 300  
 RESTRICTED  
 D E S K B Y 221200Z  
 FM NEW DELHI 221135Z JUNE 84  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 544 OF 22 JUNE

MY TELNO 538

**DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE HIGH COMMISSION**

SUMMARY

1. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO MORE DEMONSTRATIONS IN DELHI TO PROTEST ABOUT THE BBC INTERVIEW OF CHAUHAN, THE SIKH KHALISTAN LEADER. THE FIRST ONE LOOKED AS IF IT MIGHT TURN VIOLENT. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS I CLOSED THE HIGH COMMISSION OFFICE TEMPORARILY.

DETAILS

2. WE HAVE HAD TWO DEMONSTRATIONS TODAY TO PROTEST ABOUT THE BBC INTERVIEW OF CHAUHAN ON 12 JUNE. THE FIRST DEMONSTRATION WAS BY THE DELHI NATIONAL STUDENTS UNION (1). THE POLICE WARNED US IN THE MORNING THAT THE STUDENTS MIGHT BECOME VIOLENT. THE DEMONSTRATION STARTED AT 1.00 PM AND THE MAIN BODY WAS THROUGHOUT KEPT WELL AWAY FROM THE HIGH COMMISSION GATES. BUT AT 2.00 PM WE WERE INFORMED BY THE POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CONTINGENT GUARDING THE HIGH COMMISSION (WHO WAS CLEARLY ALARMED) THAT: FIRST THE NUMBERS OF DEMONSTRATORS WERE MUCH GREATER THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED AND THERE HAD BEEN SOME VIOLENCE (SEMI COLON) SECOND, A FEW MINUTES LATER, THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL OF THE POLICE: AND THIRD THAT THERE WAS A RUMOUR AMONG SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS THAT 200 SIKHS HAD JUST ENTERED AND WERE OCCUPYING THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON.

3. WE WERE ABLE TO VERIFY WITHIN MINUTES THAT THIS RUMOUR WAS FALSE (TELCON JANVRIN/PENDLETON). BUT IN ALL THE CIRCUMATANCES, PARTICULARLY AS IT SEEMED POSSIBLE THAT THIS RUMOUR (WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE) WOULD BE BELIEVED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS AND MIGHT PROVOKE A VIOLENT REACTION. I DECIDED TO SHUT THE HIGH COMMISSION

3. WE WERE ABLE TO VERIFY WITHIN MINUTES THAT THIS RUMOUR WAS FALSE (TELCON JANVRIN/PENDLETON). BUT IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, PARTICULARLY AS IT SEEMED POSSIBLE THAT THIS RUMOUR (WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE) WOULD BE BELIEVED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS AND MIGHT PROVOKE A VIOLENT REACTION, I DECIDED TO SHUT THE HIGH COMMISSION OFFICE AT 2.20 PM LOCAL TIME. WITHIN HALF AN HOUR THE POLICE, WHO HAD BEEN REINFORCED, ASSURED US THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS UNDER CONTROL. THE OFFICE REOPENED AT 3.00 PM.

4. THE SECOND SMALL DEMONSTRATION BY THE INDIAN YOUTH CONGRESS (I) WITH THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF A NUMBER OF CONGRESS (I) MPS ARRIVED AT 3.15 PM AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISPERSED PEACEFULLY.

5. BOTH SETS OF DEMONSTRATORS HANDED IN PETITIONS (COPIES BY BAG).

6. COMMENT:

THE INCIDENT SHOWS THAT TEMPERS ARE STILL RUNNING HIGH. WE MUST ASSUME THAT PASSIONS COULD EASILY BE INFLAMED AGAIN BY FURTHER REPORTS OF ANTI-INDIAN VIOLENCE OR INCITMENT IN THE UK, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE CARRIED BY TV AND RADIO. WE ARE STEPPING UP OUR PRECAUTIONS AS APPROPRIATE.

SAMUEL

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