

MRS. GANDHI'S DEATH: REACTION OF UK SIKHS

In the House of Commons on 31 October I expressed my own, and the Government's dismay and deep sorrow at the tragic death of Mrs. Gandhi. I know that this feeling is shared very widely in Britain - by the vast majority of the Asian community - and in all parts of the community. Mrs. Gandhi's assassination was a savage and treacherous crime.

[I was appalled]

[It is a source of deep regret] to hear that a tiny minority of irresponsible people in this country have nonetheless regarded Mrs. Gandhi's murder as a cause for celebration.

[I find that utterly repugnant.]

I know that I speak for all the communities in this country in repudiating such [despicable] behaviour. The overwhelming majority of people in Britain were outraged and deeply grieved by Mrs. Gandhi's murder and join me in mourning the passing of a great leader.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER OF
INDIA.

I was appalled to hear early this morning of the murderous attack on Mrs Gandhi and grieved by the subsequent news of her death. India has been robbed of a leader of incomparable courage, vision and humanity. And the Commonwealth has lost one of its most formidable and vital personalities.

For my part, I shall feel greatly the loss of a wise colleague and a personal friend. I always looked forward to our talks together. They had some special quality and understanding.

The British Government and people utterly condemn this barbaric and treacherous deed. It is a tragedy for India , for the Commonwealth and for the wider world.

We share your deep **sorrow**.



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10 DOWNING STREET

31 October 1984

From the Private Secretary

I enclose a copy of a message from the Prime Minister to (presumably) the acting Prime Minister of India.

I should be grateful if it could be despatched as soon as appropriate.

C D Powell

Len Appleyard Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO SHRI RAJIV GANDHI

Prime Minister
C.D.P.
Approved

I cannot describe to you my feelings at the news of the loss of your mother, except to say that it was like losing a member of my own family. Our many talks together had a closeness and a mutual understanding which will always remain with me. She was not just a great Statesman but a warm and caring person.

I want you and Sonia to know how deeply Denis and I feel for you both, for your whole family and for your country.