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IMMEDIATE

CLASSIFIED

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RESTRICTED

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TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 785 OF 2 NOVEMBER

MY TWO IPTS: UK SIKH REACTION TO MRS GANDHI'S DEATH: INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION

1. CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY JOHARI AT HIS MEETING WITH ME THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION'S NOTE GOES OVER OLD GROUND AND THE BRITISH PRESS REPORTS ATTACHED TO IT CONTAIN NOTHING NEW. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THAT THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO CHAUHAN IN THE NOTE DOES NOT REFLECT PRECISELY THE TERMS OF THE GUARDIAN REPORT AND WE DOUBT VERY MUCH WHETHER CHAUHAN HAS IN FACT LAID HIMSELF OPEN TO CHARGES OF COMPLICITY IN THE ASSASSINATION.

2. NONETHELESS, AND AS I TOLD JOHARI, WE SHALL EXAMINE CHAUHAN'S REPORTED STATEMENT CAREFULLY. IF, AS IS LIKELY, YOU ARE APPROACHED BY THE MEA ON THIS YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED THE NOTE AND ARE GIVING IT OUR URGENT CONSIDERATION. YOU MIGHT ADD (AS THE PUS TOLD RASOGTRA DURING THEIR RECENT TALK IN LONDON) THAT IF THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE HARD EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY SIKH EXTREMISTS IN THE UK WE SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE VERY PLEASED TO KNOW OF IT.

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