

LUK 930/03

FDWG108/03

DD NEW DELHI 040200Z

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DESKBY 040200Z

FM FCO 032040Z NOV

TO IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI

TELEGRAM NUMBER 789 OF 3 NOV

FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY TO SEE BEFORE DEPARTURE.

1. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT REUTERS AND ASSOCIATED PRESS CARRIED THE FOLLOWING REPORTS AT 031725Z AND 031738Z RESPECTIVELY.
2. BEGINS.

THE EXILED HEAD OF THE SECESSIONIST SIKH REPUBLIC SAID TODAY THAT ASSASSINATED INDIAN LEADER INDIRA GANDHI DESERVED TO DIE AND HER SON AND SUCCESSOR RAJIV WOULD SUFFER THE SAME FATE. JAGJIT SINGH CHAUHAN, PRESIDENT OF THE SELF-STYLED REPUBLIC OF KHALISTAN, TOLD A LONDON NEWS CONFERENCE: WE WILL NOT PRAY FOR HER ... SHE EARNED IT.

HE SAID RAJIV GANDHI WAS AN ACCOMPLICE TO THE STORMING BY INDIAN TROOPS IN JUNE ON HIS MOTHERS ORDERS OF THE GOLDEN TEMPLE, THE SIKHS HOLIEST SHRINE.

BUT HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT INCITING SIKHS TO ASSASSINATE THE NEW INDIAN LEADER. I AM NOT INSTIGATING PEOPLE ... I AM SIMPLY TELLING YOU A HISTORICAL FACT.

HE SAID: SIKHS WILL NOT ALLOW TO LIVE THOSE WHO COMMIT SACRILEGE AGAINST THEIR HOLY PLACES. SIKHS WILL NEVER REST UNLESS AND UNTIL THEY TAKE REVENGE, AND THEY ALWAYS HAVE DONE. IT IS THE HISTORY OF THE SIKHS.

REFERRING TO COMMUNAL VIOLENCE THAT FOLLOWED MRS GANDHIS MURDER BY TWO SIKH BODYGUARDS, CHAUHAN SAID HINDUS WERE EXTERMINATING SIKHS AND HE ACCUSE RAJIV OF BEING PARTY TO THIS.
ENDS

3. THE HOME OFFICE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE POLICE ASKING THEM TO CONSIDER URGENTLY WHETHER THESE LATEST STATEMENTS INVOLVE THE COMMISSION OF ANY CRIMINAL OFFENCE. THEIR INITIAL IMPRESSION HOWEVER, IS THAT ONCE AGAIN CHAUHAN HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID USING WORDS WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY PROSECUTION, HOWEVER OFFENSIVE HIS REMARKS MAY BE.

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