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BCT VDC006 8411031125 PBB003 8411031125 AC032

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PP ISLAMABAAD

PP NEW DELHI

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FM COI LONDON  
TO PRIORITY INFORMATION ADDRESSEES  
TELNO RETRACT 003  
OF 030719Z NOV 84

PRINCESS ANNE AND MRS THATCHER LEAD BRITISH MOURNERS  
BY JACK ENSOLL, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI (LPS) BRITISH POLITICAL LEADERS LED BY PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER ARRIVED HERE TODAY (3 NOVEMBER) FOR THE FUNERAL OF ASSASSINATED INDIAN LEADER MRS INDIRA GANDHI. THE SIZE OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION IS EVIDENCE OF BRITAIN'S SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE GUIDING INDIA IN THE DIFFICULT DAYS THROUGH WHICH IT IS NOW PASSING AND ITS CONCERN THAT THE CONTINUITY OF LAWFUL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ENSURED.

MRS THATCHER WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE PLANE FROM LONDON BY MR NEIL KINNOCK, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION; MR DAVID STEEL, LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY; AND DR DAVID OWEN, LEADER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND A FORMER LABOUR PARTY FOREIGN MINISTER.

THEY JOINED PRINCESS ANNE, WHO HAS BEEN IN INDIA ON WORK FOR THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND, AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER BEFORE GOING TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS TO MRS GANDHI WHO HAS BEEN LYING IN STATE AT TEENMOURTI HOUSE, THE FORMER HOME OF HER FATHER, MR PANDIT NEHRU. THE PARTY WAS ALSO JOINED IN DELHI BY A FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, MR JAMES CALLAGHAN, WHO HAS BEEN IN INDIA ON PRIVATE BUSINESS.

THE QUEEN WILL BE REPRESENTED AT TODAY'S FUNERAL BY PRINCESS ANNE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BY MRS THATCHER. THERE WERE WREATHS TODAY FROM BOTH BUCKINGHAM PALACE AND DOWNING STREET, THE ONE STATING SIMPLY 'IN MEMORY— ELIZABETH AND PHILIP' AND THE OTHER INSCRIBED FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

LATER THIS MORNING PRINCESS ANNE CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, MR ZAIL SINGH AND MRS THATCHER HAD A BRIEF MEETING WITH MRS GANDHI'S SON AND SUCCESSOR MR RAJIV GANDHI. IT IS BELIEVED THAT AT THIS MEETING THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ASSURED HIM THAT BRITAIN WOULD STAND BY INDIA.

MRS THATCHER AND THE OPPOSITION LEADERS SPOKE TO JOURNALISTS BEFORE LEAVING LONDON YESTERDAY AND APPEALED FOR CALM BETWEEN THE HINDU AND SIKH COMMUNITIES IN BRITAIN. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN BRITAIN CONDEMNED MINORITY DEMONSTRATIONS AND WERE LAW-ABIDING.

ACCORDING TO MR KINNOCK THE BRITISH COMMUNITY WAS DEMONSTRATING CALM AT THE PRESENT TIME AND THE COMMONWEALTH SPIRIT. INDIANS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE GOOD CITIZENS AND COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY.  
WADE-GERY

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