



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 March 1982

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Prime Minister

Dear John,

A.J.C. 19/3

Visit of the Indian Prime Minister:  
21-26 March 1982

Other Bilateral Issues (Including Sporting Links with South Africa)

As you will know, the Test and County Cricket Board issued on 19 March a statement outlining the action they are taking against the cricketers at present on unofficial tour of South Africa.

// I attach additional Speaking and Background notes for the Prime Minister's use with Mrs Gandhi.

*Yours ever*

*John Holmes*

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SPEAKING NOTE


VISIT OF THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER 21-26 MARCH 1982  
OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES (INCLUDING SPORTING LINKS WITH  
SOUTH AFRICA)

Pleased that the Test and County Cricket Board have acted against the English cricketers on unofficial tour in South Africa. There will now be no question of their being selected for the England side to play India this Summer.

DEFENSIVE

The Test and County Cricket Board have gone about as far as they can go without falling foul of the laws against restraint of trade. Their response was delayed while they took legal advice.





Background

1. The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) took the following decision on 19 March (Press Association Text).

'All 15 rebel cricketers playing in South Africa have been banned for selection for England for 3 years.

The Test and County Cricket Board meeting at Lords today also recommended that England players on the tour should not be included in their county teams for matches against India and Pakistan tours this summer.

The Board also passed a new directive saying players involved in further South African tours 'cannot expect to be eligible for England selections'.

2. The TCCB took legal advice before deciding what line they should take. We must expect them to have gone as far as that advice allowed. This will not necessarily prevent individuals currently on tour in South Africa from bringing an action against the TCCB under the restraint of trade laws if their legal advice is different. There have already been press reports that the South Africans will be prepared to pay the costs of such an action.

3. The TCCB's decision should be welcome to Mrs Gandhi. Although it will probably not be enough to get her to say that the Indian tour will now proceed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
Cultural Relations Department  
19 March 1982