

Caparo House
103 Baker Street
London W1M 1FD
Telephone 01-486 1417



SP/EBA/IBA

24 March 1982

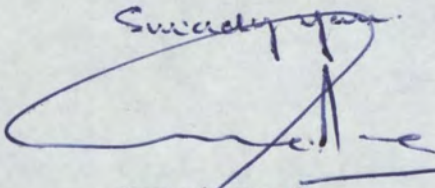
My dear Prime Minister,

I am grateful to you for having accepted our invitation to speak at the Indo-British Association dinner on Tuesday 23 March.

Your speech was marvellous, both in its warmth and in what you had to say about India. Being a person of Indian origin and now a citizen of this country, it was a matter of great personal pride for me to welcome the Prime Ministers of both countries and to hear such warmth.

Your personal interest and personal touch in the whole of Mrs Gandhi's programme needs to be complimented. I have had occasion to see two or three Prime Ministerial visits from India to this country and I must say that I have never seen arrangements made to such perfection. It must be you who has taken a very personal interest.

May I again send my heartiest congratulations and thanks, both on behalf of my wife and I and on behalf of all the members of the Association.

Swraj Paul

Swraj Paul

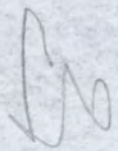
The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

26 March 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 24 March. She has written to you separately about the dinner on 23 March.

AJC

Mr. Swraj Paul





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FILE

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 March 1982

Dear Mr. Paul,

I write to thank you most warmly for the splendid dinner last night. It was a most memorable evening and you and the Indo-British Association are to be congratulated on the admirable arrangements. There have been many gatherings this week to celebrate the Indo-British relationship but the special impact made by last night's dinner will remain long in our memory.

My warm thanks to you, Mrs. Paul and all the Officers of the Association.

(Sgd) MT

Mr. Swraj Paul.

SW

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Caparo House
103 Baker Street, London W1M 1FD
Telephone: 01-486 1417. Telex: 8811343

India

SP/EBA/CH

5 April 1982

Mr S
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h-a.

Dear John,

I enclose herewith a copy of a Press report about the Indo-British Association dinner which has appeared in most of the Indian newspapers and which I thought you might like to see.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely



Swraj Paul

Mr A.J. Coles
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Don't view India through tinted glasses, says PM

By RAVI BHATIA

LONDON, March 24: The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, would like foreigners to see India as it is. In an answer to a question during a Press conference organised here by the Indian Journalists Association, Mrs Gandhi said the only way to see a particular country and especially India was to see it as it was. The question referred to the distorted image of India abroad.

Replying to another question as to how she compared herself with Mrs Golda Meir, former prime minister of Israel, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mrs Gandhi said comparisons were always odious. Every person in the world had some good and bad qualities and no one was perfect. Wearing a dark green sari, Mrs Gandhi appeared extremely relaxed during the hour-long Press conference attended by a large number of foreign and British journalists. In some of the other media conferences, Mrs Gandhi did not seem to parry questions. She answered whenever she could. At least once she admitted with a disarming smile she did not know a lot about cricket. In an answer to a question however, added that she loved watching sports.

elective CPI backing for Cong (I) favoured

By Our Special Correspondent

VARANASI, March 24. A MAJORITY of the speakers who took part in the CPI congress on the review report and the resolution yesterday, emphasised the importance of supporting the correct policy of the Congress (I). At the same time they opposed any collaboration with the BJP.

In delegates who spoke were representatives of Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and the All India Federation.

The address was given by Mr N. K. Krishnan, member of the CPI central executive committee, who dwelt on the desirability of supporting the correct policies of the Congress (I). The ruling party of today, he conceded, was not the Congress of the Nehru era and consisted of some undesirable elements. But support to it meant in essence support to Mrs Gandhi and the CPI could endorse the Congress (I) stand on certain questions.

Other speakers were of the view that it would be dangerous to collaborate with the BJP which they described as "authoritarian and communal." They pointed out that the BMS, trade union wing of the BJP, had played a negative role in the public sector employees' strike at Bangalore in 1981.

Some speakers were also critical of the CPM which, they said, did not follow a consistent policy. At times it showed great enthusiasm for joint action with the CPI, but on other occasions it "dragged its feet and refused to collaborate."

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Mrs Gandhi hope of India: Mrs Thatcher

LONDON, March 24 (PTI).

THE British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, last night spoke of Mrs Gandhi in glowing terms, describing her as "the great prime minister of a great country."

Amidst cheers from the 500 guests at the Indo-British Association dinner in Mrs Gandhi's honour, Mrs Thatcher said: "She is both the symbol and hope of India and she is an old friend of Great Britain as well."

Mrs Thatcher delivered a prepared address on the occasion but her warm tributes to Mrs Gandhi came off the cuff at the beginning of her speech reflecting their sincerity and spontaneity.

Mrs Thatcher referred to the remarks by the chairman of the Indo-British Association, Mr Swaraj Paul, that the two prime ministers were "the best of the west and the best of the east" and they should meet in the interests of the two countries and in the cause of world peace. Mrs Thatcher commented: "I have no doubt India and Mrs Gandhi are best of the east. We have no doubt that we are quite the best of the west."

In her reply, Mrs Gandhi, who departed from the text of her prepared speech, took the opportunity to reiterate India's commitment to the principles and values of democracy and socialism.

She added: "There is one point we differ from Mrs Thatcher. We believe in the values of socialism."

Mrs Gandhi said democracy in India had very firm roots. There was no doubt that contact with liberal thought of Britain as well as west was responsible for India adopting administrative and parliamentary systems of a democracy but "this would not have taken roots if there was not some seed of it in our society." It was only democracy which could allow people of such diversity as in India under the same umbrella to live their own lives and be themselves.

High praise for Mrs Gandhi also came from the Conservative MP and vice-chairman of the Indo-British Association, Mr Griffiths, proposing a vote of thanks. He told the Indian leader: "You are the most experienced prime minister in the Commonwealth and an outstanding political leader in the non-communist Asia. You are also something else, something more — a world statesman, a woman of most extraordinary kindness, modesty, dignity and charm."

Mr Griffiths added: "As a lover of India I have no doubt that its future is well assured in your hands. We have no doubt that under your inspired leadership, India will have political stability the people need and require."

Mr Griffiths endorsed the words of praise Mrs Thatcher had spoken about the contribution of the Indian community in Britain. He said none of the people who had come to Britain were more law abiding than Indians who lived in British cities.

The message from this dinner, he said, was this: "The prime minister of Great Britain and leaders of political parties represented in the House of Commons are united in their determination that all men in this country shall be equal before law."

In his welcome speech, Mr Paul said Mrs Gandhi has been accused of destroying democracy at the time of her so called "political wilderness." But leaders of the political parties in his country had loudly expressed their belief in the ensuring nature of Indian democracy. "They were of course right, Mrs Gandhi has done more than anyone to sustain it, most of all at the moment of her defeat."

The occasion Mr Paul put it, was unique and unprecedented — unique because no other private organisation has ever enjoyed the quite extraordinary privilege of entertaining both the prime ministers of Britain and the Prime Minister of India, unprecedented because never before so many distinguished gentlemen waited so anxiously for the toasts of the ladies."

The dinner was attended among others by a galaxy of personalities including former prime minister, Mr Callaghan, the speaker of the House of Commons, Mr George Thomas, Mr Denis Healey, Mr Shirley Williams, Mr John Biffen, Baroness Lee and the Commonwealth secretary-general, Mr S. Ramphal. Toasts were proposed for Indo-British friendship coupled with the name of Mrs Thatcher and Mrs Gandhi. Toasts were also proposed for the Queen and the President of India.

Bride, 7 others die

World Bank stop credit to six countries

By J. N. PARIMO

WASHINGTON, March 24. THE World Bank today that it planned to stop credit to six developing countries because they had reached a growth where they could directly from capital markets.

The bank has fixed a GNP level of \$2,650 million at which a country would be out of the bank's credit rows.

The policy of easing comparatively rich borrowers "graduation" by the bank and has been pursued in the case of many countries it is now being pursued with new vigour, perhaps the Reagan administration's influence on the bank's making processes.

India, China, Pakistan, other countries rank among the poorest of the world with per capita GNP well below \$100. They are in no danger of the World Bank credit. The countries which are graduated out of World Bank borrowing are Oman, Tonga, Cyprus, Bahamas and Uruguay.

The senior vice-president of the bank, Mr Ernest Stern, said that countries like Japan and Australia, once been borrowers, graduated out when they reached the capital markets and reached the ceilings of GNP prescribed by the bank.

However, he admitted that most of the past cases, the ceilings were forced strictly, i.e., were graduated long before they had gone well beyond the ceilings. He explained the ceilings have to be enforced because the bank was more and more difficult and to raise resources.

The graduation decision as it pertains to World Bank, does not affect the present low level of GNP, but it will reduce Indian borrowing from the national Development Fund which has been the main source of India's concessional financing.

It has been decided that a drastic reduction of the bank continues, the graduation process from lending will have to be at a faster than desired rate.

Students burn government vehicles, stone

By Our Staff Correspondent AHMEDABAD, March 24. In government vehicles and cinders and several nearly 300 students in a half-hour orgy of violence in anticipation of a centage in the important examinations held

India

THE INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION

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SP/EBA/IBA

8 March 1982

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Dear John,

on Paul below

Thank you very much for your letter of 19 February regarding the Indo-British Association dinner on 23 March.

I have again checked with Mrs Gandhi and she will be very happy if Mrs Thatcher is the first speaker, so we are arranging the speeches as follows:-

TOASTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Welcome | Mr Swraj Paul
Chairman, Indo-British Association |
| India | The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom |
| United Kingdom
and Commonwealth | Shrimati Indira Gandhi, MP
The Prime Minister of India |
| Vote of Thanks | Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP
Vice-Chairman, Indo-British Association |

We look forward to welcoming The Prime Minister at 8.15 p.m.

I am sorry that your wife will not be able to join us, but I look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Swraj Paul

Mr John Coles
Private Secretary to The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

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