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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 August 1980

David Neilands wrote to me on 22 August about the proposal that Lord Greenhill should call on Mrs Gandhi, as the special emissary of the Prime Minister.

As you know, Lord Greenhill, accompanied by Sir John Thompson called on the Prime Minister last night for a briefing discussion. In the course of an hour's talk, Sir John Thompson gave a picture of the personality of the Indian Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister explained her personal feelings of respect and admiration for Mrs Gandhi, and her view of the British relationship with India.

There are four specific points which I should record arising from the meeting. First, the Prime Minister agreed that Lord Greenhill could refer to the Prime Minister's hope that she will be able to visit India in the spring of 1981. The Prime Minister left it entirely to Lord Greenhill's discretion whether or not to raise the point. (For our internal planning purposes, we have noted the week beginning 27 April as a possible time for such a visit.)

Secondly, the Prime Minister said that she would be delighted to be a patron of the Festival of India, and that she would be happy for Lord Greenhill both to convey to Mrs Gandhi her agreement to take this on, and to say at the same time that the Prime Minister would be pleased if Mrs Gandhi could agree to be a joint patron herself.

Third, the Prime Minister said that she would be happy to let Lord Greenhill have a brief manuscript note which he could pass to Mrs Gandhi in the course of their meeting. The Prime Minister intends to write this this evening, and I will arrange for it to be delivered to you tomorrow morning.

Fourth, the Prime Minister said that she would like to consider the possibility of giving a party at Chequers in the near future with an Indian orientation. The guest list might include the Indian High Commissioner, one or two senior Indian industrialists, perhaps an Indian Minister if one was visiting the UK at the time, and a carefully chosen selection of British journalists, for whom the occasion might serve as something of an education about India.

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I discussed this further with Sir John Thompson after the meeting, and a lunch on Sunday ¹²14 October would appear to be the strongest possibility if this is to be fitted in ahead of the Prince of Wales' visit to India. It would be helpful if we could quickly have suggestions for a possible guest list, so that we can consult the Prime Minister further about this.

The Prime Minister looks forward to seeing Lord Greenhill again after his visit to India.

M. A. PATTISON

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