

GRS 470
UNCLASSIFIED
FM DELHI 140650Z APR 81
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 412 OF 14 APRIL.

FOLLOWING FOR SAD AND NO. 10
MY TELNO 404: VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER: RACE RELATIONS AND
THE NATIONALITY BILL

1. A NUMBER OF TODAY'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRY EDITORIALS WHICH TOUCH ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE BRIXTON RIOT. THE TIMES OF INDIA SAYS THAT THE COINCIDENCE OF THE TWO EVENTS SPOTLIGHTS AN ISSUE WHICH CANNOT BE SKIRTED DURING MRS GANDHI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. QUOTE THE ISSUE IS RACISM IN BRITAIN AND ADOPTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF A POLICY WHICH CAN MAKE SENSE ONLY IN RACIAL TERMS UNQUOTE. THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENTS OF WHATEVER POLITICAL COMPLEXION HAVE TIGHTENED IMMIGRATION CONTROLS IN RECENT YEARS QUOTE BUT IT IS ONLY MRS THATCHER'S GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS DEVISED A NATIONALITY ACT WHICH OPENLY DISTINGUISHES ONE CLASS OF BRITISH CITIZENS FROM ANOTHER ON THE BASIS OF COLOUR TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE COLOURED ONES UNQUOTE. THE EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPRESS ITS CONCERN MORE FORCEFULLY TO THE ONLY CIVILISED COUNTRY WHICH HAS QUOTE RESORTED TO SUCH CRUEL PRACTICES AS VIRGINITY TESTS, BONE X-RAYS TO DETERMINE AGE, AND INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION OF WOMEN UNQUOTE.

2. TURNING TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE TIMES OF INDIA SAYS IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY IS DICTATED BY STRIDENT HOSTILITY TO THE SOVIET UNION OR AN AWARENESS THAT REGIONAL PROBLEMS CANNOT BE VIEWED WHOLLY IN AN EAST-WEST CONTEXT. THE EDITORIAL GOES ON QUOTE THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS LAUNCHED ON A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH, IF ADHERED TO AND PUSHED TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION, CANNOT BUT END IN DISASTER... MRS THATCHER HAS WHOLE-HEARTEDLY ENDORSED THIS COURSE OF ACTION UNQUOTE. THE PAPER CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WILL ALLOW MRS GANDHI TO SET OUT INDIA'S CONCERN ABOUT THE THREAT TO INDIAN SECURITY WHICH WOULD BE CREATED BY ANY REARMING OF PAKISTAN.

/ 3. THE NATIONAL

3. THE NATIONAL HERALD, A DAILY OWNED BY THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY, COMMENTS EDITORIALY THAT BRITAIN IS WITHIN HER RIGHTS TO REJECT NEW IMMIGRANTS, BUT CRITICISES THE QUOTE ATMOSPHERE OF HATRED UNQUOTE AGAINST BRITISH CITIZENS OF NON-WHITE ORIGIN CREATED NOT ONLY BY MR POWELL BUT BY QUOTE MOST CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS UNQUOTE. EDITORIALS IN THE STATESMAN AND THE HINDUSTAN TIMES ABOUT THE BRIXTON RIOT ARE MUCH MORE BALANCED THAN THOSE IN THE TIMES OF INDIA AND NATIONAL HERALD, THOUGH THE HINDUSTAN TIMES REFERS TO QUOTE THE RACIAL OUTLOOK OF THE BRITISH RULING CLASS UNQUOTE AS THE MAIN CAUSE OF CONCERN FOR NON-WHITE IN BRITAIN.

4. THIS EDITORIAL CRITICISM IS BALANCED BY A NUMBER OF MORE HELPFUL PIECES. THE TIMES OF INDIA CARRIES ON ITS FRONT PAGE THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO THE INDIAN PRESS, WHILE THE INDIAN EXPRESS PUBLISHES ON ITS LEADER PAGE AN ARTICLE UNDER MY NAME ON RACE RELATIONS IN BRITAIN AND THE NATIONALITY BILL.

THOMSON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

LIMITED

SAD
NEWS D
NTD
MVD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR BLAKER
PS/FUS
SIR J GRAHAM
MR DONALD