



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 April 1981

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 24 March, in reply to mine of 18 March about a statue of Lord Mountbatten.

Michael Foot has also agreed to join us in launching the appeal. He has rightly suggested that, in view of the recent publicity about events in 1968, it would be wise to wait a while. I therefore propose to leave the matter aside until I return from my forthcoming overseas visit.

I have considered your suggestion that we might add to the list of sponsors someone more identified with India. The complication here is that we would have to take into account the interests of both Pakistan and Bangladesh. For that reason, I should prefer to leave Lord Trevelyan as the main link with Lord Mountbatten's time in India. When the appeal is launched we shall be asking our High Commissioner in New Delhi, and other representatives overseas, to consider how best they can help locally to promote the appeal.

I shall be in touch again in due course.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. David Steel, M.P.

HS

HS



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 April 1981

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 30 March, in reply to mine of 18 March about the idea of a statue of Lord Mountbatten.

In view of recent publicity, I agree that it would be best not to press ahead with this in advance of my forthcoming overseas visit. I shall take this up again when I return at the end of the month.

I am also grateful to you for your suggestion that we might approach the selected organisations before we make the appeal public. This might well prove sensible.

I have considered the possibility of adding an Indian to the list of sponsors. There is, of course, a complication in that Mountbatten's India included the present Pakistan and Bangladesh. For this reason, I think it best to leave the list as it is - Lord Trevelyan provides a definite link with India. When the appeal is launched, we shall be asking our High Commissioner in New Delhi, and other representatives overseas, to consider how best they can help locally to promote the appeal.

I shall be in touch again in due course.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Michael Foot, M.P.