

ops
PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 167/80



Subject on: India!
UK/India Relations
May 1980.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27th August 1980.

Dear Mrs. Gandhi,

You have been in my thoughts a good deal recently. I admire so very much the way you have carried on your great public duties despite the tragedy of Rajiv's death, and all that it means to you personally.

Also, I feel that we in Britain do not know quite as much about your views and India's problems as we would wish. You will know that among our people here there is a special affection for India and a profound interest in the wonderful & courageous way in which you tackle the enormous tasks that face you.

Within the next few weeks I shall be seeing a number of political leaders to discuss the troubled world scene. In Belgrade, you spoke to me about a number of matters as you see

them - the effect of events in Iran on your
own Muslim population. Afghanistan, and how
the increased price of oil was affecting your economy.
To me it was extremely helpful and I
should be so grateful if you could tell
Lord Greenhill how you view things now.
News of events - and successes - in India would
also be very much welcomed

I know that you have been
concerned about some of the things the Press and
media here have been saying. May I say that
I will do all I can to see that the traditional
friendship which I value so much is not marred
by unjust personal attacks on you or on India.

Yours sincerely

Rajant Thakur