



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 June 1980

India.

Yes not
Dear Michael,

Prime Minister
(see attached tel) Agree to
receive Mr Paul for 30 minutes?
Arranged for July 2nd

①

Proposal for call on Prime Minister by
Mr Swraj Paul

El. Paul
26/6 *24/6*

You mentioned to me last week the approach which you had received from Mr Swraj Paul for a meeting with the Prime Minister.

We have received confirmation from our High Commission in New Delhi that Mr Paul has been asked by Mrs Gandhi personally to seek this appointment (Delhi telegram 472, which I enclose). We recommend that the Prime Minister should in the circumstances agree to see Mr Paul.

I attach a note on Mr Paul. The Indians have not yet appointed a High Commissioner to replace the last Indian High Commissioner who resigned prior to the Indian General Election. In the absence of an appointee who enjoys Mrs Gandhi's confidence, Mr Paul appears to have a closer link with the upper echelons of the Indian government than India House. India House are unaware of any reason for Mrs Gandhi to send a personal message at the present time.

If an appointment is arranged for Mr Paul to call on the Prime Minister, we shall supply appropriate briefing.

yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

Michael Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
London

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GRS 80
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FM DELHI 191039Z JUN 80
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 472 OF 19 JUNE

SWARAJ PAUL

1. MRS GANDHI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY INFORMED ME TODAY OF A REQUEST WHICH SWARAJ PAUL HAS APPARENTLY VERY RECENTLY MADE FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. THE PRIVATE SECRETARY UNDERSTOOD THAT SWARAJ PAUL HAD BEEN ASKED WHETHER

THE REQUEST WAS AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE OR WHETHER HE WAS MAKING IT WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S BLESSING. WOULD I PLEASE TELL YOU THAT SWARAJ PAUL HAD BEEN ASKED BY MRS GANDHI PERSONALLY TO SEEK THIS APPOINTMENT

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

EWANS

FILES
SAD
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR. BLAKE
PS/PUS
SIR D. MAITLAND
MR DONALD

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- SWRAJ PAUL

Vice Chairman (Past Chairman) Indo/British Association and the driving force behind the Association since it was established in 1976.

Organiser in UK of Congress (I) Supporters Group.

A confidant of Mrs Gandhi who although resident in Britain and registered as a UK Citizen maintains very close links with the Congress (I) Party and with Mrs Gandhi personally. He was present in her party at the Independence Celebrations in Salisbury and at Tito's funeral in Belgrade when he greeted Mrs Thatcher when she met Mrs Gandhi. Rumours, which we think may be authentic, suggest that Mrs Gandhi may have prepared to nominate him as Indian High Commissioner in London. He is said to have declined for business reasons. His British nationality would have been another complication.

He has considerable business interests in Britain, is the Managing Director of Ambika Shipping Co Ltd, a UK registered company. Mrs Gandhi opened a new private steel fabrication factory which he owns in South Wales when she visited Britain in November 1978.

He has close links with Mr Eldon Griffiths MP who is currently Chairman of the Indo British Association.

23 JUN 1980

