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FILE TITLE: <i>CONTACT WITH THE HINDUJAS.</i>		SERIES <i>MINISTERS</i>
		PART <i>1A</i>
PART BEGINS <i>1 JUNE 1997</i>	PART ENDS <i>23 JANUARY 2001.</i>	CAB ONE

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PART

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23 JANUARY 01

Series : **MINISTERS**

PART 1A

File Title : **Contact with Hinduja Family**

Part : 1

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Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
24/01/2001	HO	PA/PS	The Hindujas and Naturalisation applications:Earlier Correspondence	U	0
24/01/2001			The Hindujas and the Dome:Jean Corston PQ	U	0
24/01/2001	HO	HS	Clearance of PQ (143393) from Norman Baker	U	0
24/01/2001			Possible Statement by Peter Mandelson	U	0
24/01/2001	HO		Ministers' Cases:Nationality Applications	U	0
25/01/2001	ms/cabinet office		Sponsorship of the Millenium Dome:Letter to Andrew Lansley MP	U	0
25/01/2001		Cab Off	Access to information under the open government code:Letter from th	U	0
26/01/2001			Keith Vaz/Passports:News Transcript	U	0
26/01/2001		H/PRESS	The Hindujas:Letter from Keith Vaz MP	U	0
26/01/2001	SOC	PM	Hinduja Inquiry	U	0
26/01/2001	SOC	PM	Hindujas etc	C	0
26/01/2001	GR		Chronology from The Hindujas	R	0
26/01/2001		Ch.Staff	From Sunday Telegraph: Discussion with the Hinduja family re donati	C	0
28/01/2001	Ch.Staff	EA/PS	Allegations in the Sunday papers	R	0
28/01/2001	EA/PS	PM	Allegations in the Sunday Papers	C	0
29/01/2001	HS		To Norman Baker: Applications for citizenship by the Hinduja brothers	U	0
30/01/2001	Cab Off		Government papers incorrectly sent to Peter Mandelson's office	U	0
30/01/2001	Security Service	SOC	Hinduja Naturalisation Cases	S	261
30/01/2001	PA/PS	PM	PMQs Hindujas [CS tagged papers]	C	0
30/01/2001			Article in the Times - Trusted diplomat launched fightback over phone	C	0
30/01/2001			Background note /Q&A	C	0
31/01/2001			Daily telegraph 31/01/2001 Q&A	C	0
31/01/2001	LPO	PS/SOC	Hammond Enquiry	C	0
31/01/2001	HO	PS/SOC	Round Robin PQ from Ann Widdecombe	C	0

Series : **MINISTERS**

File Title : **Contact with Hinduja Family**

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Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
06/09/1999	PM		Letter to S.P Hinduja Alleviation of Poverty	U	
05/01/2000		PM	Multi Racial Harmony	U	
17/01/2000			Letter to S P Hinduja - thank you for your letter	U	
01/03/2000	PM		Letter from S P Hinduja Sub - Labour Government - a target at the Dc	U	
23/03/2000	DCMS		Future use of the Millenium Zone Draft reply to Hinduja	U	
10/04/2000	PM		Letter to S P Hinduja - Millenium Dome	U	
15/05/2000		PM	Letter to PM from G P Hinduja - Mangoes	U	
22/05/2000	PM		letter to GP Hinduja Thank you Mangoes	U	
18/07/2000		Ch.Staff	Letter from S P Hinduja - Message for Pm re G8 meeting in Tokyo	C	
19/07/2000	Ch.Staff		Letter to S P Hinduja - G8 Summit	U	
26/07/2000		Ch.Staff	Letter to S P Hinduja - Invitation to Diwali Celebrations	U	
26/07/2000		PM	Letter to S P Hinduja - Celebration of Diwali	U	
31/07/2000	GR		Letter to S J Hinduja - Thank you for invitation to the PM - Diwalu Cel	U	
13/09/2000	PM		Letter to S P Hinduja - Millenium Dome Sunday 5 November	U	
25/09/2000	FCO	FA/APS	Iran/ Letter from G P Hinduja	U	
26/09/2000	Ch.Staff		To G P Hinduja: PM could not see President Khatami in New york	C	0
28/09/2000	PU		The UN, Peace and Conflict Resolution: Letter from the Hinduja Foun	U	
03/10/2000	PM		Letter S P Hinduja - G8 and UN Millenium Summits	U	
04/10/2000		Ch.Staff	Letter to PM re UN Assembly - From G P Hinduja	U	
06/10/2000		PM	Letter to GP Hinduja Swaminarayan Temple in Neasdon	U	
12/10/2000	HO	HS	The Hinduja Brothers	U	0
17/10/2000	Ch.Staff		Letter to S P Hinduja - India Governments Contract in 1986 with the S	U	
26/10/2000		PU	From S P Hinduja - Diwali Sweets	U	
26/10/2000		Ch.Staff	from S P Hinduja - Diwali Sweets	U	
26/10/2000		PM	Letter from S P Hinduja - Diwali Sweets	U	
26/10/2000		D/SEC	Letter from S P Hinduja - Diwali Sweets	U	
27/10/2000	FA/APS	FCO	World Peace Summit Follow Up	U	
06/11/2000	D/SEC		Letter to S P Hinduja - Thanks for the Diwali Sweets	U	
23/11/2000	FCO	FA/APS	World Peace Sumit Follow-Up	U	
24/11/2000	FA/APS		Letter to S P Hinduja - World Peace Summit	U	
21/12/2000	HO		Draft PQ answer application for citizenship	C	0
10/01/2001	HO		Letter responding to citizenship request J P Hinduja	C	0
22/01/2001			Notice of Questions:Norman Baker	U	0
22/01/2001			Notice of Questions:Norman Baker	U	0
22/01/2001		PM	The Hindujas:Letter from Norman Baker MP	U	0
23/01/2001			Mandelson-passport application:News Transcripts	U	0
23/01/2001	SOC	Ch.Staff	Hindujas and Peter Mandelson	R	0
23/01/2001	Research	PA/PS	The Hindujas:Newspaper Transcripts	U	0
23/01/2001		PA/PS	The Hindujas and the Dome	U	0
23/01/2001	Cab Off	PRESS	The Hindujas and the Faith Zone	U	0
23/01/2001	HO		Hinduja Brothers-Sponsorship of the Spirit Zone	U	0
23/01/2001	PA/PS	Ch.Staff	Telephone call with Peter Mandelson	C	0
24/01/2001	HO	PA/PS	Background information about residency requirements in respect of n	C	0
24/01/2001			Resignation statement by Peter Mandelson, SS/NI, 24 January 2001	U	0
24/01/2001	SOC		Response to Andrew Lansley's letter of 24/1	U	0
24/01/2001			Comment by The Taoiseach on the resignation of SS/NI	U	0
24/01/2001	HO	PA/PS	[CS Tagged papers] Background info about residency requirements i	C	0
24/01/2001	HO	D/C	The Hindujas:Passport Applications	U	0
24/01/2001			Hinduja Foundation and the Dome-Chronology:Memo from the Dome	U	0
24/01/2001		HO	Hinduja	U	0
24/01/2001	DCMS	PA/PS	The Hindujas and the Dome:Earlier Correspondence	U	0

Series : **MINISTERS**

File Title : **Contact with Hinduja Family**

Part : 1

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Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
02/06/1997			Naturalisation Applications:House of Commons Hansard Written Ans	U	0
17/07/1997		ms/cabinet office	Concordia and the Millenium Dome:Letter from Keith Vaz MP	U	0
11/08/1997	ms/cabinet office		Concordia and the Millenium Dome:Letter of reply to Keith Vaz MP	U	0
13/03/1998	Cab Off	HA/PS	The Hinduja and the Millenium Dome	U	0
13/03/1998	Cab Off	HA/PS	Draft letter	C	0
26/03/1998		PM	letter to S P Hinduja Delhi - New Indian Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bih	U	
30/03/1998	PM		S.P.Hinduja-Congratulations on your latest granddaughter	U	0
01/04/1998	FCO	FA/APS	India: Inaugration of Vedic Temple and Cultural Museum	U	
02/04/1998			Letter to Claire Ward MP Inaugration of the Glory of India Vedic Cultu	U	
12/05/1998		PM	Nuclear Tests	U	
29/05/1998	FCO	FA/APS	Letter from Srichand Hinduja	U	
09/06/1998		Ch.Staff	from G P hinduja: thank you for seeing Barjesh Mishra last week	C	0
12/06/1998	PM		Letter to S P Hinduja - Promoting Relations between India and the U	U	
02/07/1998	HO		J.P.Hinduja (H300363)	U	0
14/08/1998	HO		S.P.Hinduja (H300363)	U	0
25/08/1998		PM	Omagh Terrorist Attack - From Hinduja	U	
05/10/1998	PM		To S P Hinduja: threat posed by terrorism	C	0
15/10/1998		HO	S.P.Hinduja (H300363)-Letter from Keith Vaz MP	U	0
23/10/1998	DTI	DTI	Secretary of State's Meeting with the Hinduja:6 October	U	0
04/12/1998			Letter from Hinduja Foundation to John Witherow	U	
09/12/1998		PM	Letter to S P Hinduja - Spirit Zone at Greenwich Dome	U	
31/12/1998	DTI	FA/APS	Draft reply to Hinduja re Millenium Dome / Experience	U	
04/01/1999	FA/APS		Letter to S P Hinduja re New Millenium Experience Company - Dome	U	
27/01/1999		Ch.Staff	Letter to S P Hinduja - Indio-British Relationship	U	
05/02/1999	FCO		Request for Dreft reply to Hinduja re Indo-British Relationship	C	
10/02/1999	FCO		India: Letter from Hinduja	U	
11/02/1999	Ch.Staff		Letter to S P Hinduja - Visit of Mishra and Jaswant Singh	U	
03/03/1999		PM	Letter from S P Hinduja donation of 1 million for the Spirit Zone at the	U	
08/03/1999			Request for Draft reply to Hinduja Letter re £1 million donation to the	U	
31/03/1999	ms/cabinet office		draft reply for the PM to send to Srichand Hinduja - Spirit Zone - Dom	R	
31/03/1999		PM	Letter from SP Hinduja re Asian Community Event	U	
14/04/1999	PM		Letter to S P Hinduja re Support for the Spirit Zone Millenium Dome	U	
21/04/1999		PM	Letter from S P Hinduja re Gala Dinner - Dome	U	
23/04/1999			Request for draft reply re Hinduja letter	U	
01/05/1999	ms/cabinet office	PU	Draft reply to Mr Hinduja New Millenium Experience - Dome	U	
12/05/1999	PU		Letter to S P Hinduja - Faith Zone within the Millenium Zone	U	
21/05/1999		PM	Letter to G P Hinduja Keith Vaz's Appointment to Ministerial Post in G	U	
15/06/1999	PM		to G P Hinduja: Keith Vaz appointment as minister	C	0
23/06/1999		PM	Letter to G P Hinduja - Princes Trust	U	
28/06/1999		FCO	Letter to G P Hinduja - Request for Draft Reply -	C	
06/07/1999		PM	Letter from G P Hinduja - Clashes in Kargil / meeting with Clinton	U	
07/07/1999		FCO	Request fro draft reply to G P Hinduja	U	
07/07/1999	FCO		India/ Kashmir / Letter from Gopichand P Hinduja	U	
13/07/1999	FCO		Reply from the Prime Minister to Gopichand Hinduja	U	
19/07/1999	FCO		Reply from the Prime Minister to G P Hinduja	U	
26/07/1999	PM		Fighting in Kashmir - From Hinduja	U	
30/07/1999		PM	faith Zone at Greenwich - Millenium Dome	U	
30/07/1999		PM	Letter to S P Hinduja - Alleviating poverty around the world	U	
04/08/1999		DID	Request for drafy reply re SJ Hinduja's letter on Poverty	U	
11/08/1999			Letter to S P Hinduja - NMEc Meeting	U	
19/08/1999	DID	FA/APS	Draft reply to Hinduja re Alleviation of Poverty	U	

RESTRICTED AND PERSONAL



Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

JONATHAN POWELL

cc Robin Young
Joe Pilling
John Warne
Clare Sumner

HINDUJAS AND PETER MANDELSON

You asked me for advice about Peter Mandelson and the Hindujas.

Principles

2. The following seem to be the main points of principle:
 - i. it must be primarily for Peter Mandelson to explain and defend what happened between him and the Hindujas on the passport application. The only issue for the Prime Minister is whether anything that has happened causes him to lose confidence in Peter Mandelson;
 - ii. there is nothing wrong in a Minister who has been lobbied about a passport application passing it on to the Home Office, adding a comment on the merits of the application if he wishes. This happens under all Governments;
 - iii. it would be on the wrong side of the line if a Minister were to press the Home Office to grant a passport application in return for the individual concerned doing a favour, either for the Government (eg investing in the Dome) or personally. There are obvious gradations of behaviour here. Support for an application at a time when the Minister is coincidentally having dealings on another matter with the individual making the application is a slippery area and would need to be handled with care to avoid misinterpretation;
 - iv. it would be seriously wrong, and open to judicial review, if the Home Office Minister making the decision on the proposed application were to do so on the strength of some irrelevant and extraneous factor (eg whether the individual had contributed to the Dome).

Ref: A02001/138

RESTRICTED AND PERSONAL

Applying the Principles to this Case

3. Getting at the facts on the Hindujas' application has not been easy but this is the story as I understand it.

4. Both S P and G P Hinduja applied for naturalisation in 1990 and had their applications refused in 1991. In February 1998 Mr S Hinduja wrote to Mr Mandelson offering to underwrite the Spirit Zone at the Dome to the tune of £3m and Mr Mandelson got to know him as a result of this offer of sponsorship. I understand that Mr S Hinduja believed that as a result of a change in the law it might be worth making a fresh application but he did not want to apply if he would be refused automatically as a result of the earlier decision. He mentioned this to Peter Mandelson. In June 1998 Peter Mandelson had a short telephone conversation with Mike O'Brien and established that a fresh application by Mr Hinduja would be considered on its merits according to the criteria then applying and without reference to the earlier decision. A trawl of the Home Office files has revealed no correspondence between Mr Mandelson and the Home Office about S P or G P Hinduja.

5. We have said publicly that Peter Mandelson is still clear that he did not sponsor or endorse the application or make representations on Mr S Hinduja's behalf. The Home Office have confirmed this. Barbara Roche answered a Written PQ on 18 January about the applications for naturalisation made by G P Hinduja and S P Hinduja. The answer said that Peter Mandelson 'made inquiries about how an application might be viewed given the Government's wider policy of encouraging citizenship from long-standing residents who fulfilled the criteria, but did not make representations that an application be granted.'

6. There was an unfortunate minor mix-up about who spoke to the Home Office. The line taken at the lobby on 22 January was that Mr Mandelson had had asked his private secretary to refer the issue to the Home Office. Chris Smith said in the House that Mr Mandelson's Parliamentary Private Secretary had been involved. On further reflection, Mr Mandelson recalled that he had spoken to Mike O'Brien personally rather than his private secretary speaking to Mike O'Brien's office. Alastair Campbell ironed this wrinkle out at this morning's lobby. Chris Smith will also issue a correction.

7. One final part of the story. While Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Mandelson received a letter in May 2000 from G P Hinduja about a possible citizenship application from a third brother, Prakash, whom Mr Mandelson has never met. Mr Mandelson gave the letter to the Home Secretary without support or endorsement. The Home Secretary wrote to Mr Mandelson in June 2000 explaining the procedures for naturalisation

applications. The Hinduja's sent Peter Mandelson some mangoes around the same time. There has been no application from Prakash. This part of the story (less the mangoes) was announced at this morning's lobby.

Conclusion

8. My best guess is that this case falls into the slippery area where a Minister, having official dealings with someone, coincidentally and separately passes on a question about an application for a passport from that person to the Home Office. This is what Mr Mandelson would appear to have done both with the letter about Prakash and in the case of S P Hinduja. The best course in such cases is to stand back from the application and make it clear that the Minister is simply forwarding orally or in writing the question about whether it would be worth applying (S P Hinduja) or a letter about a possible application (Prakash). The more strongly the Minister supports the application, the more awkward the perception. But at the end of the day the decision about an application is for the Home Office and as a matter of integrity they would not be influenced by irrelevant considerations, whatever their source. Home Office Ministers and Mr Mandelson have made clear their view that he did nothing improper in either case.

9. I suggest that the Prime Minister and Number 10 should not get too involved in this. The line should simply be:

- i. where a Minister is approached about a passport application there is nothing wrong in his passing on the information to the Home Office, adding a comment if he wishes;
- ii. all that happened here was that Peter Mandelson made a phone call to a Home Office Minister and established that a fresh application from Mr S Hinduja would be considered on its merits according to the criteria then applying and without reference to the decision in 1991 to refuse his earlier application; and pass on to the Home Office a letter about Prakash. He did not support either application or make representations;
- iii. no one has produced a shred of evidence that anything improper took place.

Richard Wilson
PP **RICHARD WILSON**

23 January 2001

HINDUJA BROTHERS - SPONSORSHIP OF THE SPIRIT ZONE

Accusation

Hinduja Brothers secured access to Ministers through their support of the 'Faith' zone.

Facts

On 24 February 1998 Hinduja offered (letter from SP Hinduja to Peter Mandelson) to underwrite the Faith Zone.

Such discussions were between the then chief executive Jennie Page and her team and representatives of the Hinduja brothers - in the same way that other sponsorships were arranged.

On 3 June 1999 NMEC announced that the target of £4m sponsorship for the Faith Zone had been secured. That comprised of £1m from the Hinduja Foundation, £2m from the Laing Family Trust, the remainder from other sponsors.

Lines to take

- The Hinduja Brothers did not have improper access to Ministers. This would be contrary to the Ministerial code.
- Discussions on sponsorship of the Spirit Zone were between the then Chief Executive of NMEC, Jennie Page and her team along with representatives of the Hinduja Brothers.
- This was no different to the way in which other sponsorships were arranged.
- The then shareholder, Peter Mandelson, was quite appropriately kept fully up to date on sponsorship issues. However, negotiations about sponsorship were rightly carried out between NMEC Chief Executive and would-be sponsors.
- As has been made clear, Peter Mandelson made no representations regarding the Hinduja's passport application

- NMEC chronology

HINDUJA FOUNDATION AND THE DOME - CHRONOLOGY
Dome Press Office Briefing Note - 23 January 2001

- 1996 or earlier - The Hinduja Foundation applied to the Millennium Commission for match-funding in support of the proposed Concordia project, Peterborough. This would have involved the Foundation committing millions of pounds to a centre promoting interfaith understanding.
- Feb 1997 - Immediately after Millennium Central Ltd (now New Millennium Experience Company) started trading on 12 February 1997, Chief Executive Jennie Page was approached by the Hinduja Foundation which wished to see interfaith understanding on the Concordia project model being promoted in the Dome.
- March 1997 - Chief Executive Jennie Page met representatives of the Hinduja Foundation to discuss their involvement in the Dome. At this stage NMEC had no sponsorship department or sponsorship advisors and discussions were exploratory. Concepts for something within the Dome reflecting the religious significance of the millennium were only at the very earliest stages, although the Millennium Commission and the company were committed to a religious exhibition or events.
- 16 April 1997 - Jennie Page wrote to the Hinduja Foundation outlining the possibilities for its involvement and welcoming the offer of support. The concepts for the Dome's content were being fleshed out at this time - exhibitions on 'Who We Are, What We Do and Where We Live.' In the 'Who We Are' section there would be three exhibitions - Body, Mind and Soul. The 'Soul' exhibition went through a number of treatments in discussion with the Lambeth Group* and became the Faith zone.
- June 1997 Further discussions between NMEC sponsorship and Hinduja Foundation.
- 30 July 1997 Hinduja Foundation wrote to Jennie Page confirming that it wished to offer financial support for the Dome.

Late 1997 Further meetings and presentations took place between NMEC and the Foundation in 1997, with the offer of support from the Foundation remaining open. Throughout this period NMEC was also making presentations to and negotiating with potential donors from other faiths.

24 Feb 1998 The Foundation made verbal offer to NMEC to underwrite the entire cost of the Spirit Zone (later renamed Faith zone) on the understanding that NMEC wished to raise sponsorship from a range of organisations and individuals identified with more than one faith tradition. The Foundation also offered to lead a sponsorship campaign among the UK ethnic minority communities.

cont/...

NMEC's target figure for donations in support of the Spirit Zone was a total of £4m. The total cost of the zone was more than £6m. NMEC did not announce the Foundation's offer at the time because it was still negotiating with other potential donors from other faiths and because it wished to announce the full package of donations together once they were all confirmed.

get
letter

June 1998

NMEC

The Foundation confirmed in writing and announced to religious groups that it was willing to underwrite the cost of the Spirit zone - although this wasn't picked up by national media.

14 Oct 1998

Daily Telegraph reports that Hinduja Foundation is underwriting the Spirit zone. One of the Hinduja brothers goes on BBC R4 Today programme to confirm that this is the case.

Dec 1998 Renamed Faith zone announced with details of content.**

1998/1999 Discussions with other potential donors continue.

3 June 1999 Final donors announced - £2m from the Laing family trusts (Christian charitable foundations), £1m from the Hinduja Foundation, £1m from other Christian trusts including the Jerusalem Trust (established by Tim Sainsbury).

***The Lambeth Group** was established in spring 1997 as the consultative body on the religious aspects of the UK's millennium celebrations. It was chaired by the Revd Canon Colin Fletcher, (Archbishop of Canterbury's Domestic Chaplain) and had 30 members - 24 from the Christian churches and six from other faiths. They were consulted on the content of the Faith zone and also the religious element of the Dome opening ceremony and religious events and prayer facilities at the Dome in 2000. Separately, the group was consulted on millennium celebrations across the UK.

**** Background note on Faith zone**

Recognise the year 2000 as a significant Christian anniversary. Explore the huge range of beliefs and religions that are part of the UK today. Celebrate the diversity of different faiths. Be inspired to think about your own beliefs.

Sponsors Donations from the Laing Family Trusts, the Hinduja Foundation, The Jerusalem Trust and four other trusts and foundations.

Designers Architecture for Faith structure by Eva Jiricna Architects. Internal exhibition by Jasper Jacobs Associates with advice from the Lambeth Group.

cont/.....

Faith zone is the stopping point on a journey through the faith landscape of the UK in the year 2000. Like a tent where travellers meet, the huge canopied structure stretches its 17m steel arches and fabric roof over the zone.

The spiritual journey begins in childhood - celebrated at the entrance by David Begbie's wire mesh sculpture of a newborn child. Also featured at the start of the zone are words and symbols from nine major faiths represented in the zone - Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian.

A sweeping wall of pictures, words and film explores the impact of living with two thousand years of Christian history in the UK today.

Life Points looks at common human experiences such as birth, marriage, learning, death and how they are marked in distinctive ways by each faith. Nine crystal pillars tell dramatic stories in pictures taken by some of the world's leading photographers including Tim Page, Abbas, Jenny Matthews, and Gideon Mendel.

The role of faith in situations of conflict and reconciliation is explored and visitors can hear people of different faiths - and none - reflect on death and belief. Visitors are asked one question 'How shall I live?' and a visual anthology of suggested answers fills an entire wall. A calendar of faith festivals for the year 2000 stands near a powerful display about ways all faiths can jointly fight the world's evils.

At the centre of the zone is a contemplation space, beautifully enhanced by a light sculpture by artist James Turrell.

[ends]

Dome Press Office - 0208 293 8718/ 0208 293 8349

Mark Bennett

From: Wilkinson Peter - CG - [Peter.Wilkinson@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 January 2001 18:00
To: Langdale Mark - Lord Falconer's Office -; Bennett Mark - No. 10 -
Cc: 'Dave Humphries'; Tanner Will - Lord Falconers Office -; Abel Richard- Cab Sec's -
Subject: RE: Hinduja payments

our friend at the dome said he will e-mail a chronology - he is now claiming the hindujas xpressed interest in feb 97 - ie pre-election - can this be true?

- > -----Original Message-----
- > From: Langdale Mark - Lord Falconer's Office -
- > Sent: 23 January 2001 17:52
- > To: Bennett Mark - No. 10 -
- > Cc: 'Dave Humphries'; Wilkinson Peter - CG -; Tanner Will - Lord Falconers Office -; Abel Richard- Cab Sec's -
- > Subject: Hinduja payments
- >
- > Mark
- >
- > Here's clarification on the Hindujas' support for the Faith Zone.
- >
- > The Hindujas' £1m was paid in 3 instalments (£100k on 25 Feb 99, £450k on 18 May 99, and final £450k on 23 Aug 99). The £1m is public knowledge -
- > see NMEC press notice of 3 June 99 which formally confirmed what was already widely known - but the payment dates are not.
- >
- > Further background
- > The Laing Family Trust donated £2m. The Hindujas donated £1m. A further £1m came from other groups with Christian affiliations. Unlike the other zones, all the money came in the form of donations, rather than formal sponsorship - i.e. there weren't sponsorship contracts for the Faith Zone.
- >
- > Mark

Clare Sumner

From: Martin Freeman
Sent: 23 January 2001 18:02
To: Clive Barbour; Clare Sumner
Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From: STEPHENSON SIMON [mailto:simon.stephenson@culture.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 January 2001 17:19
To: Martin Freeman (E-mail)
Subject:

→ October

Martin

as requested

"On 3 June 1999 NMEC announced that the target of £4m sponsorship for the Faith Zone had been secured. That comprised of £1m from the Hinduja Foundation, £2m from the Laing Family Trust, the remainder from other sponsors."

Simon

? all of money paid

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www.mimesweeper.com

Clare Sumner

From: Martin Freeman
Sent: 23 January 2001 17:59
To: Clare Sumner
Subject: Hinduja: Limited chronology

June/July 1998 - Mandelson makes call to O'Brien

October 1998 - S.P. Hinduja re-applies for Naturalisation

March 1999 - S.P. Hinduja's application granted

June 1999 - NMEC announce target of £4 million sponsorship for the faith zone secured. £1 million from the Hinduja Foundation.

Clare Sumner

From: Bob Bartram
Sent: 23 January 2001 22:14
To: Clare Sumner
Subject: FW: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (40:0:20101443)

And here's the second one..

-----Original Message-----

From: LEXIS/NEXIS Print Delivery
[mailto:lexis-nexis@prod.lexis-nexis.com]
Sent: 23 January 2001 22:14
To: bbartram@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (40:0:20101443)

1125MZ

Print Request: Selected Document(s): 5

Time of Request: January 23, 2001 05:14 pm EST

Number of Lines: 99

Job Number: 40:0:20101443

Client ID/Project Name:

Research Information:

(Lord Levy and Hinduja) and date (geq (05/01/1997) and leq (01/22/2001))

Note:

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Sunday Business

December 17, 2000

SECTION: Pg. 7

LENGTH: 979 words

HEADLINE: BLAIR CAUGHT IN HINDUJA WEB

BYLINE: Mark Watts and Jat Gill;

BODY:

T

ONLY Blair attended a private dinner with the billionaire Hinduja brothers

before the 1997 general election - to appeal for donations to Labour.

The contacts between the prime minister and the London-based Hinduja brothers may prove embarrassing for Labour as the businessmen become more deeply embroiled in the "arms-for-bribes" case in India.

Last week, a court in Delhi accepted federal police charges that three Hinduja brothers, Srichand, 65, Gopichand, 60, and Prakash, 55 - known as SP, GP and PP respectively - took Sk80.8m (then worth GBP 7.9m) as part of a "criminal conspiracy" with the Swedish defence company Bofors to bribe the Indian government for a huge howitzer contract in 1986. Special judge Ajit Bharihoke has summoned them to appear before him on 19 January, when he will decide whether they should stand for a full trial.

A spokesman for the brothers said they will attend the hearing: "They see it as the best possible opportunity to clear their names."

Indian police say they will seek the extradition of SP and GP - who were given UK passports by home secretary Jack Straw - from Britain and PP from Switzerland if they fail to attend.

The Hinduja brothers, whose global business empire includes Indian truck maker Ashok Leyland and a bank in Switzerland, are known for their secrecy. But an aide of the family together with two former advisers have provided Sunday Business with information from inside the Hinduja group.

One revealed how Blair attended a traditional Indian dinner at the brothers' home in Carlton House Terrace in London's St James's within the three-month period immediately before the election.

A Labour insider confirmed that Blair was part of an offensive to seek more than GBP 1m from the London-based Hinduja brothers. Party fund-raisers also asked them to help raise donations from the Asian business community in Britain. Labour's chief fund-raiser, Lord Levy, later met SP, although one insider said

PAGE 2

Sunday Business December 17, 2000

this was over Dome sponsorship.

It is unclear whether the Hinduja brothers responded to Blair's appeal for help with fund-raising. But his plea led to a rift between the Hinduja brothers and Keith Vaz, the Asian minister for Europe, who wanted to be Labour's ambassador to the Asian business community, as Levy is for Jewish circles.

The Hinduja brothers always say they have never given donations to any political parties and Labour refuses to identify donors who gave before the election. Their names do not appear on an internal list of pre-election Labour donors seen by Sunday Business.

In an interview with Sunday Business last year, SP said: "This business house is not interested in any such benefits from any government where we have to fund their political operations. Some people give political support by money, we are giving political support with economic suggestions."

He said they give this advice to "concerned ministers" and stressed: "We are not donors to Labour, nor indeed to any political party. We have been very supportive of every government that comes in power."

His comments came soon after Tony and Cherie Blair were guests at the Hinduja brothers' Diwali party at Alexandra Palace, north London. The prime minister was the first to sign their "millennium pledge" promoting "multi-cultural understanding".

Last month, the Hinduja brothers were linked with bids for a range of British companies, including Express Newspapers.

Sunday Business investigation last month exposed a series of "Hinduja truths". The biggest myth surrounding the family is the extent of their wealth; the brothers were placed eighth in this year's Sunday Times Rich List at GBP 1.95bn. The brothers say they do not personally make any public assessments of their wealth, but their aides have told compilers that the Hinduja's stake in Ashok Leyland was worth GBP 300m. Sunday Business showed that their 35.7% stake was worth less than a tenth of that. This is partly because the Bombay stock market has fallen, but even at the time of their valuation the stake was worth less than a third of the stated GBP 300m.

A previous year's Rich List entry wrongly suggested that a "leading American car company" was about to buy Ashok Leyland for GBP 600m.

And a management consultants' report was cited as valuing a Hinduja cable TV company at GBP 750m. The company has since been consolidated with other technology and media companies into Hinduja Finance Corporation, which was valued at less than GBP 60m and the family's stake at less than GBP 45m. Our examination of their business empire knocked their valuation down to a maximum of GBP 1bn.

Meanwhile, the Hinduja sources questioned the reported extent of the family's charitable donations. The Sunday Times Rich List last year said: "The Hinduja's would race much faster up this list if they were not diverting such large amounts of their wealth to charity - between GBP 45m and GBP 60m annually." One source suggested these amounts may have been given in total, but annual donations amounted to "the low millions".

PAGE 3

Sunday Business December 17, 2000

Accounts for the Hinduja Foundation in Britain show it has given, on average, GBP 262,030 annually for the past 10 years.

The Hinduja's underwrote the Dome's religious zone, and although SP was keen to underplay the extent of their contribution in an interview to Sunday Business last year, the accounts show they gave GBP 1m to the Dome, by far the foundation's biggest donation in 1999.

The Hinduja sources said the brothers give more in India, their biggest contribution being the 335-bed PD Hinduja National Hospital in Bombay, named after their father. The hospital is now "largely self-financing".

The sources reveal the Hinduja's had an elder brother, Girdhar. He died of typhoid fever in the 1960s while being groomed to lead the business empire.

The hospital, established by the father, was rebuilt in Girdhar's honour in the early 1980s.

LOAD-DATE: December 27, 2000

Clare Sumner

From: Bob Bartram
Sent: 23 January 2001 22:10
To: Clare Sumner
Subject: FW: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (40:0:20100974)

I'm assuming you've already seen this, but just in case... it's from Sunday Business (last Sunday). A similar one coming from 17th Dec

-----Original Message-----

From: LEXIS/NEXIS Print Delivery
[mailto:lexis-nexis@prod.lexis-nexis.com]
Sent: 23 January 2001 22:09
To: bbartram@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (40:0:20100974)

1125MZ

Print Request: Selected Document(s): 1

Time of Request: January 23, 2001 05:08 pm EST

Number of Lines: 52
Job Number: 40:0:20100974

Client ID/Project Name:

Research Information:

(Lord Levy and Hinduja) and date (geq (05/01/1997) and leq (01/22/2001))

Note:

PAGE 1

1 of 5 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2001 Sunday Business Group

Sunday Business

January 21, 2001

SECTION: Pg. 7

LENGTH: 455 words

HEADLINE: DONATIONS GIVEN TO DOZEN MPS

BYLINE: Mark Watts;

BODY:

Several mPs received donations from the billionaire Hinduja brothers, Sunday

Business can reveal. The MPs failed to declare the contributions in the register of members' interests, but former aides to the London-based brothers confirmed the donations.

One said contributions of several hundred pounds were paid to "maybe a dozen" MPs, "pretty evenly split" between Labour and Conservatives, and one Tory MEP. He would not name the politicians, who were of various ethnic groups, but he said they were parliamentary candidates when they approached the Hindujas.

A loophole in parliamentary rules means MPs do not have to declare payments received when they were candidates. Nor do they have to declare donations to their constituency parties for election campaigns.

But the disclosure will increase pressure for an overhaul of political funding.

The Hindujas are reportedly former big Tory donors, but they deny making donations to political parties. Sunday Business revealed last year that Tony Blair attended a private dinner with the Hindujas at their home in Carlton House Terrace in London's St James's within the three-month period before the 1997 general election to appeal for cash for Labour.

Sources in the Hinduja and Labour camps revealed Blair was part of an offensive to seek more than GBP 1m from the London-based brothers, SP and GP, as well as their help in raising donations from the Asian business community. Lord Levy, Labour's fund-raiser, later met SP, but one insider said this was over Dome sponsorship.

SP told Sunday Business just over a year ago: "This business house is not interested in any such benefits from any government where we have to fund their political operations."

His comments came soon after Tony and Cherie Blair were guests at the Hindujas' Diwali party at Alexandra Palace, north London. Blair was the first to sign their "millennium pledge" promoting "multi-cultural understanding".

PAGE 2

Sunday Business January 21, 2001

The Hindujas helped Blair by underwriting the Dome's religious zone, ultimately contributing GBP 1m. That payment, in 1999, was made through the charitable Hinduja Foundation and was its biggest donation that year.

Political candidates often approach the Hindujas for donations, sources explained. One said: "They give a nominal donation to people who approach them. So whether they are Conservative or Labour, if they think they are a good candidate, I think they give around GBP 700.

"I know some political figures are insulted that they don't donate more. But they give the same every time, so there's no impropriety."

He added: "I know one in particular went through the roof when they only gave her the standard amount. But that's their way."

Mark Watts

LOAD-DATE: January 22, 2001

Clare Sumner

From: Bob Bartram
Sent: 23 January 2001 21:17
To: Clare Sumner
Subject: FW: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (711:0:20096560)

This is first request. Checking the other one now..

-----Original Message-----

From: LEXIS/NEXIS Print Delivery
[mailto:lexis-nexis@prod.lexis-nexis.com]
Sent: 23 January 2001 21:17
To: bbartram@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (711:0:20096560)

1125MZ

Print Request: Selected Document(s): 1

Time of Request: January 23, 2001 04:17 pm EST

Number of Lines: 42

Job Number: 711:0:20096560

Client ID/Project Name:

Research Information:

(Hinduja) and date (geq (10/01/1998) and leq (10/30/1998))

Note:

PAGE 1

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

Copyright 1998 Telegraph Group Limited

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH(LONDON)

October 15, 1998, Thursday

SECTION: Pg. 11

LENGTH: 321 words

HEADLINE: Hindu cash saves Dome Spirit Zone

BYLINE: By Tarquin Cooper

BODY:

THE Church of England yesterday welcomed news that a large donation by a Hindu charity will save the Spirit Zone of the Millennium Dome.

The Hinduja brothers - who have combined fortunes worth an estimated pounds

1 million - have pledged more than pounds 1 million to rescue the Spirit Zone through their Hinduja Foundation.

They said it was to further understanding between cultures.

The Bishop of Maidstone, the Rt Rev Gavin Reid, who is the chairman of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Millennium advisory group, said: "It is the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. One of the things that has been very heartening to Christians is how much that has been recognised by the people in other faiths."

Until last month, the New Millennium Experience company, which is responsible for the Dome's 14 exhibitions, was having difficulty raising pounds 12 million sponsorship for the zone.

It scaled down the zone from a glass and steel pyramid to a canvas tent after fears were raised that the former structure would be so heavy it would fall into the Blackwall Tunnel.

It will house a religious trail that depicts all the world faiths. There will also be an area of reflection in a smaller tent.

This replaces the original design which included a Zen Buddhist garden, a Muslim garden and a monastic cloister.

The company is now in negotiations with four backers, including the Hinduja brothers, and is confident that funding will soon be complete.

Strichand Hinduja, who heads the family's global business empire, said: "My family believes that multicultural misunderstanding is the biggest problem of the world.

"We feel that business people and politicians should focus much more on multicultural understanding."

PAGE 2

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH(LONDON) October 15, 1998, Thursday

The family, which gained its wealth from oil trading and banking, uses its Hinduja foundation to support world cultures, including the building of a Hindu temple in Neasden, north London.

LOAD-DATE: October 15, 1998

Clare Sumner

From: Bob Bartram
Sent: 23 January 2001 20:57
To: Clare Sumner
Subject: FW: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (711:0:20084771)

This is the final of three that I sent to Hilary

-----Original Message-----

From: LEXIS/NEXIS Print Delivery
[mailto:lexis-nexis@prod.lexis-nexis.com]
Sent: 23 January 2001 19:16
To: bbartram@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (711:0:20084771)

1125MZ

Print Request: Selected Document(s): 11

Time of Request: January 23, 2001 02:16 pm EST

Number of Lines: 22

Job Number: 711:0:20084771

Client ID/Project Name:

Research Information:

(Tony Blair or Prime Minister AND HLEAD (Asian)) and date (geq (03/25/1998) and leq (03/27/1998))

Note:

PAGE 1

11 of 19 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 1998 Leicester Mercury

Leicester Mercury

March 26, 1998

SECTION: Pg.5

LENGTH: 128 words

HEADLINE: Business people 'credit to Britain'

BODY:

LONDON: Prime Minister Tony Blair stepped up efforts to cultivate Britain's wealthy Asian business community yesterday, calling them a "credit to the country".

• In an after-dinner speech to a gathering of top Asian business leaders, Blair said they embodied many values dear to his Labour government.

"What you all have in common is a belief in the importance of good education and the strength, loyalty and support that comes from strong families and communities," he said in the prepared text of his speech.

Blair said figures compiled by the Asian community newspaper Eastern Eye showed the top 200 Asian businesses in Britain were collectively worth GBP 7.5 billion.

- GBP 40 million Leicestershire businessman among Britain's richest Asians, Page 41.

LOAD-DATE: April 27, 1998

Clare Sumner

From: Bob Bartram
Sent: 23 January 2001 20:56
To: Clare Sumner
Subject: FW: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (711:0:20084173)

-----Original Message-----

From: LEXIS/NEXIS Print Delivery
[mailto:lexis-nexis@prod.lexis-nexis.com]
Sent: 23 January 2001 19:09
To: bbartram@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (711:0:20084173)

1125MZ

Print Request: Selected Document(s): 9

Time of Request: January 23, 2001 02:09 pm EST

Number of Lines: 48
Job Number: 711:0:20084173

Client ID/Project Name:

Research Information:

(Tony Blair or Prime Minister AND HLEAD (Asian)) and date (geq (03/25/1998) and leq (03/27/1998))

Note:

PAGE 1

9 of 19 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 1998 Newspaper Publishing PLC

The Independent (London)

March 26, 1998, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Page 6

LENGTH: 441 words

HEADLINE: Blair vows to fight crime and racism

BYLINE: Anthony Bevins

BODY:

THE crime and racial discrimination that make the lives of so many members of the ethnic minorities intolerable would be tackled by the Labour government,

Tom Blair said last night.

Speaking at a London dinner for about 350 successful Asian business people, the Prime Minister said: "I want to see your success extended to others. And that can be helped by a government willing to tackle those things that make life intolerable for too many people: in particular crime and discrimination. I am proud that Britain is a multicultural society that works. The modern Britain I want to create is worth nothing if it is built on intolerance towards those of a different colour, religion or beliefs.

"Cultural diversity enriches Britain. The contribution of the Asian community makes Britain a better place to live. You are central to Britain's strength in the future. That is why we will continue to promote opportunities for all across all parts of government and society. Because any society that discriminates against people because of their background is not just a society lacking morality, but a waste of real talent."

At the start of Prime Minister's questions in the Commons yesterday, Mr Blair told MPs that he would be attending the "Asian 200" dinner, and there was a roar of approval when he said he was going "both to celebrate the enterprise of the Asian community and reiterate our total opposition to racism in all its forms."

Last night, in his Cafe Royal speech, he said: "We will tackle under-representation across key areas of society . . . And we are tackling crime, especially among young people. Crime levels are far too high. Especially in the inner-city areas where many Asian businesses are located and where many Asians live. And be in no doubt that we will not tolerate racial harassment."

Following The Independent's call for a political stand to be taken against racism, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, said yesterday that once the Scottish Parliament had been set up, his party would be introducing strong anti-racism laws, going beyond existing British legislation. "Scotland's reputation as a place of tolerance and ethnic diversity is precious to the SNP and to all who live here," he said.

PAGE 2

The Independent (London), March 26, 1998

The Commission for Racial Equality also announced that it had lifted the threat of issuing the Ministry of Defence with a formal Non-Discrimination Notice, but under a partnership agreement signed by Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, the CRE is to remain closely involved in developing racial equality practices in the services until at least 2003.

LOAD-DATE: March 26, 1998

Clare Sumner

From: Bob Bartram
Sent: 23 January 2001 20:56
To: Clare Sumner
Subject: FW: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (59:0:20082052)

-----Original Message-----

From: LEXIS/NEXIS Print Delivery
[mailto:lexis-nexis@prod.lexis-nexis.com]
Sent: 23 January 2001 18:40
To: bbartram@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: LEXIS(R)-NEXIS(R) Email Request (59:0:20082052)

1125MZ

Print Request: Selected Document(s): 56

Time of Request: January 23, 2001 01:40 pm EST

Number of Lines: 62

Job Number: 59:0:20082052

Client ID/Project Name:

Research Information:

(Tony Blair or Prime Minister AND HLEAD (entrepreneur)) and date (geq
(03/01/1998) and leq (08/01/1998))

Note:

PAGE 1

56 of 66 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 1998 Guardian Newspapers Limited

The Guardian (London)

March 26, 1998

SECTION: The Guardian Home Page; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 539 words

HEADLINE: Blair hails Britain's super-rich Asians;
Vivek Chaudhary detects sour note over Labour's eagerness to woo community's
wealthy

BYLINE: VIVEK CHAUDHARY

BODY:

They are proclaimed the paragons of success and endeavour whose rise from rags to riches has seen them take their place in British folklore as the epitome of hard-working immigrants.

Having had his fingers burnt with the pop pack, Tony Blair decided to rub shoulders with the ethnic pack last night at a gathering of Britain's 200 wealthiest Asians in central London.

Accompanied by his wife, Cherie, who wore an embroidered sari, Mr Blair praised entrepreneurs at the dinner, held to mark the release of a list of Britain's wealthiest Asians.

Between them, they are worth pounds 7.5 billion, own a number of household brands and employ 300,000 people around the world. And Mr Blair described them as "a credit to the country as a whole, not just the Asian community".

Leading the way are Lakshmi and Usha Mittal, who own a multi-national steel company worth pounds 2 billion, followed by the Hinduja family, worth pounds 1.2 billion, with extensive interests in industry and oil.

Others include 21-year-old Rueben Singh, worth an estimated pounds 45 million, who owns a fashion accessory chain, and Shami Ahmed, owner of the Joe Bloggs fashion label, valued at pounds 60 million.

The presence of the Blairs was proof of Labour's keenness to woo wealthy Asians, who have traditionally favoured the Tories and seen Labour as a hindrance rather than a help to business.

But as Mr Blair tucked into his samosas, surrounded by the super-rich, the list, and Labour's support for it, left others in the Asian community with a sour taste in their mouths.

Campaigners claim the list paints a misleading picture of the success of Britain's Asian community.

PAGE 2

The Guardian (London), March 26, 1998

Few in the top 10 made their money in Britain and many on the list come from wealthy families.

Many originated from east Africa, and had made substantial money before coming to Britain.

Suresh Grover, of the Southall Monitoring Group, said: "While there is no doubt that there are some success stories, we also have to ask the question, at what price? Many Asian workers are poorly paid and work in terrible conditions, often in companies owned by other Asians. At the end of the day, a businessman is a businessman and it doesn't matter what the race is."

Most successful Asian businesses are in the food, retail and textile areas, traditionally poorly paid with limited job security.

According to the latest government figures, unemployment rates for people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin stand at 22 per cent compared with the national average of about 6 per cent.

Kamaljeet Jandu, policy worker on ethnic issues at the Trades Union Congress, said: "We have a situation where a few people have done well but the reality is totally different for the majority of Asians. This list does not give a complete picture and there is a danger of replacing old stereotypes with new ones. Not all Asians are wealthy and many have limited opportunities."

Sarwar Ahmed, publisher of Eastern Eye newspaper which compiled the list, said: "There are vital social issues that affect the Asian community, but it

do mean that everything we do has to be referred back to them. This list shows the changing nature of our community."

LOAD-DATE: March 26, 1998

SUBJECT
MASTER

Red on:

From: Clare Sumner
Date: 23 January 2001

JONATHAN POWELL

TELEPHONE CALL WITH PETER MANDELSON

The Prime Minister spoke to Peter Mandelson again at 2320. The Prime Minister said that he was thinking about whether to ask a former senior civil servant to look at the papers as the only way to lance the boil. It was important that this was dealt with as quickly as possible.

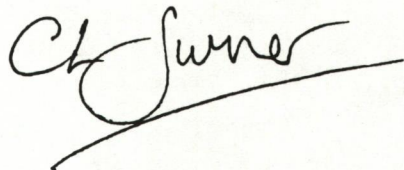
Peter Mandelson relayed the headlines from the morning papers which were fairly negative. The Prime Minister said that he was concerned about the reaction of the PLP.

The most difficult point was with regard to the conversation that Peter Mandelson had had with Jack Straw last week and then what had been said to the Observer.

The Prime Minister asked Peter Mandelson whether there was any reason at all why he should be worried about his contacts with the Hinduja's. Peter Mandelson said no.

The Prime Minister asked whether the Hinduja's had funded Peter Mandelson at any time. Peter Mandelson said no. However, he had received small gifts like mangoes and nuts. He had also gone to the Hinduja's for drinks, all of which could be used to create a certain impression.

The Prime Minister said that the important thing was to ensure that the way forward was worked out.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Sumner', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

CLARE SUMNER

LINES TO TAKE

GP & SP HINDUJA

- All applications for Nationality are considered under the terms of the British Nationality Act 1981.
- The application of Mr S P Hinduja of October 1998 was granted by officials in March 1999.
- A March 1997 application from G P Hinduja was referred to a Home Office Minister in July 1997 and granted in November 1997.
- Confusion over the weekend as to when enquiries were made by certain parties in respect of the Hinduja's arose because of a genuine error on the part of officials.
- The attached chronology has been arrived at through closer reference to the case and other related papers.
- Officials have discretion in certain circumstances to grant priority, including when earlier, unsuccessful applications have been lodged, and extensive enquiries already made.

[- If pressed : The attached background note sets out criteria for granting priority.]

APPLICATIONS FOR BRITISH CITIZENSHIP

BACKGROUND NOTE/Q&A

Question

How long do citizenship applications normally take?

Answer

- As at 01 January 2001 the average waiting time for all types of application for British citizenship was 13.1 months.
- Registrations take an average of 8.9 months, naturalisations 15.5 months, reflecting the greater degree of investigation required.

The Home Office has a publicly stated target of reducing waiting times to 3 months by April 2003. Waiting times have steadily decreased over the past 12 months; at the end of December 1999 the average was 18.8 months.

Question

Can the process be speeded up?

Answer

- Yes. The Integrated Casework Directorate will consider requests for priority consideration of applications and will start applications ahead of their turn in the queue.

Applications for British citizenship are currently started in the order in which they are received. Most of the waiting time is spent in the queue for starting cases. Under new processes shortly to be introduced, some of the ICD's resources will be devoted to starting new applications as they arrive, but this will not be to the detriment of applications currently in the queue.

Question

Under what circumstances will an application be expedited?

Answer

- There are a number of criteria, any one of which might merit starting an application ahead of turn. For example, where an applicant needs to travel urgently and cannot do so easily - or at all - on their existing travel documentation, priority would be given. Where a second or subsequent application from the same person is being considered, priority might also be granted.

There is a list of criteria under which applications may be started ahead of turn: these are attached at Annex A.

Question

Were the applications from the Hinduja brothers given priority?

Answer

- The second application was started ahead of turn, since much of the necessary information was already available from their first application. In addition, they argued that their current documentation hindered their ability to travel in pursuit of their business.

Applications from business people often fail because they cannot meet the residence requirements of the British Nationality Act 1981. When they re-apply, their cases are usually given priority because most of the work has already been done and they also meet the criteria that travelling is difficult with their existing passport.

ANNEX A

Requests to speed up an application at all stages are agreed only in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of a Senior Caseworker.

We would always agree priority where refusal would lead to more work than granting – for example because of the protracted correspondence involved – or where the application was received over twelve months ago.

Priority may be given if the applicant falls into any of the following categories: -

- unable to travel on their existing documentation and need to do so urgently, or
- nearly 18 and would fail to meet the “full capacity” requirement, to understand and take the oath of allegiance, if the decision were delayed until after his/her eighteenth birthday, or
- statelessness, or
- a refugee recognised under the UN conventions, or
- chosen to represent one of the Home Nations in international sporting competitions (and obviously needs to be British to do so), or
- the spouse of a British diplomat posted or about to be posted abroad, or
- he/she has already been significantly inconvenienced as a result of Home Office inefficiency (in which case we should give priority whether or not it has been requested), or
- a minister or senior official has already agreed to the application's being given priority, or
- he/she has been invited to make a fresh application where an earlier one has been refused tardily due to IND oversight, or
- it would be in the national interest

HINDUJA BROTHERS CHRONOLOGY

- 21.2.1990 First applications submitted (GP & SP Hinduja)
- 21.8.1990 Enquiry re progress from Edward Heath in respect of both applications.
- 18.4.1991 Both applications refused.
- 16.6.1992 Enquiry re exercise of discretion in both cases from Angela Rumbold.
- 8.12.1993 Enquiry re further applications from Keith Vaz.
- 17.12.1993 Letter of support from Jack Cunningham in respect of both cases.
- 22.4.1994 Further enquiry from Keith Vaz in respect of SP Hinduja.
- June 1996 Verbal enquiry from Lord Feldman as to appropriateness of any further application.
- 14.10.1996 Further written enquiry from Lord Feldman, providing further detail in both cases.
- 24.2.1997 Further enquiry from Keith Vaz in respect of both cases.
- 5.3.1997 Further application from G P Hinduja.
- July 1997 Reference to Home Office Minister in the case of G P Hinduja.
- November 97 Naturalisation granted to G P Hinduja.
- 20.10.1998 Further applications from S P Hinduja.
- March 1999 Naturalisation granted to S P Hinduja by officials.

20/18



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

The Rt Hon Peter Mandelson MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

26 JUN 2000
cf: Mrs. Roche
Sir. D. Omand
Mr. Boys Smith
Mr. Wrench
Mr. Walmsley
Ms. Teare
Mr. Owen
Mr. Russell

Dear Peter,

PRAKASH HINDUJA

I said I would write to you again about Prakash Hinduja's interest in British citizenship.

As Gopichand Hinduja acknowledges in his letter to you of 18 May, as his brother is resident in Switzerland he would first need to settle in the United Kingdom and be granted indefinite leave to remain here before he could apply for naturalisation. This is an unwaivable requirement of the British Nationality Act. There is discretion though to waive any excess absences for an applicant, and I think the next step should be for one of my officials to speak to Richard Hoare, Mr Gopichand Hinduja's legal adviser, about Mr Prakash Hinduja. We would then be able to offer advice on how he might obtain settlement under the immigration rules and on the timing of any application for citizenship. I have therefore asked Mr Andrew Walmsley, Deputy Director of the Integrated Casework Directorate in Liverpool, Tel. 0151 237 8017 to contact Mr Hoare to discuss Mr Prakash Hinduja's situation with him.

I hope this is helpful. I'd be happy to have a further word with you.

Yours,
Jack Straw

JACK STRAW

2199js



Sopichand P. Hinduja

GPH/ME

18 May, 2000

The Rt Hon Peter Mandelson, MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
The Northern Ireland Office
LONDON SW1

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Peter,

It has been a long time since we last met, but I am following the progress in Northern Ireland with great interest. I hope you are keeping well.

I know you are very busy and I am sorry to be troubling you. But I need your help and advice.

You will recall that last year my brother S P was also granted British Citizenship in view of his lengthy residence in Britain and now our entire family have become British Citizens and we have made London our home.

Now our brother Prakash who is a resident of Switzerland, but also spends part of his time in UK as he is the Director and majority shareholder of our UK based company, Sangam Ltd would also like to take up British Citizenship.

As we see it, there are two major hurdles regarding his application

- 1 - He needs to become a permanent resident of UK*
- 2 - Meet the residents' requirement of spending only 450 days in 5 years outside UK*

However, on the plus side, the benefits he would bring as a UK Citizen would far out weigh any hurdles that there may be. By becoming a British Citizen and making his home in London, Prakash would orientate himself towards Britain and would bring much investment and trade particularly in the field of information technology with him.

Cont.../2

For UK correspondence
New Zealand House, 14th Floor, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE
Telephone: 0171 839 4661 Fax: 0171 839 5992



-2-

The Rt Hon Peter Mandelson, MP

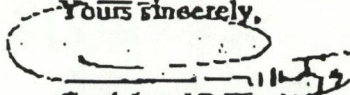
18 May, 2000

Would it be possible for you to find out if the Home Office would consider such an application from Prakash.

S.P joins me in sending you our best wishes for your continued good health and success.

With warmest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,


Gopichand P Hinduja

020 7270 1030


MEDIA MONITORING UNIT


Page 1 of 2 - 010123 - Mandelson - full Marr interview

TRANSCRIPT

Programme(s)	BBC News 24
Date & time	23 January 2001, 2145 - recorded earlier
Subject / interviewee	Mandelson - passport application
Prepared by:	Carl Shoben
Contact numbers:	020 7270 1080 - Pager 07659 137 572 - 24hrs, every day

Marr: Could you just start by explaining your recollection now of the sequence of the events. What happened. When did they ask you about passports and what did you say?

Mandelson: Well all the facts about this matter have now been established and they have all been volunteered by me. I simply communicated a query on somebody's behalf to a home office minister. The telephone conversation that took place, took less than two minutes. I did so intentionally through the civil service network, not on the [inaudible] perfectly open. At that stage no application for any passport had been made. There was no question of me, at that time, or at any time after that, promoting somebody's cause or expressing support or endorsement for anyone's passport application. So whilst I understand, you know, the interest in the story, the facts are very clear, and the fact have been put forward by me.

Marr: You were at the heart of government. Do you not feel that if you were a junior home office minister, and you received a call from Peter Mandelson at that time, you would feel as a junior minister under some kind of pressure?

Mandelson: Home Office ministers, who deal with nationality requests, receive inquiries and representations from MPs, from all parties, all the time. On this occasion, no passport application, no nationality request had been made. So, there's no question of any pressure being exerted. But, so that .. to be perfectly clear that I wasn't exerting pressure, I made this phone call very short, it was on the Civil Service network - it was set up by our respective private secretaries. I simply conveyed the request for information to the Minister. I had absolutely no contact after that moment with this case, with any passport application. I wasn't asked to make any representations and I didn't.

Marr: What had the Hinduja's asked you to ask on their behalf?

Mandelson: They had asked me to find out whether a recent change in Government policy, affecting nationality, might have an effect on an application by one of them for British nationality. I didn't know what the change in Government policy was. That's why I passed the query on to the relevant Home Office Minister. I told him why I was calling. I told him who had asked for the information. I then left it completely in his court. I didn't touch the issue, I didn't raise the issue, I didn't return to the issue again.

Marr: One of the question people are asking over the road at Westminster is that you can recall what you asked and the conversation but yesterday when the statement came out, the first statement came out, you appeared not to recall the conversation happening.

Mandelson: I made a statement over the weekend in response to a newspapers inquiry. Had I been involved? Yes I had, indeed, the information had already been made public in a parliamentary answer last week. I made clear the

020 7270 1030

Page 2 of 2 - 010123 - Mandelson - full Marr interview

nature of the involvement, and the very narrow interests, and very fleeting interests that I had. I also made clear the interest that I had had been conducted through the orthodox civil service network.

Marr: Initially that first statement, you didn't recall making a telephone conversation. You didn't recall having a conversation yourself with Mike O'Brien. People are saying, and yet you remember the conversation. You see the point?

Mandelson: When I was asked over the weekend to confirm the facts, I was simply asked by a newspaper, whether what had appeared in a parliamentary answer was right. I confirmed that it was and I also indicated the very narrow basis of my interests, that I hadn't endorsed or supported any passport application, and that any contact that I had with the Home Office was conducted through orthodox civil servants.

Marr: Finally, one word to those people looking who still say, at the end of it, if I give a lot of money, if I am a rich person and I give money to the Dome, the Labour Party or whatever, I can get ahead in the passport queue. If I know the right people, I can get ahead.

Mandelson: Anyone applying for a British passport will have that considered in the normal way, on the same grounds as anyone else, by the same people, the law will be applied to them ..

Marr: You don't think it matters if you phone rather than ..

Mandelson: Whoever they are, and I wouldn't dream of phoning the Home Office and promoting the merits of one individual as against another. I didn't do so on that occasion and I wouldn't do so in the future

-ends-

TRANSCRIPT

Programme(s)	Channel 4 News
Date & time	23 January 2001
Subject / interviewee	Mandelson – passport application
Prepared by:	Carl Shoben
Contact numbers:	020 7270 1080 - Pager 07659 137 572 – 24hrs, every day

Gibbon: Who reminded you of this phone call that had slipped your mind?

Mandelson: The officials who I asked yesterday to get hold of all the relevant facts and information about this gave me a note at the end of yesterday reminding me of what took place in 1998. The contact that I made with the relevant Home Office minister. The fact that that was set up by private secretaries and took place in this conventional normal way. I wasn't discussing the merits of a passport application or somebody's desire for British nationalist because no application had been made at that stage. Nothing like that was under consideration. But what I had been asked was whether a change in government policy had some bearing on an individual who might seek a British nationality. I didn't know the answer to that question. I didn't know what British government policy was or how it had changed. I asked the minister to deal with it and that was the very last moment, from that moment on, that I had any contact at all with this case or with this issue.

Gibbon: People might think – you seem to be remembering an awful lot about a phone call which for three days you'd forgotten about?

Mandelson: There's no question of my forgetting about anything. Nobody has asked me before today ..

Gibbon: You were asked by the *Observer* weren't you on Friday and Saturday whether you had made any approach to the Home Office?

Mandelson: I had no contact. No direct contact with the *Observer*. I was asked ..

Gibbon: When they spoke to your spokespeople, they were told that that there had not been direct contact.

Mandelson: I was asked for a statement by the *Observer* and I offered a statement through my spokesman. In that statement I made absolutely clear, and I wanted to be made clear and understood by people, that the contact I had with Home Office on this occasion, you know, was not sort of done on the .. there was no nudge or wink involved. It was properly set up and facilitated by civil servants in my private office and the other ministers private office. The purpose was simply to convey a request for information. After that, the minister himself dealt with it. I never had any further contact with it at all, so I didn't receive any questions about this over the weekend, and during the course of yesterday, as I was on Sunday evening and again today, been deeply involved in the Northern Ireland negotiations. When I came to this issue last night, however, and saw all the relevant facts, fine, perfectly straightforward, but I did

notice a discrepancy between the facts of what had happened and an account, or an impression that had been offered by Downing Street earlier in the day.

Gibbon: It's an impression that a lot of people are concerned about, that a man who at this stage we believe was involved in perhaps offering as much as five, six million maybe towards the Faith Zone in the Dome, can quite quickly get help, or might well appear to him to be help with his passport application from an extremely senior minister. A man who was known to be best friend of the Prime Minister.

Mandelson: That wouldn't occur to people if they actually knew the facts. The fact are that not five or six million but a notional one million had been committed..

Gibbon: Mr Hinduja's agent told us today that at that exact stage, five million or six million had been talked about. They were going to raise three million and raise from others three million.

Mandelson: They may have been discussing that with the NMEC but not with me because I wasn't involved in it.

Gibbon: But you knew there was some sort of donation?

Mandelson: Because I wasn't involved in any of these negotiations. What I did know was that earlier in the year, I think I am told it was in February of that year, they had committed a national one million pounds to finance or underwrite the costs of that zone in the Dome. That is completely unconnected with their request for information, which they put to me as a member of the government about government policy, because they knew me and had met me. It wasn't a question I could answer. That's why I passed it on to the relevant Home Office minister.

Gibbon: Do you think you'd do it again – is it a very wise course of action for a minister with no responsibility in this area to, at least to the outside world, appear to use his influence on behalf of someone else?

Mandelson: MPs get asked time and time again, you know, to make enquiries on people's behalf, on nationality issues. It happens all the time. If however ..

Gibbon: Normally constituents?

Mandelson: If however .. sometimes constituents, sometimes not constituents.

Gibbon: Have you ever made an application for someone, or phoned a Home Office minister on behalf of someone of who's not a constituent before?

Mandelson: I have never been asked to do so before, or since, but ..

End of interview.

TRANSCRIPT

Programme(s)	BBC News 24
Date & time	23 January 2001, 2145 – recorded earlier
Subject / interviewee	Mandelson – passport application
Prepared by:	Carl Shoben
Contact numbers:	020 7270 1080 - Pager 07659 137 572 – 24hrs, every day

Marr: Could you just start by explaining your recollection now of the sequence of the events. What happened. When did they ask you about passports and what did you say?

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Marr: You were at the heart of government. Do you not feel that if you were a junior home office minister, and you received a call from Peter Mandelson at that time, you would feel as a junior minister under some kind of pressure?

Mandelson: Home Office ministers, who deal with nationality requests, receive inquiries and representations from MPs, from all parties, all the time. On this occasion, no passport application, no nationality request had been made. So, there's no question of any pressure being exerted. But, so that .. to be perfectly clear that I wasn't exerting pressure, I made this phone call very short, it was on the Civil Service network – it was set up by our respective private secretaries. I simply conveyed the request for information to the Minister. I had absolutely no contact after that moment with this case, with any passport application. I wasn't asked to make any representations and I didn't.

Marr: *What had the Hinduja's asked you to ask on their behalf?*

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-ends-

TRANSCRIPT

Programme(s)	Newsnight
Date & time	23 January 2001
Subject / interviewee	Mandelson, passport
Prepared by:	Carl Shoben
Contact numbers:	020 7270 1080 - Pager 07659 137 572 - 24hrs, every day

Wark: I asked him earlier why Mr Hinduja had approached him instead of his constituency MP.

Mandelson: Because he knew me. He probably didn't know his constituency MP. And he'd met me on a number of occasions but latterly because he'd decided earlier in the year to underwrite some of the finances of the Millennium Dome.

Wark: You're a very busy man, you're a senior minister. Why would you find time to make such a call?

Mandelson: Because the call was quickly set up by the private offices, by private secretaries, as they are done on countless occasions everyday.

Wark: So are you saying that this is a kind of call you make regularly on behalf of people that want to check whether or not they should apply ..

Mandelson: I've never made a call like this but many conversations take place between ministers, set up by private secretaries each day and the reason why I wasn't more interested in it or involved in it is revealed by the fact that the conversation took less than two minutes.

Wark: So you have no objection to the contents of the civil servants' note taking of that telephone call being made public?

Mandelson: It is not a matter for me, personally I would have no objection. It would certainly be a first. It would certainly be creating a precedent in setting a new principle for notes of discussions between ministers to be put into the public domain. It would never have been done before. But if you are asking me personally whether I would object to it, the answer is no, but it is not a decision for me.

Wark: And indeed the Home Office has told us they are not going to release it.

Mandelson: Well that's news to me.

Wark: Were you aware when you made the call to Mike O'Brien, that Mr Hinduja was under investigation by the Indian authorities for allegedly a multi million pound bribery scandal.

Mandelson: I wasn't conscience of it then no. I became conscience of it later on in the year.

Wark: You said a little earlier tonight that after taking the call, the minister Mike O'Brien dealt with it. What did he do?

Mandelson: I don't know.

Wark: You know he dealt with it because you said so in an earlier interview.

Mandelson: I assume he dealt with it because the matter never came back to me. I was never asked to deal with it again myself, so I assume he dealt with it in an appropriate way but I don't know what that way was because by then it was completely out of my hands. No application was made until the autumn of that year, and bearing in mind this conversation took place in June. And the Government's determination of the application was not until the following March 1999. And as you know, I had long since left the Government by that stage, so I was in no ministerial capacity to influence any consideration of any passport application. Just to Labour the point for you.

Wark: Yes but whether or not there was actually any impropriety, do you accept that passport, million pounds, it looks like there was a possible corruption. Do you accept that?

Mandelson: No, I do not accept that claim at all. There was absolutely no question at all of any linkage being made by the Hinduja's, the Government, anyone at all, by the NMEC, between their commitment to the Faith Zone in the Dome and any future application for a passport. If that is a connection that some journalists wish to make or indeed some of my political opponents wish to make, then that's a matter for them. But the facts don't substantiate that.

Wark: But the fact is that further passport applications were made by another brother and it looks ..

Mandelson: No they weren't actually. An inquiry was made by a further brother. And indeed the further brother asked me for information again. I passed that straight on, as I have brought out into the public domain. I have volunteered this information.

Wark: Why are you so popular when it comes to asking whether or not passport applications are a good idea?

Mandelson: Well funnily enough, I am not that popular but in the case of these, this particular family who wanted British nationality ..

Wark: Who are rich.

Mandelson: Who indeed are rich but that has absolutely no bearing on the government's consideration of whether they should be given nationality, unless you are making an allegation about the Home Office's consideration of this matter and I am sure you are not. It was treated in the normal way, operating on the basis of normal procedures by the same people as is the case with everyone else. If they know me and want information they can come and ask me

for it but, but, and this is a very big but indeed, I pass those requests onto the Home Office. I did so on both occasions. On neither occasion was I in a position to give them information. On neither occasion, neither occasion were they making an application for British citizenship. In the case of the first brother, it was done subsequently, in the case of the second brother, he never made any application for British citizenship. My job is to make sure that when I get inquiries like this, I pass them on, on the usual official conventional net so that they dealt with in the correct way by the normal people.

Wark: You are a senior Cabinet minister. You are the Northern Ireland minister who is very busy with a big problem in Northern Ireland. Presumably .. when the Hinduja brothers phone, you should say "look go through your constituency MP, it's nothing to do with me".

Mandelson: It was a letter. It came onto my desk. It went off my desk, It went straight to the Home Office, dealt with by them. And in this case, no application for nationality was ever made by that individual.

Wark: Would you ever intercede on behalf of a member of the Hinduja family again?

Mandelson: I didn't intercede in the first place.

Wark: You raised the name with Mike O'Brien, putting it to the forefront of his mind for whatever reason.

Mandelson: I did not intercede on behalf of any member of the Hinduja family. I was never asked to support or endorse any application ..

Wark: Someone of your standing in the Government, so close to Tony Blair ..

Mandelson: My standing and Tony Blair have absolutely nothing to do with this. The fact is that a simple enquiry was made. It was passed onto the Home Office. They dealt with it and I never had any contact with that case again. Now that is the beginning or the end of the story.

Wark: But do you regret it?

Mandelson: No I do not because I acted in an entirely proper way. If you are asking me, you know, in circumstances in which somebody was actively seeking British citizenship or nationality ..

Wark: But they were – they just hadn't made the application.

Mandelson: No they weren't actively seeking it. I am very sorry. They weren't. They may have done subsequently but they weren't then. If I had been asked, you know, to use my influence or to pressure this minister or tip a wink here or nudge there, of course that would have been improper.

Wark: Well that would have been very obvious.

Mandelson: But nothing of that kind ever took place.

-Ends-

PRIME MINISTER
CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED
23 JAN 2001



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

~~MR HOLLIS~~
cc DCMS
CO
questions
political
J.P.

Ashley Ibbett

cc: JP
JT
DA

Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

I understand that your
asst. office is pulling together
the briefing. Could
you provide
22nd January 2001

Our Ref: BT2201L-Passports

Dear Tony,

a direct reply to this as
part of that work and advice on
whether

I am greatly concerned by a parliamentary answer I received from the Home Office at the end of last week, a copy of which I enclose for your convenience.

PM or Home Secretary
should reply

After reading the answer, I find myself wanting to ask you a number of further questions. I would appreciate it if you could assist me by answering them.

We also have a
PQ down from Norman

Firstly, which Ministers made enquiries or were otherwise involved in the application by Srichand Hinduja for British citizenship; and on what dates did these Ministers make such enquiries; why was his application dealt with so speedily in comparison to other applications; on what date were the Hinduja's approached in enquire whether or not they would donate money for the Millennium Dome project; and on which date they gave money to the Millennium Dome project?

Schur
which
Norman
will pass
on.
Norman

I am also asking you to launch an enquiry into this affair, with particular attention to be paid to the conflict of interest involved in the Minister with responsibility for the Millennium Dome making enquiries with regards to a citizenship application made by a major donor to the Millennium Dome project.

Clare
28/1

May I thank you in advance, Prime Minister, for all your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Baker

Norman Baker MP
LibDem Millennium Dome Spokesman

but the National Assembly would have the opportunity to influence the direction of licensing in Wales through secondary legislative powers.

Barnett Formula

Mr. Wigley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will commission a study of the implications and practicality of replacing the Barnett Formula with a needs based formula for resource distribution within the UK. [146020]

Mr. Paul Murphy: There are no current plans to review the Barnett Formula.

Social Exclusion

Mr. Wigley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will review the mechanisms and systems available for people suffering from social exclusion in Wales and seek to ensure that the outcome of this review is taken into account in the formulation of the Government's legislative programme. [146015]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Welsh Affairs Select Committee has recently undertaken an inquiry into this area. Their report, "Social Exclusion in Wales" [HC 365-1], which was published on 15 January, makes a wide range of detailed recommendations.

The Government are considering the report very carefully and will respond to it in due course.

ASW/Co Steel

Mr. Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with ASW/Co Steel with respect to (a) climate levy assistance, (b) rate reduction and (c) financial assistance. [146048]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I met representatives of the company in June 2000, when we discussed a range of issues, and I am aware of their concerns. I understand that the company has also had discussions with officials of the Department of Trade and Industry and of the National Assembly for Wales, who are responsible for rates and local government finance issues in Wales.

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Citizenship

Mr. Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the applications by G. P. Hindiya and S. P. Hindiya for British citizenship from (a) the right hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Mandelson), and (b) the hon. Member for Leicester, East (Mr. Vaz). [143393]

Mrs. Roche [holding answer 18 December 2000]: I presume the hon. Member is referring to the applications for naturalisation made by Mr. G. P. Hinduja and Mr. S. P. Hinduja. Both Members to whom he referred, along with other hon. Members, made inquiries about the cases.

The hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Mr. Vaz) made inquiries about when a decision could be expected in the cases, and my right hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Mandelson) made inquiries about how an

application might be viewed given the Government's wider policy of encouraging citizenship from long-standing residents who fulfilled the criteria, but did not make representations that an application be granted.

Data Protection

Mr. Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have requested to see the files held on them by the security and intelligence services under the Data Protection Act 1998 and European Data Protection Directive 1995; and if he will make a statement. [145435]

Mr. Straw: The Security Service has received 46 requests under the Data Protection Act 1998; no requests have been recorded under the 1995 European Community Data Protection Directive.

The other two intelligence and security agencies come under the authority of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Cook), and his Department has provided the following figures:

for the Government Communications Headquarters—15 requests under the Data Protection Act 1998; and

for the Secret Intelligence Service—30 requests under the Data Protection Act 1998.

No requests under the 1995 European Community Data Protection Directive have been recorded by either agency.

A request by someone to see any file held on him or her is not in itself an indication as to whether such a file exists or has existed.

North Yorkshire Police

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving police officers there were in the North Yorkshire police force on (a) 1 May 1997, (b) 1 May 1999 and (c) 1 January 2001. [145601]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Information about police numbers is collected twice a year on 31 March and 30 September. The table therefore sets out police numbers for 31 March 1997 and 1999 and for 30 September 2000.

North Yorkshire Police

Year	Number of officers
31 March 1997	1,338
31 March 1999	1,337
30 September 2000	1,293

With funding from the crime fighting fund, North Yorkshire police will be able to recruit 68 police officers over three years from 2000-01 to 2002-03, over an above the number they had otherwise planned to recruit in that period.

North Wales Police

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he has taken to improve links between ethnic minorities and the North Wales police. [145393]

Mr. Charles Clarke: Responsibility for improving links with minority ethnic communities lies with individual chief officers of police. The ministerial priority

- 50 **Mr Oliver Heald** (North East Hertfordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the
 N Home Department, how many penalty notices he estimates will be issued for each
 penalty offence under Clause 2 of the Criminal Justice and Police Bill annually to
 persons (a) who would otherwise be cautioned, (b) who would otherwise be tried
 and (c) who would otherwise not be proceeded against in any way. (147224)
- 51 **Mr Oliver Heald** (North East Hertfordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the
 N Home Department, if he will list the maximum punishment for each penalty offence
 in Clause 1 of the Criminal Justice and Police Bill and the maximum fine that a
 police officer could impose for each offence under Clause 2 of the Bill. (147223)
- 52 **Mr Oliver Heald** (North East Hertfordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the
 N Home Department, how many travel restriction orders he estimates will be made
 under Clause 35 of the Criminal Justice and Police Bill annually. (147227)
- 53 **Mr Oliver Heald** (North East Hertfordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the
 N Home Department, how many persons he estimates will be convicted of an offence
 under Clause 14(4) of the Criminal Justice and Police Bill annually. (147225)
- 54 **Mr Oliver Heald** (North East Hertfordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the
 N Home Department, how many penalty notices he estimates will be issued for each
 penalty offence under Clause 2 of the Criminal Justice and Police Bill annually; and
 what sum he estimates will be received in fines. (147222)
- 55 **Mr Oliver Heald** (North East Hertfordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the
 N Home Department, what his original estimate was of the number of anti-social
 behaviour orders that would be issued annually; how that estimate has been
 revised; and if he will make a statement. (147226)
- 56 **Mr David Lidington** (Aylesbury): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home
 N Department, what was the cost to public funds of designing and preparing the new
 web-site for the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. (147147)
- 57 **Mr William Ross** (East Londonderry): To ask the Secretary of State for Northern
 N Ireland, when he plans to announce the date of the local council elections in
 Northern Ireland. (147138)
- US/CO
 Code
- 58 **Norman Baker** (Lewes): To ask the Prime Minister, on what date (a) discussions
 N first take place between a Minister and the Hinduja brothers, (b) correspondence
 was sent by a minister and (c) correspondence was received by a minister
 concerning the possible sponsoring of the Faith Zone in the Millennium Dome by
 the Hinduja Brothers, and if he will make a statement. (147176)
- T CO
- 59 **Mr Graham Brady** (Altrincham and Sale West): To ask the Prime Minister, if he will
 N list the occasions since 1st May 1997 on which ministerial cars have been stopped
 by police for (a) speeding and (b) other motoring offences, listing in each case
 whether further action was taken. (147234)
- T CO
- 60 **Mr Graham Brady** (Altrincham and Sale West): To ask the Prime Minister, on how
 N many occasions since 1st May 1997 ministerial cars have incurred fixed penalties
 as a result of evidence from speed enforcement cameras. (147231)
- 61 **Mr David Winnick** (Walsall North): To ask the Secretary of State for Social
 N Security, when the compensation for former prisoners of war of the Japanese will
 be paid. (147218)
- 62 **Derek Wyatt** (Sittingbourne and Sheppey): To ask the Secretary of State for Social
 N Security, how many asylum seekers claimed benefits in (a) Kent and (b) other parts
 of the UK during the most recent period for which figures are available. (147082)

- 40 **Mr Michael Jack** (Fylde): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many trusts are (a) acute, (b) community and (c) both community and acute; and how many amalgamations of acute and community trusts there have been in the last five years in England and Wales. (147230)
- 41 **Mr David Lidington** (Aylesbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to require the NHS to make provision for a possible changeover to the euro as part of its budget preparation for the financial year 2001-02. (147149)
- 42 **Mr David Ruffley** (Bury St. Edmunds): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the proportion of NHS trusts that will incur lifetime expenditure in excess of £1 million in order to achieve Level 3 EPR. (147143)
- 43 **Mr David Ruffley** (Bury St. Edmunds): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to carry out a value for money and operational effectiveness audit of the NHS computer systems purchased through the South West regional procurement following full implementation before employing this procurement methodology elsewhere. (147139)
- 44 **Mr David Ruffley** (Bury St. Edmunds): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the target turn around time is for the assessment of full business cases for computer systems of a value in excess of £1 million submitted by NHS hospital trusts from presentation of initial full business case to the approval of final business case. (147140)
- 45 **Mr David Ruffley** (Bury St. Edmunds): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many (a) final version and (b) other full business cases for NHS hospital trust computer systems, that have a lifetime contract value in excess of £1 million, were first submitted in (i) 1999 and (ii) 2000. (147141)
- 46 **Mr David Ruffley** (Bury St. Edmunds): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, for each regional office, how many (a) final version and (b) other full business cases for NHS hospital trust computer systems, that have a lifetime contract value in excess of £1 million and that were first submitted since January 1999, have been approved. (147142)
- 47 **Norman Baker** (Lewes): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his Answer of 18th January, Official Report, columns 351-2W, on British citizenship, (a) if he will list the other honourable Members who contacted her concerning this application, (b) on what date communications were received from each honourable Member who contacted her in this case, (c) if she will place copies of the letters received from (i) the honourable Members for (A) Hartlepool and (B) Leicester East and (ii) the other honourable Members referred to in his Answer in the Library, (d) if she will list the nationality applications since May 1997 concerning which communications have been received by the honourable Member for Hartlepool other than those relating to his constituents and (e) if a reply was sent to the honourable Member for Hartlepool; and if he will make a statement. (147183)
- 48 **Norman Baker** (Lewes): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will list the dates on which applications for nationality have been received by (a) Mr G P Hinduja and (b) Mr S P Hinduja since 1990. (147178)
- 49 **Norman Baker** (Lewes): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make a statement on the total amount of funding made available to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate for each of the last five years. (147171)

CLEARANCE OF PQ (143393) from NORMAN BAKER

You asked for a chronology of events surrounding the clearance of the Norman Baker PQ.

20 Dec Mike O'Brien wrote a note to Barbara Roche (copied to you) about his recollection of events.

At your request I circulated the PQ answer you had agreed with Barbara Roche (BR) and Mike O'Brien (MOB) to private secretaries to Keith Vaz (KV) and Peter Mandelson (PM). I explained the background to the PQ and went on to say that we were hoping to answer it on 21 December. I said we were aware that the two ministers had been in touch with the Home Office about the Hinduja brothers' applications. I told both private secretaries that you would be happy to speak to either of the ministers during the vote that evening in the House. PM's PS (Sarah Todd) asked for details of his involvement because she knew that her office would not have any papers given that he was not at the NIO at the time. I explained that PM had spoken to MOB about the case (a conversation I thought had taken place in the lobby). Sarah explained that PM was in Belfast that evening so the PQ would go in his overnight box.

21 Dec You told me not to answer the PQ because KV had told you that other MPs had made reps about the applications. You asked for advice about the possibility of including the involvement of other MPs in the reply.

I told KV's and PM's offices that the PQ would not now be answered until ministers received further advice and that I would be back in touch in the new year. Sarah Todd told me that PM was not happy with the PQ answer as it stood.

8 Jan Submission received from Alan Underwood

9 Jan BR and MOB were content to agree the recommendation so it went into your box.

10 Jan The submission came out of your box - you had agreed the recommendation and asked me to circulate it to KV's and PM's offices. I rang and followed up by fax to both offices. I talked through again with Sarah Todd my understanding of PM's contact with MOB.

KV's PS (James Morrison) called me back to say that KV wanted to see what we had in writing from KV. I faxed over a copy of a letter from KV to Andrew Walmsley (dated 1998) and

said I could obtain other documents in the morning from Liverpool if required.

Both private secretaries told me the PQ would go in overnight boxes.

11 Jan KV's PS confirmed that he was content with the proposed answer.

Sarah Todd rang to say that PM was not happy and wanted the PQ answer to make no reference to him. She said he regarded his chat with MOB as a private matter. I suggested that the only way we could get this resolved was for you to speak directly to PM; Sarah agreed. I put the details in your overnight box and said that either you could ring PM directly on Friday (from Blackburn) or I could set up a call for you.

12 Jan You rang me late in the afternoon to say that you hadn't had time to ring PM so you would speak to him the next week.

16 Jan You spoke to PM on the phone. He said he couldn't remember speaking to MOB and asked if there was anything in writing from him in our records. You told him the file was noted to say that he had spoken to MOB, to make enquiries about the case. You said you couldn't possibly deny his involvement. Although another PQ had been tabled (by John Cryer) which asked about the involvement of Sir Edward Heath and Dame Angela Rumbold you said you couldn't justify holding onto the Norman Baker reply in order to answer both together, particularly given that it had been named-day for 18 December. PM accepted this and also agreed to an amendment to the PQ which added a line confirming that he had not made representations that an application should be granted.

The PQ was sent to MOB's and BR's offices again for confirmation that they were both content.

18 Jan MOB and BR both content. I circulated a final version to the department and also to KV's and PM's offices for information.

PQ answered.

You told me today that at some stage between 20 December and 16 January you had had a separate, unrecorded conversation with Peter Mandelson in which you had reminded him that MOB had a clear recollection of a conversation direct with Peter Mandelson.

Jane Fowler
24 January 2001

ORIGINAL PQ/A.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the applications by GP Hindiya and SP Hindiya for British citizenship from (a) the Right honourable member for Hartlepool and (b) the honourable Member for Leicester East.

DRAFT REPLY (BARBARA ROCHE)

I presume the Hon Member is referring to the applications for naturalisation made by Mr G P Hinduja and Mr S P Hinduja.

Two Members made enquiries about the cases. The Honourable Member for Leicester East about when a decision could be expected in the cases, and the Rt Honourable Member for Hartlepool about how an application might be viewed given the Government's wider policy of encouraging citizenship from long-standing residents who fulfilled the criteria.

*Sarah find out what/hoy
when I raised this with Jack.
I don't remember.*

Sarah

I've e-mailed this already..... but just in case it doesn't get through in time for your fax - I thought I'd fax it as well!

Regards

Jane Kure

APS/HOME SECRETARY
011- 7777 241



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

File Sm
afco
HO

From the Private Secretary

24 November 2000

Dear Mr Hinduja,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 20 October asking whether he would be able to launch the follow-up to this year's World Peace Summit.

I understand that the follow-up summit is now to be held in South Korea, rather than the UK. It is extremely unlikely therefore that the Prime Minister will be able to be actively involved. Nevertheless, he has asked me to send you his best wishes for the event.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Wechsberg

ANNA WECHSBERG

Mr S P Hinduja

✓

November 2000

(T)

Srichand P Hinduja
Chairman, Hinduja Group
New Zealand House
14th Floor
80 Haymarket
LONDON
SW1Y 4TE

Thank you for your letter of 20 October asking whether the Prime Minister would be able to launch the follow-up to this year's World Peace Summit.

I understand that the follow-up summit is now to be held in South Korea, rather than the UK. It is extremely unlikely therefore that the Prime Minister will be able to be actively involved. Nevertheless he has asked me to send you his best wishes for the event.

Private Secretary

[Clara Quantrill, UND - 7270 2802]



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

127868

23 November 2000

f223/1ⁿ

Dear Anna,

World Peace Summit Follow-Up

Thank you for your letter of 27 October 2000 seeking advice on one from SP Hinduja about the World Peace Summit.

There has been some confusion over where the follow-up summit is likely to take place. According to the letter from SP Hinduja, it was scheduled to be held in the UK. However, following enquiries in New York (where the World Peace Summit organisers are based) and with the Hinduja Foundation in London it now appears that it will take place in South Korea. I assume this will preclude the Prime Minister's involvement!

I therefore recommend you reply along the lines of the enclosed draft.
...

Yours ever,

Patrick

(Patrick Davies)
Private Secretary

Ms Anna Wechsberg
10 Downing Street

Hinduja



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Free
d/Hinduja

From the Private Secretary

6 November 2000

I am writing to thank you for the four baskets of traditional Diwali sweets that you sent to this office. We much appreciated your kind thought in sending these.

KATE GARVEY

Mr. Srichand P. Hinduja

Oh

HINDUJA (AW)

10/11



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

27 October 2000

Dear Patrick

WORLD PEACE SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

I enclose a letter from SP Hinduja about the World Peace Summit, saying that a follow-up summit is planned in the UK, and asking whether the Prime Minister might be interested in participating. I would be grateful for advice and a draft reply. Is this a UN, or UN-endorsed, initiative?

I am copying this to Mara Goldstein (Home Office).

Anna Wechsberg

ANNA WECHSBERG

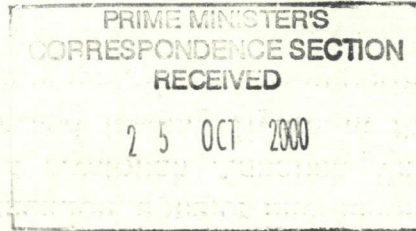
Patrick Davies
FCO

6

1) LINK FILE 'HINDUSA'.
2) KATE AW



Srichand P. Hinduja



20th October 2000

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you so much for your letter of 3rd October responding to my ideas on Conflict Resolution, and for enclosing a copy of your own speech given at the United Nations' Millennium Summit.

The Millennium World Peace Summit was indeed a remarkable occasion, allowing a host of former adversaries to forge personal links. For instance, we were successful in organising a meeting between Rabbi Schnier, President of Appeal of Conscience Foundation, a major interdenominational organisation based in New York, and Ayatollah Adbollah Vaez Javadi Amoli, a notable Islamic philosopher and leading figure in the Iranian clergy. Subsequently, at the closing ceremony, these two important figures shared a common platform, sitting, at our instigation, side by side on this dais. This symbolized the new ground broken at the Summit. It also helped pave the way for the Iranian Jewish citizens, accused of spying for Israel, to be treated more reasonably than had been feared and expected. There are details of these encouraging developments which I could usefully share with you in person.

For the concluding session of the Summit, our Foundation prepared a special video addressing the themes of peace, tolerance and multi-cultural understanding. Copies were given to wide acclaim to all delegates with the request that they disseminate them within their own networks and other institutions. I have pleasure in enclosing copies for you, your colleagues and your family. *Not enclosed*



2/

The challenge to Bawa Jain, the Secretary-General of the Millennium World Peace Summit, and the spiritual leaders who form the Advisory Council to the UN Secretary-General, is to maintain momentum and continuity of effort. As a strategic partner in the New York Summit and a Member of the International Advisory Council, the Hinduja Foundation in collaboration with the Millennium Peace Summit plans to organise similar summits in key cities of the world.

The World Peace Summit has agreed to hold the next summit in the UK, which has a proud record of toleration and inclusiveness. This will be an opportunity for all religious and other communities in Britain to appear together on one platform, united under your Government's leadership. Your own presence at the Summit meeting will be the key to its impact. You will be able to take up the themes you so effectively launched at the Diwali Gala at Alexandra Palace last November. The UK could take the lead in hosting an event that will undoubtedly be of major benefit to British society as a whole and redound to the credit of the Labour Government.

With this in mind, I should like to ask if there are particular dates when you would be free to launch the Summit as the Guest of Honour and to take this worthwhile cause further forward in Britain.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

With regards from G.P. and myself.

S.P. Hinduja

Srichand P. Hinduja
Chairman, Hinduja Group



Srichand P. Hinduja

SPH/ME

26 October, 2000

Ms Kate Garvey
The Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Kate,

My family and I would like to share our Diwali celebrations with you and your family by sending you a basket of traditional Diwali sweets. We hope you will enjoy them.

You are of course familiar with Diwali, the Festival of Lights. It signifies the triumph of Light over Darkness, of Good over Evil, Truth over Falsehood and Resolution of Conflict with Understanding. May the Light of Truth prevail and may Goddess Laxmi smile on you and yours.

Please accept our good wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous Diwali and New Year from Gopichand and Sunita, Prakash and Kamal, Ashokand Jyoti, Madhu, myself and the rest of our family.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja

GR
Can you thank on behalf
of PM + AWS - from me.
KG 27/10

JK

Are you
sure we shouldnt

GR
Please thank back?

KG 26/10 KG 27/10.

speaking to
Cherie / JPo

You both have a basket each
(as do I). John is v. concerned
we distance ourselves at the
moment + suggests we give them
to charity. Any suggestions Cherie?
Or I could distribute round the
house. (They're rather nice - pistachio nuts,
saffron etc).

PKM149/2125



Srichand P. Hinduja

SPH/ME

26 October, 2000

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

My family and I would like to share our Diwali celebrations with you, Cherie and your children by sending you a basket of traditional Diwali sweets. We hope you will enjoy them.

You are of course familiar with Diwali, the Festival of Lights. It signifies the triumph of Light over Darkness, of Good over Evil, Truth over Falsehood and Resolution of Conflict with Understanding. May the Light of Truth prevail and may Goddess Laxmi smile on you and yours.

Please accept our good wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous Diwali and New Year from Gopichand and Sunita, Prakash and Kamal, Ashokand Jyoti, Madhu, myself and the rest of our family.

Yours sincerely,

S P Hinduja
Srichand P Hinduja



Srichand P. Hinduja

SPH/ME

No need to thank.

26 October, 2000

Mr Jonathan Powell
Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Jonathan,

My family and I would like to share our Diwali celebrations with you and your family by sending you a basket of traditional Diwali sweets. We hope you will enjoy them.

You are of course familiar with Diwali, the Festival of Lights. It signifies the triumph of Light over Darkness, of Good over Evil, Truth over Falsehood and Resolution of Conflict with Understanding. May the Light of Truth prevail and may Goddess Laxmi smile on you and yours.

Please accept our good wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous Diwali and New Year from Gopichand and Sunita, Prakash and Kamal, Ashok and Jyoti, Madhu, myself and the rest of our family.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja



Srichand P. Hinduja

SPH/ME

26 October, 2000

Mrs Anji Hunter
The Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Anji,

My family and I would like to share our Diwali celebrations with you and your family by sending you a basket of traditional Diwali sweets. We hope you will enjoy them.

You are of course familiar with Diwali, the Festival of Lights. It signifies the triumph of Light over Darkness, of Good over Evil, Truth over Falsehood and Resolution of Conflict with Understanding. May the Light of Truth prevail and may Goddess Laxmi smile on you and yours.

Please accept our good wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous Diwali and New Year from Gopichand and Sunita, Prakash and Kamal, Ashokand Jyoti, Madhu, myself and the rest of our family.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja



Srichand P. Hinduja

R1710

1) JS ✓
2) AW ✓
Fu
✓

17th October 2000

Mr Jonathan Powell
Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Jonathan,

In case you and the Prime Minister have been surprised by reports last week in London newspapers alleging that GP, PP and I have been "charged" in connection with the India Government's contract in 1986 with the Swedish Company Bofors, I wanted to write briefly in order to:

- put the record straight
- explain our position

I enclose the Press Release we issued on 10th October and the letter our Lawyers have sent to Newspaper Editors and others to clarify the facts. These, as you will see, actually give a quite different impression from the one conveyed in press articles. If it would help, please show these two documents and this letter to Mr Blair.

So far as our own position is concerned, I should emphasize that:

- we have not been "charged", far from it: the Special Court in New Delhi has asked the Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) to provide more evidence and may very well dismiss the case;



2/

- during the CBI's 14 years (repeat 14 years) of investigation, we have fully cooperated with them throughout and, along with many others, are surprised that this body should have hastily filed a report with the Court without adequate evidence or substantiation of alleged corruption and bribery
- we have stressed from the outset that the allegations made against us are baseless
- we will continue to use every avenue open to us, including naturally the Special Court if need be, to defend our name. We expect the Special Court to find that we have no case to answer but, if it comes to that, we will robustly contest any charges in Court where, finally, these matters can be considered in a judicial way - in contrast to the biased and politically-charged context that has bedevilled the case for over 10 years.

If you, the Prime Minister, colleagues in Downing Street or the Government would like information or clarification on any point connected that this matter, I do hope you will contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P. Hinduja

PRESS RELEASE
10th October 2000, London

HINDUJA LAWYERS REACT FIRMLY TO MEDIA ALLEGATIONS

Following reports in the UK media today, the Hinduja's lawyers, Devonshires, have written to the editors of those UK newspapers that published stories about the Hinduja's alleged involvement in the Bofors affair in India.

Devonshires' letter draws editors attention to the defamatory nature of published articles that imply that the Hindujas have been charged with offences in India, whereas in fact all that has happened is that the investigating authority (Central Bureau of Investigation - CBI) has filed a report of allegations and proposed charges with the Court. Devonshires understand that this report has not been accompanied by the evidence in support of the allegations and proposed charges. Devonshires' letter also points out that the Special Judge has directed that such evidence must be filed with the Court and that the Special Judge has not yet summoned the Hindujas to face these allegations and proposed charges. The matter has been fixed for 20th November 2000 when the Court will pass appropriate orders on the report submitted by the CBI to the Court. The Hindujas have not been supplied with the report.

The Devonshires' letter goes on to state that the CBI have chosen not to wait for the evidence due to be transmitted by the Swiss authorities which will establish that the allegations are wholly without foundation. Devonshires have advised editors to carefully investigate the motives of the CBI in taking this precipitative and unjust action.

Devonshires then turn to the allegation that there is the likelihood of extradition proceedings. Devonshires state that, as the Hindujas have not yet been summoned to appear before the Court, the question of extradition is completely irrelevant. They make it clear that the Hindujas have done everything in their power to assist the CBI and have cooperated fully with the investigative process. They have made statements under oath and supplied documents to the Swiss authorities. As part of this process the Hindujas' financial affairs were audited by a leading firm of international accountants who certified that there is no substance in the allegations. For newspapers to suggest that there will be the need for any form of extradition proceedings is, state Devonshires, also grossly defamatory.

On behalf of the Hindujas, Devonshires vehemently deny the allegation that their clients have been involved in any form of corruption and confirm that the Hindujas will do everything in their power to clear their names and protect their personal and professional reputation.

Finally, Devonshires have demanded that the newspapers concerned publish corrective articles and tender an apology.

END

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For further information call:

Christopher Joll, GCI Financial

020 7398 0800

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us give a warm welcome to our guests of honour this evening:

- Sir Rob and Lady Young
- Hon'ble Mr. Ram Jethmalani, Minister for Urban Affairs and Employment in Delhi, we are honoured to have Mr. Jethmalani to grace the occasion, who is on his way to the United States.
- His Excellency Mr. Lalit Mansingh, Indian High Commissioner in London, who has won the affection of so many of us so quickly.

Choosing my words carefully – and I am not a diplomat - I think you will agree that 1998 was a DIFFICULT year for High Commissioners in London and in Delhi.

But 1999 has begun on a very happy and positive note:

- The knighthood conferred on you,
Sir Rob on the eve of your departure to India
- A better understanding between India and other nuclear powers on how to move forward from the stale-mate of 1998. We are pleased that the Indian Prime Minister's Security Adviser Mr. Brajesh Mishra will be in London shortly to discuss these issues with the Foreign Secretary Mr. Cook.
- The strong commitment of both Prime Minister Blair and Prime Minister Vajpayee to friendship and economic cooperation between our two countries.
- The appointment of two such talented career diplomats, present here, as envoys to carry forward the Indo-British partnership and the agenda of our two Prime Ministers.

In India, Prime Minister Vajpayee is determined to move ahead with his policy of reform. Key decisions have been taken. For instance, opening the insurance sector to outside

investors, improving health and education, encouraging overseas Indians to invest in India through introducing the Persons of Indian Origin cards, opening the infrastructure sector and privatisation.

In Britain, we have suggested to the Department of Trade and Industry that the best way to boost trade and investment would be to establish an infrastructure fund of £ 5 billion or so backed by ECGD, the Overseas Indians, the UK Government and British financial institutions. This package would be used by British Companies to build the infrastructure projects India desperately needs and for which Britain has the expertise and trained personnel. We would expect the Indian Government to ensure that the clearances are in place and implementation is prompt. British expertise in privatising public companies and utilities could be made available in India, to the benefit of both countries. For employment in Britain and modernising the Indian public sector.

I am happy to inform you that Mr. Keith Henry, Chief Executive Officer of National Power, UK [who is here with us tonight] and my brother Gopi after 5 years of uphill struggle, have just concluded all the necessary contracts and counter guarantees with the Indian Government to bring the \$ 1.4 billion power station project to stage of financial closure.

The Group is committed in infrastructure sector along with other British companies for Mumbai Airport, Ports and Roads.

In this field the loop holes in the policy have been removed. What is required now is willingness to take the investors as partners to the stage of implementation. This is the biggest obstacle for investors. We have emphasised this to all political leaders, particularly to the Prime Minister. For the Government and the civil service the daily mantra should be IMPLEMENTATION, IMPLEMENTATION.

I would like to assure Sir Rob and Mr. Mansingh that overseas Indians are fully committed to support in your efforts for increasing economic cooperation between our two countries.

Let me now touch on the sensitive issue that has been troubling relations between India and Britain – the Nuclear question. You will be struck, I know, Sir Rob, by India's scale - a subcontinent, by the toleration for minorities, by the tradition, shared with Britain, of resolving differences by discussion. And – I am sure, by the seriousness of India's security concerns, by its need to defend its borders, including, if need be, matching the weaponry of its neighbours to protect the largest democracy and to defend against fundamentalism. You will have plenty to explain to your own government as well as explaining British concerns to the Indian Government.

I would like to thank Hon'ble Mr. Jethmalani for gracing this occasion by his presence. A legal luminary in his own right, an opinion leader and a fearless champion of freedom of thought and expression, he enjoys the distinction of being one of the star performers in Mr. Vajpayee's Government. Later on I will invite him and the Indian High Commissioner to share with us their views on Indian policies and Indo-British relations.

I should like to say a word or two about the work of our Hinduja Foundations. Most recently the Hinduja Foundation has taken the initiative to support the Spirit Zone at the Greenwich Dome, with the encouragement of the Asian community in Britain. The Spirit Zone will help all visitors understand different religions and their beliefs. I am delighted to have with us tonight the distinguished Labour Peer, businessman and philanthropist, Lord Michael Levy. He has inspired support for the Spirit Zone across the religious spectrum. We owe a lot to him and to the Chief Executive at Greenwich, Jennie Page for their enlightenment and guidance.

Before asking Sir Rob to say a few words, I should like to invite all of you to join me in wishing him and Lady Young our very best wishes for their mission. May I ask you to drink a toast to them and to relations between Britain and India.

01712733965

From: Andrew Walmsley
Deputy Director
Integrated Casework Directorate
Mercury Court
Liverpool

☎ 0151-237 8017
PS 0151-237 8137
Fax 0151-237 8001

Date 12 October 2000

Barbara Roche
Mike O'Brien
Sir David Omand
Stephen Boys Smith
Christopher Mace
Peter Wrench
Brian Butler
Alan Underwood
Brian Caffarey
Stephen Fietta
Chris Kelly
Bob Wood
Mark Williams

Home Secretary

THE HINDUJA BROTHERS

Issue

1. This note is to inform you of the background to the grant of British citizenship to Gopichand and Srichand Hinduja, reference to which has been made in newspaper articles concerning their possible extradition to India. ✓✓
12/10

Timing

2. **URGENT.** The possible extradition of the brothers is likely to receive continued attention from the media given their wealth and their prominence in the Indian community.

Summary

3. Gopichand Hinduja was naturalised as a British citizen on 4 November 1997, his brother Srichand on 23 September 1999. It was known at the time that they were alleged to have been involved in securing an arms contract for Bofors with the Indian Government and to have received illicit payments for this, but no action had been taken against them. The allegations were first made around 1990 but it was not until Monday when, according to the media, charges were made against them in Delhi.

Recommendation

4. That you note the contents of this submission and approve the attached Questions and Answer brief for Press Office.

Consideration

Gopichand Hinduja

5. Gopichand Hinduja is the eldest of the four Hinduja brothers and head of the family. He first came to the United Kingdom in September 1982 as the sole representative of Metalco Company Ltd and was granted ILR in September 1986. In April 1990 he first applied for naturalisation but he was refused in April 1991 because he failed to meet the unwaivable requirement to have been in the United Kingdom on the date five years before his application.

contradicts
Mar 99

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It was known at the time that allegations had been made against him regarding his part in the Bofors affair but his inability to meet the residence requirements meant that was not a determining factor in deciding his application.

6. In March 1997 he re-applied for naturalisation and his application was supported by Sir Edward Heath and Lord Feldman, a former Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party. We were about to put forward a submission to Ministers regarding the application when the General Election on 1 May 1997 was called. It was considered that we should postpone making the submission until after the election given the high profile of Gopichand Hinduja and the potential publicity regarding his application.

7. On 3 July I made a submission to Mike O'Brien, a copy of which is attached. I recommended that the application be granted and this was accepted. I explained in the submission the doubts which had existed about his ability to meet the 'good character' requirement, the FCO's view that whilst the Bofors affair was not a dead issue in India, interest in it had lessened, and that after such a length of time without proceedings being initiated against him it would not seem right to hold those doubts against him.

Srichand Hinduja

8. Srichand Hinduja is the second eldest brother. He came to the United Kingdom in 1981 as the sole representative of Aasia Company and was granted ILR on 19 July 1985. In February 1990 he applied for naturalisation but his application was refused in April 1991 because of his excess absences during the five years preceding his application. Similar doubts were raised about his character but these were not the determining factor.

9. In March 1999 Srichand re-applied for naturalisation and I granted the application on 23 September. I did not refer the application itself to Ministers because I had offered advice in August 1998 to Mr O'Brien before the application was made and there was little difference between Srichand's circumstances and his brother's. As we had not held the allegations of corruption against Gopichand then, without any additional information specific to Srichand, we had no reason to hold the allegations against him either.

Prakesh Hinduja

10. The third brother mentioned in the newspaper articles is Prakesh. He lives in Switzerland at the moment and does not have leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, although he may visit here on a regular basis. He would like to come to reside in the UK permanently either as a person of independent means or as a businessman and tentative enquiries were made of you regarding the possibility of him being granted leave to enter as such through Rt Hon Peter Mandelson. We are in discussions with the Hinduja's legal adviser, Richard Hoare, regarding this but at the moment no formal application has been made for Prakesh's entry.

Mohamed Al Fayed

11. It is extremely likely that Mohamed Al Fayed will seize upon the grant of citizenship to the Hindujas as justification for you reversing your decision to refuse him naturalisation. It would not be right to compare the two cases as each was decided upon its own merits. The allegations against the Hindujas first came to our notice ten years ago but it is only now that charges have been made against them. We did not disregard the allegations: the passage of time without criminal proceedings being initiated against the brothers led us to not holding the allegations against them. The same was true for Mohamed Al Fayed. The initial reason

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for considering that he did not meet the requirement 'to be of good character' was the DTI report on his takeover of the House of Fraser. You, however, did not hold that against him given the passage of time between the DTI Report and his application for naturalisation. It was more recent events – his payments to MPs and the breaking into Mr Tiny Rowland's safety deposit box – which led you not to be satisfied that he met the 'good character' requirement. Your grant of citizenship to the Hinduja's should not therefore be considered as indicating that Mohamed Al Fayed would now satisfy you that he met the requirement.

Handling/presentational issues

12. It is not our usual practice to comment upon individual applications for British citizenship, whether granted or refused, unless the individual(s) concerned are talking to the media about their applications. The Hinduja's have not brought this to the attention of the media – although Gopichand's naturalisation was reported in some areas two years ago – but refusing to comment upon it is likely to increase speculation about why two of the brothers were granted citizenship. For example, Luke Harding in his article in The Guardian on 11 October 2000 suggested that you must explain why you "gave British passports" to Indian businessmen accused of taking bribes. He said

"The inevitable suspicion remains that when it comes to granting British nationality, New Labour takes an indulgent attitude towards its friends. The hapless Mohamed Al Fayed had his application turned down by Mr Straw last year on the grounds that he was not of good character, had broken into Tiny Rowland's safe deposit box, and had bribed MPs. But then Mr Fayed was never a member of the establishment. The Hinduja's, by contrast, have been influential powerbrokers in India and the United Kingdom for 20 years."

He also said

"The Hinduja's' relationship with New Labour was well known. Tony and Cherie Blair were guests of honour at the Hinduja's' annual 'inter-faith' dinner last November, and it was the Hinduja's who performed the government a useful service by agreeing to sponsor the flagging Millenium Dome's spirit zone."

What he failed to repeat in his 11 October article was what he said in his news report on 10 October, that it was "Like his predecessor but one, Margaret Thatcher, Mr Blair attended the Hinduja's' inter-faith dinner last November". Every year the Hinduja's have a celebration of Diwali to which they invite senior members of the Government of the day.

13. I do not think you should respond to Luke Harding's article although I will prepare a draft reply if you think you should. But his article is likely to prompt other enquiries from the media which I think we shall need to answer to avoid further ill-informed speculation about why they were granted British citizenship. The attached Q and A brief is intended to cover the most likely questions.

ANDREW WALMSLEY



Gopichand P. Hinduja

Spoke to Hinduja's office on 9/10 to say I could not meet owing to diary commitments.
Su 9/10

GR
NFA required. → (F)
SV
go see news line
✓

6th October 2000

1. ~~Kate~~ to see first - will someone let him know
2. ~~JPO~~

Mr Jonathan Powell
Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

JPO
CC SV + BH will meet him - ICG 6/10.

Dear Jonathan,

I am enclosing a letter to the Prime Minister alerting him to an issue affecting the Swaminarayan Temple in Neasden. I should like to see the Prime Minister, or someone deputed to talk about it on his behalf, on Monday if at all possible.

I should be grateful if you would bring the letter to the Prime Minister's attention.

With warmest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Gopichand P. Hinduja



Gopichand P. Hinduja

6th October 2000

The Rt Hon. Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Tony,

I am writing to alert you to an embarrassing and potentially politically dangerous problem that has occurred at the **Swaminarayan Temple** in Neasden which you will recall visiting in 1997.

On Tuesday next week (10th October) Brent Council will consider an application to refuse Temple devotees use of an overflow car-park which they have used for the past eighteen years when holding major festivals. You can imagine the sorrow and anger that Swaminarayan devotees, many of coming from outside London to observe major festivals, will experience if they cannot easily drive, as they have done in the past, to the Temple with their families. The Neasden Temple, which is just off the North Circular Road, is not well served by public transport.

I realize the issue is one for Brent Council to determine but calling to mind the obstacles and opposition that the Swaminarayan Temple people faced in obtaining planning permission and similar difficulties in obtaining convenient road access which the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) faced in Watford, I believe it will be in everyone's interest to defuse this problem before it becomes a national issue and a flashpoint for community relations.



2/

Swaminarayan people have made a cogent case to Brent Council and I am sure that good sense will prevail. Nonetheless, I believe it would be useful if I could see you (or someone you depute to see us on your behalf) for 5 or 10 minutes on Monday 9th October together with people from the Temple and other community leaders to explain what is at stake. The support of the Labour Party at Watford was crucial in resolving their problems. I am sure your active support on behalf of Swaminarayan will earn you the good will of the entire British Asian community.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Gopichand P. Hinduja



Office of Gopichand P. Hinduja

DATE: 1ST December, 1999

TO: Kate Garvey - The Prime Minister's Office

FROM: Mariam Emamy

SUBJECT: Hinduja Group Christmas Card

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 3

As discussed with you, Mr Hinduja has an idea of reproducing the Millennium Pledge collage as the Hinduja Group Christmas card. This is to spread the Millennium message across the world to different people from all walks of life.

This would be sent out to all Hinduja Group contacts around the world and there will be different companies and different names printed inside the card.

I enclose a sample of what the printer has made up and I was wondering if you check and see if it is all right for us to use the Prime Minister's signed pledge.

Can you please let me know as soon as possible so that I can inform the printer accordingly.

Many thanks

Mariam

Input + NFA

*GR
To file
I've said no.
KG^{1/2}*



It gives my brothers and I great pleasure to present this Souvenir on the occasion of Diwali, the Festival of Lights Gala, and the launch of the Millennium Pledge. Our objective in launching the Millennium Pledge is to assist in bringing about greater understanding and remove mental barriers among people. Science and knowledge have to work hand in hand with faiths and cultures to motivate our political, spiritual and business leaders to implement this agenda which will lead to greater prosperity and economic growth in which we can all share.

S. P. Hinduja

SRICHAND P. HINDUJA
CHAIRMAN, HINDUJA GROUP & HINDUJA FOUNDATION

The Millennium Pledge asks for tolerance of differences and understanding of all cultures and differences. It recognises the rich diversity of our country as one of the greatest strengths of modern Britain.

The Pledge represents a maturity of thought that can motivate leaders of our communities, religions, sects and nations to set an example by pledging to work to eliminate prejudice.

I hope it will strike a chord throughout every community across our country.

Tony Blair

RT HON TONY BLAIR PC, MP
THE PRIME MINISTER

During a visit to Europe, I met my friend Srichand Hinduja. He had been searching for an appropriate souvenir, which would in some unique manner convey something of significance to our contemporary world. The hatred and violence, in the name of religion, had pained him no end. He asked me to portray an artist's interpretation of the drama of this series of impressions, which I have named 'THEORAMA'.

These ten panels of paintings represent prismatic reflections of the mysterious glow of sublime faith, which has illuminated the kaleidoscope of human consciousness through the ages.

M. F. Husain

M. F. HUSAIN



Hinduja Foundation

New Zealand House
80 Haymarket • London SW1Y 4TE

Telephone: 020 7839 4661
Fax: 020 7839 5992

*Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes for
a Peaceful, Happy
and Prosperous Millennium*

from

Madhu & Srichand P. Hinduja

Sunita & Gopichand P. Hinduja

Kamal & Prakash P. Hinduja

Jyoti & Ashok P. Hinduja



Namrata & Ajay P. Hinduja

Sanjay G. Hinduja

Sona & Ramkrishan P. Hinduja



Vinoo S. Hinduja

Shalini & Dheeraj G. Hinduja

Renuka P. Hinduja



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

cc FCO

Enclosed copy of
PM's speech at
Millennium Summit
3 October 2000

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear S. P.

Thank you for your letter of 18 July, prior to the G8 and UN Millennium Summits, about peace and conflict resolution. I was very interested in the paper you enclosed with proposals for action at the United Nations, and am grateful for your constructive thinking on these issues.

As was the case at the Millennium World Peace Summit – where I understand you played a prominent role – conflict resolution and conflict prevention were major themes at the G8 and UN Summits. In Okinawa, G8 leaders committed themselves to a comprehensive conflict prevention programme that addressed amongst other things economic development and children in conflict. And in New York, member states focused on the need to improve the UN's peacekeeping and conflict resolution capacity. I realise that as well as coping with the consequences of conflict, we need to address its root causes – poverty, poor governance and denial of freedom or minority rights; areas highlighted in your own proposals.

But Summits are just the starting point: it is now for the member states of the UN to ensure that the commitments made are implemented and lead to real

action. As I said in my address to the Millennium Summit, the UK is fully committed to this. We will work hard with other UN member countries to make sure these commitments are realised.

Yours sincerely
Tony

Mr S P Hinduja



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

126505

28 September 2000

R28/9

Dear Michael,

The UN, Peace and Conflict Resolution:
Letter from the Hinduja Foundation

... I enclose a self-explanatory draft reply from the Prime
Minister to S P Hinduja, as requested in Anna Wechsberg's
... letter to Tim Barrow of 15 September. I also enclose a copy
of the Prime Minister's speech at the Millennium Summit, which
you might want to send with the letter.

Yours ever

Patrick

(Patrick Davies)
Private Secretary

Michael Tatham Esq
10 Downing Street

(1)

DRAFT LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER TO HINDUJA FOUNDATION

Mr S P Hinduja
Chairman
Hinduja Foundation
New Zealand House
80 Haymarket
LONDON
SW1Y 4TE

Thank you for your letter of 18 July, prior to the G8 and UN Millennium Summits, about peace and conflict resolution. I was very interested in the paper you enclosed with proposals for action at the United Nations, and am grateful for your constructive thinking on these issues.

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But Summits are just the starting point: it is now for the member states of the UN to ensure that the commitments made are implemented and lead to real action. As I said in my address to the Millennium Summit, the UK is fully committed to this. We will work hard with other UN member countries to make sure these commitments are realised.

Peter Elder
UND, FCO

7270 3771

'THE CHALLENGE OF REFORM FOR THE UN'

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
TONY BLAIR, AT THE UN MILLENNIUM
SUMMIT, NEW YORK,
6 SEPTEMBER 2000

The challenge for the UN is the same as for all of us: how to respond to change. It must become better organised, better managed, with the direction and purpose fit for the awesome tasks it faces. Fortunately, we have a Secretary-General who speaks to us with great wisdom and candour about what must be done, and is leading a UN ready to reform. We, the member states, must match his vigour.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

I want to talk about one area for reform:

peacekeeping operations. Today, the United Nations struggles to cope with the new types of peacekeeping operation which current conditions demand. Whether in Africa, East Timor or the Balkans, it is no longer good enough to organise blue helmet operations as if they were still largely geared to marking an agreed ceasefire line between two states that have consented to a UN presence. The typical case now is fast-moving and volatile. The appalling attack on UN staff in West Timor is demonstrating this vividly. Locally brokered agreements can be discarded overnight, and militias may be more than ready to pick a fight.

I am proud of the role British forces play, not least in Sierra Leone where British soldiers are still held hostage today. As we work for their release, we should pay tribute to the courage and commitment of our forces on humanitarian missions around the world.

But UN soldiers need to work within a system, and a UN organisation, better geared to dealing with the heavy demands being placed on them. We need UN forces composed of units appropriate for more robust peacekeeping that can be inserted quickly, rather than whatever the Secretary-General's staff has been able to gather from reluctant member states.

This means a new contract between the UN and its members. We must be prepared to commit our forces to UN operations. The UN must alter radically its planning, intelligence and analysis, and develop a far more substantial professional military staff. When the moment comes, a field headquarters must be ready to move, with an operational communications system up and running immediately rather than weeks into the deployment. The Brahimi report is right. We should implement it, and do so within a twelve month timescale.

AFRICA

My second point concerns Africa. There is a dismal record of failure in Africa on the part of the developed world that shocks and shames our civilisation. Twenty-one of the 44 countries in sub-Saharan Africa are affected by conflict which undermines efforts at development. Even worse, ten times as many people died of AIDS in Africa last year as were killed in all the continent's wars combined.

Nowhere are more people dying needlessly from starvation, from disease, from conflict. Deaths caused not by acts of fate, but by acts of man. By bad governance, factional rivalries, state-sponsored theft and corruption.

Nowhere are more people being left behind on the wrong side of a growing digital and educational divide, children being denied the opportunities that will transform the lives of their contemporaries elsewhere in the world.

Yet, 30 years ago, the same depressing analysis might have been made of parts of Asia or Latin America. There can be change. There can be hope for Africa. There is political leadership, business

opportunity and above all the will on behalf of people for a better future in Africa. We must be partners in the search for change and hope.

By 2004, under the new British Government, we will have increased our aid budget by 70 per cent since 1997, much of it going to Africa. We have pushed forward on debt relief. Yet individually, none of us have a decisive impact. We need the economies of scale that closer co-ordination brings. We need the political will to broker change that only comes by combining our efforts.

We should use this unique summit for a concrete purpose: to start the process of agreeing a way forward for Africa. For the first time, we have in one place the leaders who hold Africa's destiny in their hands. And so as we continue our discussions in the roundtables, at the Security Council, in our bilaterals, I urge you all to ask one thing:

What can we do for Africa? We need a new partnership for Africa, in which Africans lead but the rest of the world is committed; where all the problems are dealt with not separately but together in a coherent and unified plan. Britain stands ready to play our part with the rest of the world and the leaders of Africa in formulating such a plan.

CONCLUSION

This is the time to renew the UN, and this is why. Our brief speeches might not change the world, but is it still not better that we are here, talking to each other, than fighting each other?

The sentiments we express may often be the same but at least they are the sentiments of unity, peace, hope and co-operation. We may be frustrated some times by the way the UN works, but at least for all its imperfections, it is a force for good and our desire is that it does more not less. If it did not exist, we would need to invent it.

Finally, I do not wish to leave the UN without saying this: the treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi by the Burmese regime is a disgrace. I call upon the Burmese Government to let her go free, and I call on fellow world leaders to back that call. Thank you.

0171 222 2355



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff

26 September 2000

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 4 September enclosing one to the Prime Minister. He has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister was not, in the event, able to see President Khatami in New York. However, the Foreign Secretary met with his counterpart, Dr Kharrazi, on 15 September.

The Foreign Secretary reassured Dr Kharrazi that we remain committed to a constructive dialogue with Iran, aimed at doing what we can to encourage and support reform. He also reaffirmed his intention to visit Iran. Dr Kharrazi said that 2001 had been designated the year of dialogue between civilisations, and invited the Foreign Secretary to visit as part of that.

As you note, the Iranian market is promising. The Government welcomes your efforts to encourage the Iranians to improve conditions for inward investors and continues to support the efforts of British business in Iran. Mr Raynsford, Minister of Housing, Planning and Construction, visited Iran in July as the head of a construction mission, and Mr Caborn, Minister of Trade, will be visiting at the beginning of October to support a large British presence at the Tehran International Trade Fair.

JONATHAN POWELL

Mr G P Hinduja

126501



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

25 September 2000

London SW1A 2AH

MT
JP
JPO

PPS

Dear Anna, etc

Iran: Letter from G P Hinduja

...

I enclose a self-explanatory letter from Jonathan Powell to GP Hinduja in reply to his of 4 September enclosing one to the Prime Minister.

Yours ever,

Tim

(Tim Barrow)
Private Secretary

Ms Anna Wechsberg
10 Downing Street

DRAFT LETTER FROM JONATHAN POWELL TO G P HINDUJA

T for JP
o.k.

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As you note, the Iranian market is promising. We welcome your efforts to encourage the Iranians to improve conditions for inward investors. We continue to support the efforts of British business in Iran. Mr Raynsford, Minister of Housing, Planning and Construction, visited Iran in July as the head of a construction mission, and Mr Caborn, Minister of Trade, will be visiting at the beginning of October to support a large British presence at the Tehran International Trade Fair.

[Julian Reilly,
MED, 2991]

file (Hinduja)

SH



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

18 September 2000

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear SP,

Thank you for your letter of 26 July and for your very kind invitation to me and my family to join you at the Millennium Dome on Sunday 5 November to celebrate the Hindu New Year.

I very much regret it will not be possible for us to be with you since we are already committed to a prior engagement that evening. I am sorry to send a disappointing reply but would like to pass on to you and your family our very best wishes for the evening.

Yours truly
Tony

Mr Srichand P Hinduja

J



Gopichand P. Hinduja

R4/9

Top-AW

cc JS

JPo

AC

Bup - NMRM

4th September 2000

Mr Jonathan Powell
Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

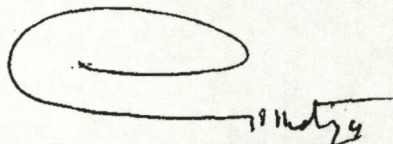
Dear Jonathan,

I attach a short letter to the Prime Minister about a possible meeting with President Khatami in New York later in the week. My brother SP has had some interesting conversations in New York recently. Would you please bring the letter to Mr Blair's attention in time for his UN meetings ?

SP is in New York for the next couple of weeks. His New York telephone numbers are 212 980 6725 (Home) and 212 355 0755 (Office).

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


Gopichand P. Hinduja



Gopichand P. Hinduja

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
Downing Street
London SW1

4 September 2000

Dear Tony,

I am sending this in haste to catch you before you leave for the UN Assembly.

My brother SP is over in New York himself for the General Assembly and has an appointment to meet President Khatami and Foreign Minister Kharazi in the course of the week. He will be urging them to improve conditions for inward investors, including those of course from the UK.

SP told me over the weekend that he had preliminary meetings with President Khatami's advance team who had urged him to do what he could to encourage a meeting between yourself and President Khatami. In their view this would have a major input in giving an impetus to UK/Iranian relations which had suffered somewhat of a set back with the postponement of Robin Cook's visit to Tehran.

SP and I feel that your own involvement at this stage, if such a meeting could be fitted into your busy New York programme, would have a number of important advantages. It would be a notable endorsement of the reform programme which Khatami is trying to put through in the face of opposition from the hard-liners. It would give great encouragement to British business people who are trying to make up for lost time in penetrating the very promising Iranian market. And finally it could help the Americans who, I happen to see on CNN, are now giving serious thought to lifting of sanctions.

I hope your visit to the UN will be a great success and I send you the warmest personal regards of SP and myself.

Yours sincerely,

Gopichand P. Hinduja

file



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

31 July 2000

Dear Mr Hinduja

Jonathan Powell has asked me to thank you for your letter of 26 July, enclosing an invitation to the Prime Minister to the Diwali celebrations at the Millennium Dome on 5 November.

Your letter is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Ailes

MRS D C AILES

Mr S P Hinduja

d



Sri Chand P. Hinduja

SPH/ME

26 July, 2000

*The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1*

Dear Prime Minister,

Last year when you kindly shared with us the celebration of Diwali, you mentioned that you were setting a precedent and that henceforth a British Prime Minister would celebrate Diwali each year. Fortunately, you are still Prime Minister and we would like to hold you to your promise and hope that this year too, you will celebrate the Hindu New Year with us.

We thought a particularly appropriate venue for this year's celebrations would be the Millennium Dome, where the Faith Zone reflects the commonalities to be found in each of the major faiths practised in Britain. As you had expressed a wish to celebrate significant days in the calendar of different faiths, and Diwali celebrates the birth of Lord Rama, this would be an appropriate way to highlight your aim of building a tolerant and multi cultural Britain. We envisage that this event will encompass, as did last year's. each of the different communities that make up Britain today.

Cont.../2



Srichand P. Hinduja

1) SR - ack ✓ ^{DA - inputted} was 31/7
2) rate - to coll
Virus

SPH/ME

227/
26 July, 2000

Mr Jonathan Powell
Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Jonathan,

Enclosed please find a letter addressed to the Prime Minister inviting him to share Diwali celebrations with us again this year.

I should be grateful if you could ensure that it is brought to the Prime Minister's attention and that we receive a reply soonest.

With best wishes and warmest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja



-2-

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP

26 July, 2000

We have therefore reserved the Millennium Dome, including the central arena, for the evening of Sunday 5th November for a Diwali event. This, as you will appreciate will coincide with Guy Fawkes Night. We understand that Greenwich Council would like to support an evening of fire works for the local children.

It would give my family, our colleagues and me great pleasure to welcome you, Cherie and your children, including baby Leo, to share this occasion.

I look forward to receiving your confirmation.

G P joins me in sending you and Cherie our best wishes for your continued good health and success.

With warmest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja



*File
as/hinduja*

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff

19 July 2000

Thank you for your letter of 18 July enclosing a copy of your paper which the Prime Minister will hopefully see on his way to Japan.

JONATHAN POWELL

Mr S P Hinduja

HINDUJA FOUNDATION (U.K.)

New Zealand House
80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE

Tel: 020 7839 4661 Fax: 020 7839 4337

18th July 2000

Mr Jonathan Powell
Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

~~1) SR~~ - addr
2) ~~JA~~ - to show to PM
if appropriate.

Dear Jonathan,

I realise the Prime Minister - and no doubt you also - will leave in the next day or so for the G8 meeting in Tokyo. I enclose a letter to him suggesting that he discuss and commend ideas in my paper entitled "A Strategy for introducing a spiritual dimension in UN endeavours for Peace and Conflict Resolution" with other G8 leaders.

I do hope you will have time to bring this paper and my letter to the Prime Minister's attention before the G8 Summit begins, perhaps during the long flight to Japan.

With regards from G.P. and myself.

S P Hinduja

S P Hinduja
Chairman Hinduja Foundation

HINDUJA FOUNDATION (U.K.)

New Zealand House
80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE

Tel: 020 7839 4661 Fax: 020 7839 4337

18th July 2000

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Since you and your wife Cherie gave our Millennium Pledge such a tremendous "lift-off" at the Diwali Gala at Alexandra Place on 3 November, my brothers and I have been determined to press on with our quest to increase tolerance and understanding around the world.

We continue to believe that you are uniquely well placed to give a lead in this crusade. You have excellent links with President Clinton and will undoubtedly have equally good relations with Vice-President Gore and Governor Bush. You are also respected throughout Europe for your attachment to human values. In the Middle East you are seen as a peacemaker and reliable friend. In the United Kingdom your efforts to bring peace to Northern Ireland are finally being crowned with success and ethnic minorities are convinced of your devotion to better inter-communal relations.

In the next three months, as you know, three important meetings of world leaders will be held: first, the G8 Summit in Japan later this week, to be followed in September by millennium sessions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly. These meetings offer an unparalleled opportunity to take the initiative with other world leaders by introducing to them the

Cont.../2

-2-

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP

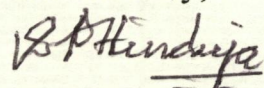
18 July, 2000

concept paper I have developed entitled " A Strategy for introducing a spiritual dimension in UN endeavours for Peace and Conflict Resolution". The paper suggests the formula both for reducing conflict in the world (the most pressing current concern) and for improving economic growth and prosperity. I enclose a copy.

By taking the lead in having the G8 and United Nations endorse the Pledge and Paper on Conflict Resolution you would light a beacon that would surely brighten our globe. As a strategic partner of the World Peace Summit -which will discuss the Paper in New York from 28th to 31st August - our Foundation would be honoured to assist the efforts of all people of goodwill to have the G8 and the United Nations in this Millennium year harness the world of faith to the cause of peace . We believe that by embracing this idea you will leave an indelible mark on world history.

With Best wishes and warmest personal regards from G P and myself.

Yours sincerely,



Srichand P. Hinduja
Chairman Hinduja Foundation

Hinduja

ele

MT



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 May 2000

Dear G.P.

Thank you for your letter of 16 May.

It was kind of you to send the Alphonso Mangoes. Both Cherie and I and the family thoroughly enjoyed them.

With best wishes

Yours ever

Tony Blair

Mr Gopichand P Hinduja

sh



Gopichand P. Hinduja

GPH/ME

16 May, 2000

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

GR
Thank (Am)
KG 16/5

I thought you, Cherie and your family might enjoy these Alphonso Mangoes before their season ends in June.

These mangoes are especially good for Cherie as they are supposed to be good for proper blood circulation and general health. If one or two mangoes are eaten each day, they help with metabolism and give a natural glow to the skin and complexion. They are full of proteins and other vital minerals.

There are different ways of eating mangoes, namely:

Pulp – it can be eaten on its own or made into delicious milk shakes and ice cream. Ideal for this time of year.


The pulp can be frozen and kept for more than a year without losing its quality, flavour or colour.

You can also use them for making squash, syrup, soufflés etc.

S P and the rest of our family join me in sending you and Cherie our best wishes for your continued good health and success.

With warmest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,


Gopichand P Hinduja



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 April 2000

Dear S.P.

Thank you for your letter of 1 March. I am grateful to the Hinduja Foundation for the interest which it is taking in the Faith zone and the Millennium Experience more broadly. I was very interested to read your proposals, though I should point out that the public perceptions of the Dome are steadily improving, and the large majority of those who actually visit it thoroughly enjoy the occasion.

As regards the Dome after this year, the Government last year launched a competition to find a sustainable and world-class future use for it after the Millennium Experience finishes at the end of the year. A short-list was announced in January. I hope you will understand that we cannot breach the rules of the competition by letting a new consortium bid at this stage, however worthy its proposals. I understand that you have already approached one or more of the short-listed consortia, and I can only suggest that you pursue this course further. It may be that there is scope for incorporating your ideas into the proposals being developed by one of the groups.

Quite separately, I know that Chris Smith's Department and the Lambeth Group will be considering ways in which the very significant legacy that the

Faith zone will leave, in terms of greater co-operation and understanding between the faith communities, can be safeguarded and expanded. I will personally be looking forward to their conclusions with considerable interest.

Thank you again for bringing your proposals for the Dome to my attention.

Yours ever
Tony

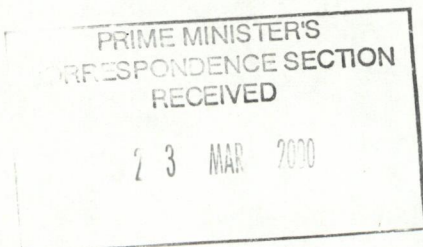
Mr Srichand P Hinduja

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
From the Secretary of State's Office

2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
www.culture.gov.uk

Tel 020-7211-6238
Fax 020-7211-6249
suzi.daley
@culture.gov.uk

C99/35803/14520



Jan Taylor
Correspondence Secretary
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

23 March 2000

Dear Jan Taylor

Thank you for your letter of 7 March, seeking a draft reply from the Prime Minister to Mr Srichand P Hinduja, who wrote on 1 March with proposals for the future use of the Millennium Dome.

A draft reply is attached, and I am sorry that we have not quite met your deadline.

Yours sincerely,

Suzi Daley

PP.

SUZI DALEY
Assistant Private Secretary

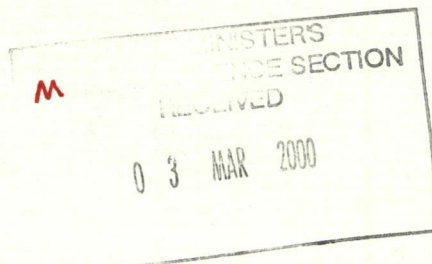


INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Srichand P. Hinduja

PM/Dems/DN
CC SP



1 March 2000

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

Sub: Labour Government - a target at the Dome

GP and I have watched with concern recent media criticism of the Millennium Dome, particularly targeted towards the Government.

We firmly believe that instead of being seen as an expensive embarrassment, the Dome could be turned round not only as an imposing and permanent landmark but also as a beacon to the outside world in the fight against prejudice and intolerance which so plagues our society today. We enclose a proposal with our preliminary thoughts on how this can be done.

We aired these proposals with Chris Smith on 25 February, and will discuss these with the new CEO of the NMEC later this week and with Lord Falconer next week.

We would value your advice on whom else we should contact and your guidance on how best to have our proposals endorsed. I greatly look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest personal regards from GP and myself

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja

THE MILLENNIUM DOME

1. The Millennium Dome at Greenwich is a beacon pointing to the multi-cultural and tolerant tradition of Britain, which we are justly proud of. Unfortunately, the negative press response to what the Dome seeks to achieve, irrespective of whether it is justified or not, has stifled this message. Properly harnessed, the Faith Zone can remove mental barriers, promote better cultural understanding and increase global prosperity. Instead of being an expensive embarrassment, the Dome could be turned around not only as an imposing and permanent landmark but also as a beacon to the outside world in the fight against prejudice and intolerance which so plagues our society today.
2. Unlike many other European countries, Britain does not have an ultra-modern edifice of national significance. The Dome is a monument that the British people can feel proud of, provided it is be preserved in an appropriate manner with visible benefits to the public.
3. Already six bidders have been short listed, but the Dome will only make a lasting impression if conditions are included in the tenders that the bidders must provide for a permanent multi-cultural area which could be an extension of their tendered projects. This area will benefit both the bidders as well as the general public since it will increase awareness of commonalities and promote tolerance and understanding. As eloquently put by Prime Minister Blair during the 3rd November Diwali Celebration, "*that we give support to the idea of the millennium pledge, a declaration by everyone here to support tolerance and to work for multicultural understanding in the year 2000 and beyond.*"
4. The public's attention to The Dome could be switched from what The Dome *is* to what *it could be*, then a sea change in public opinion would be achieved, providing only that the future use of The Dome was believed to be for the public good.

5. There are many aspects of the Dome that can be improved by changing many zones to 'experiences' instead of 'exhibits'. The Hinduja Foundation had written about these matters to the previous CEO, Ms Jennie Page, and will hopefully, discuss these with the new CEO. Letters were also written to various ministers as well as to the Prime Minister.
6. The Hinduja Foundation proposal is to form a consortium comprising of the present sponsors and donors, NMEC, and leaders of all the communities in Britain. The Foundation is prepared to put together and lead a not-for-profit project to acquire either part or all of the Dome at the end of this year.
7. It proposes using this space to create a multi-cultural area that can increase awareness of commonalities of the different traditions and faiths through the use of top-class entertainment and education based on well-established models from USA. It would also be a forum for the national and international understanding of our different racial characteristics and religious beliefs. Consortium members must be made to feel a sense of participation and ownership to ensure their identification with the project.
8. Rides and experiences could be created that can entertain and educate humanity to focus attention on commonalities of the five external elements (earth, water, fire, air and ether) and the internal structure of the body. Awareness of the commonalities of both internal and external space will help remove barriers of the mind, reduce cultural conflicts of the last 1000 years, facilitate economic growth and the alleviation of poverty.
9. The Lambeth Group that was consulted on the contents of the Faith Zone should have a role only to ensure that the contents do not offend the sensibilities of any group or community. The creative aspects of making the contents entertaining and informative should be left to professional experts, who should consult with the members of the consortium. Some input and ideas from the academic world would also be welcome. The contents should be developed in a manner that will educate in a scientific and entertaining manner. They should correct the misinterpretation of the

history of different faiths by providing facts and examples of commonalties through experiences and practical applications that can be used by visitors in their day to day lives.

10. In order to ensure that the project has public credibility, the Hinduja Foundation and the consortium will underwrite it financially, and develop a viable structure for the project with the support of professional experts and the Government.
11. Subsequently, more such projects could be opened in different locations under a franchising arrangement. Such a project will be a great political, economic and spiritual achievement for the Labour Government and the British people, and will be a gift that the future generations will cherish and support.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

17 January 2000

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 5 January. He was grateful for your very kind comments and it was good of you to take the trouble to write.

The Prime Minister has asked me to pass on his best wishes.

DAVID NORTH

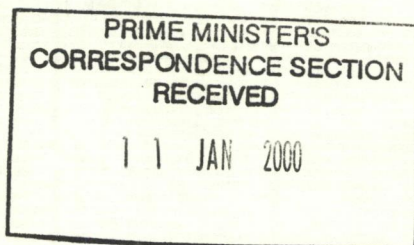
Mr Srichand Hinduja

✓



Srichand P. Hinduja

GR As Hinduja (GR to deal)



File Hinduja

GR
Nile act?
im

SPH/ME

5th January, 2000

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

G P and I were delighted to meet you and Cherie at the Palace of Westminster for the "Shared Act of Reflection and Commitment" on 3rd January. I am sorry that due to logistic set backs, we missed you at the opening of the Millennium Dome on New Year's Eve. Fortunately our meeting on Monday offered us an opportunity to extend our personal good wishes for the New Year to you and your Government under your leadership.

Your active participation at the multi faith event organised by Chris Smith's department, was a show of real commitment from you and your Government to bring multi racial harmony and better understanding among the different religions and communities that have made Britain their home. We should emphasis the commonality of all faiths. We share your view that only through tolerance and understanding can conflict be ended.

Your and the Archbishop of Canterbury's presence at the meeting at Westminster Palace was the real gift of the Millennium and your presence was welcomed by all present. Your Government's commitment to these values has been heartening. We hope you will take this cause to other countries as an international crusade.

Cont.../2



-2-

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP

5th January, 2000

For our part, with the help of Nirj Deva, MEP, Keith Vaz and others we plan to take our Millennium Pledge for tolerance and understanding, (first launched at our Diwali function on 3rd November, and to which you were the first signatory) to Europe and through the European Parliament we hope to receive support for this cause which we see as a means of increasing prosperity and economic growth.

X || *We look forward to working closely with you and your Government in this common endeavour. Your guidance and advice particularly on which minister we should work with in this cause, will be of immense value to us.*

G P joins me in sending you and Cherie our good wishes for your continued good health and success.

With warmest personal regards. From G.P. and myself.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja



.. DFID

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 September 1999

Dear S.P.,

Thank you for your letter of 30 July enclosing your recent paper on the role of world faiths in the alleviation of poverty together with the various responses you have received.

As you note, the benefits of globalisation have been unevenly spread. A quarter of the world's population still lives in abject poverty, existing on under a dollar a day. We have therefore put tackling poverty at the heart of our development efforts. As you will know, we have established a new Department for International Development (DFID) with the aim of mobilising the international system to achieve the elimination of world poverty.

Thank you for your offer of co-operation with the IndusInd International Federation to help tackle poverty elimination. DFID's office in India is developing its approach to working with business at the moment and would be happy to explore further what practical opportunities there might be for co-operation to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction. In order to take this forward, I suggest that IndusInd International Federation send some more detailed information on the areas where you think there may be scope for working together to Robert Graham-Harrison, Head of DFID India. He can be contacted at DFID India, British High Commission, 50-M Shantipath (Gate No 3 Niti Marg), Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021.

Mr Srichand Hinduja

Yours
True
Tony

AS



Ken

Department for
International Development
94 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL

Telephone: 0171-917 0134

From the Assistant Private Secretary

Janice Richards
Assistant Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

(7)

19 August 1999

Dear Janice

... I attach as requested a draft reply to Mr Hinduja's letter of 30 July to the Prime Minister about alleviation of poverty.

The draft reply explains that tackling poverty is at the heart of the Government's development efforts, and notes that for these efforts to be successful it will be necessary for Governments, civil society and the private sector to work together. It then thanks Mr Hinduja for his offer of co-operation (through the IndusInd International Federation of which he is President) and suggests that IndusInd might take this forward by letting the head of our office in India have some more detail about the type of possible co-operation to reduce poverty that they might envisage. As our office in New Delhi is responsible for managing our India programme and is currently developing its strategy for working with business, this would be an appropriate and practical way to proceed.

yours sincerely

Lynn Foord-Divers

Lynn Foord-Divers
Assistant Private Secretary

SCANNED

Hinduja SP

Srichand P Hinduja Esq
President
IndusInd International Federation
New Zealand House
14th Floor
80 Haymarket
London SW1Y 4TE

Thank you for your letter of 30 July enclosing your recent paper on the role of world faiths in alleviation of poverty and responses to it which you have received.

As you note, the benefits of globalisation have been unevenly spread. A quarter of the world's population still lives in abject poverty, existing on under a dollar a day. We have therefore put tackling poverty at the heart of our development efforts. We have established a new Department for International Development (DFID) whose aim is to mobilise the international system to achieve the elimination of world poverty. Central to this is our commitment to the internationally agreed targets: these include halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 and by the same year to have all children in primary education and access to health care for all. If this is to be successful, Governments, civil society and the private sector all need to be fully engaged.

Thank you for your offer of co-operation with the IndusInd International Federation to help tackle poverty elimination. DFID's office in India (DFIDI) is currently developing its approach to working with business and would be happy to explore further what practical opportunities there might be for co-operation to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction. In order to take this forward, may I suggest that IndusInd International Federation might send some more detailed information on the areas where you think there may be scope for working together to Robert Graham - Harrison, Head of DFID India. He can be contacted at DFID India, British High Commission, 50 - M Shantipath, (Gate No 3 Niti Marg), Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021.

Tony Blair

he
e1Hinduja-sm



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

11 August 1999

In the Prime Minister's absence overseas, I am writing to acknowledge with thanks your letter of 30 July enclosing a copy of the speech you gave at the NMEC meeting on 28 July.

OWEN BARDER

Mr Srichand Hinduja

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized 'r' or similar character.

(MT) Hinduja
19/8

Hw



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

4 August 1999
Vick
Sent

Dear Lynn

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr Srichand Hinduja.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach this office by Thursday 19 August.

If your Department is not responsible for this subject, please let us know as soon as possible to which Department the correspondence has been forwarded.

Yours ever

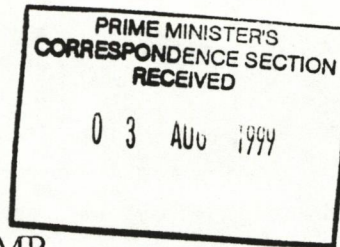
JANICE RICHARDS

pm jr/mt

Ms Lynn Foord-Divers
Department for International Development



Srichand P. Hinduja



The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

30 July 1999

PM / DFID / MT

Dear Prime Minister,

Knowing, as I and GP do full well, your strong personal commitment to alleviating poverty around the world, I am enclosing a paper I have sent recently to the President of the World Bank on crucial aspects of this issue.

In this paper I have highlighted how over the centuries organised religions have betrayed the message of their founders and contributed to intolerance and war. This strife has been and continues to be a major cause of poverty as economies are destroyed and resources diverted to armaments. We have seen this most recently in Kosovo, in Northern Ireland and in countries subjected to religious fundamentalism.

I am also enclosing pertinent replies I have received from James Wolfenson's Office and from the World Faiths Development Dialogue picking up those issues in my paper that they see as most relevant to this debate. Knowing your concern for the poor, Britain working with India could take the initiative in tackling this scourge. This will set an example for others to follow. It will also lay the foundations for global economic growth on which any durable world peace must rest.

IndusInd International Federation, which represents overseas India and of which I am the President, stands ready to assist you in implementing such a programme

I should much appreciate your thoughts and guidance on these points.

With regards

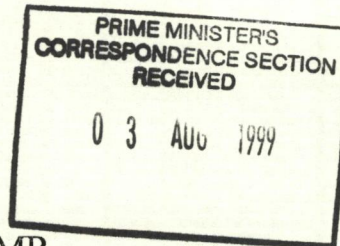
Yours sincerely

S P Hinduja

Srichand P Hinduja



Srichand P. Hinduja



The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

30 July 1999

PM / DFID / MT

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With regards

Yours sincerely

Srichand P Hinduja

WORLD FAITHS DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE
33-37 Stockmore Street, Oxford OX4 1JT, United Kingdom
Tel/Fax (44) 1865 790011. E-mail wfdd@btinternet.com
*Co-chairmen: The Archbishop of Canterbury
Mr. James Wolfensohn*

Mr. Srichand P. Hinduja
Chairman
Hinduja Group of Companies
and the Hinduja Foundations
New Zealand House
14th Floor
Haymarket
London SW1Y 4TE

14 July 1999

Dear Mr. Hinduja,

Comment by the World Faiths Development Dialogue on the World Development Report 2000

Your letter of 29 June addressed to Mr. Wolfensohn at the World Bank in Washington has been forwarded on to me for a response, since it was I who gathered together the contributions from people of the different faiths for our Comment, and wrote the final version. First I would like to say how much I appreciate your interest.

I enclose our Comment in its printed form, together with our latest news bulletin, giving you an update on the WFDD's activities.

We agree with what you say about poverty existing in the rich countries too, and make the point on page 9, (point iii).

I think a great many people from all religious traditions would agree, too, that a dogmatic approach to religion has led to a lack of fraternity and unnecessary divisions and conflicts. We have tried to point to this by acknowledging that the religions have been responsible for the exclusion of people and have often been the cause of conflict rather than the solution for it. We are hoping that the WFDD might make one small contribution, among many others, towards demolishing some of the barriers which have been set up.

Your remarks about globalisation emphasise very much what almost everyone consulted by the WFDD said about the responsibility of the rich towards the poor. We are hoping that the WDR 2000 might include something about the role of the rich in creating poverty and the need to reform institutions and mechanisms which maintain and increase the divide between the rich and the poor. Many people did, however, too, emphasise the opportunities offered by globalisation,

not least for people from different faith traditions to communicate more closely with each other and to reach a greater understanding.

We also make several references to the need to transform political systems, making them more accountable and democratic. The challenges are numerous!

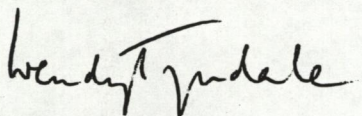
What we have not mentioned is your point about parallel economies, which are, of course, an important factor to consider with regard to the poverty of the majority and lack of state resources to deal with it.

Finally, we are very glad that you also stress that poverty is not just an economic or social phenomenon. There is no doubt that many of the World Bank's staff are now convinced of this and are very open to new debates about what constitutes poverty and possible solutions which correspond to its multidimensional nature.

This debate will no doubt continue over many years to come, becoming richer and deeper, we hope, as it involves more and more people. Our aim with the WFDD is not only for the religions to engage with the World Bank but also with each other, so that more experiences and ideas can be shared and changes in favour of the poor be made more effectively.

Once again, I would like to thank you for the trouble you have taken in engaging with us in this discussion.

Yours sincerely,



Wendy Tyndale
Coordinator for the Faiths

c.c Andrew Rogerson,
World Bank, London office

The World Bank

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

1818 H Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
U.S.A.

(202) 477-1234
Cable Address: INTBAFRAD
Cable Address: INDEVAS

July 9, 1999

Mr. Srichand P. Hinduja
Chairman
Hinduja Group of Companies & the Hinduja Foundations
New Zealand House, 14th Floor
80 Haymarket,
London, SW1Y 4TE,
England

Dear Mr. Hinduja,

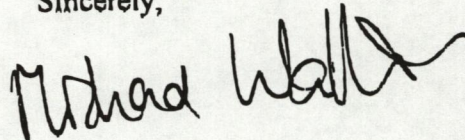
Thank you very much for your comments on the note on alleviation of poverty by the World Faiths Development Dialogue in response to the World Development Report 2000/1 sent to Mr. Wolfensohn. He has asked me to reply on his behalf and to convey the importance he attaches to the interaction between faiths and our work on making central the problem of global poverty.

Your comments are very thoughtful and resonate with many of our concerns with respect to globalization. We would agree that there have been cases of harmful effects especially on crises. However, there are also great opportunities, provided these are combined with the right kind of both domestic and international public action.

Finally, we would very much agree that issues of culture, religion, geography and social functioning are important to poverty and these need to be communicated and confronted in our work on poverty reduction.

We look forward to further interactions.

Sincerely,



Michael Walton
Director, Poverty Reduction
Poverty Reduction & Economic Management
Chief Economist, Human Development

The role of world faiths in alleviation of poverty

Comments by Srichand P Hinduja

Poverty is a global phenomenon, and is not restricted only to the developing nations. Even rich countries like USA have shown increasing evidence of deprivation in recent years, thanks to the widening gap between the rich and the poor. In a new report, the anti-hunger group, *Bread for the World* says the United States has more children living in poverty than any other industrialized country. But the absolute numbers of poor are forbiddingly high in the developing countries and challenge the ingenuity of persons of goodwill around the world.

Poverty has existed since the beginning of time. It has many dimensions. Lack of wealth and income is only one of these. The problem is magnified by failing social ethos, declining family values and loss of self-esteem.

According to the World Bank's estimates, poverty has gradually grown to become a widespread phenomenon that encompasses nearly 20% of the world population today. There exists a general consensus in the world that every human should at least have the basic needs of life in terms of food, clothing and shelter to lead a life of dignity. This is not an impossible task, given the global political will to envision and implement a design for a better world order.

Although the socio-economic causes of poverty are well known, some of the following political, religious and ideological factors have not been explored in depth:

First, one of the most important reasons for widespread poverty is a dogmatic approach to religion. The dogma has been perpetuated because our scientific knowledge from world traditions has been wrongly misinterpreted as religious knowledge. Although all major prophets spoke of fraternity and equality, in subsequent centuries organised often led to discrimination and conflict. Over the many centuries of religious intolerance, there has been diversion of scarce resources from development to wasteful warfare.

In Europe for instance, physical barriers have been removed, but mental barriers still continue to haunt people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Conflicts in Kuwait, Bosnia, Kosovo, Rwanda, Palestine, Kashmir, Pakistan and other places are based on religious conflicts. The people of these regions are at a relative disadvantage because funds for development that are scarce are now diverted to armaments.

Exploitation of artificial divisions based on faith can only lead to more bloodshed while equality and fraternity will ensure that funds allocated for development are not diverted to other non-productive ends.

Second, globalisation has made the rich richer and the poor poorer. The developed world targeted only those markets in the underdeveloped countries that were lucrative. Only these regions developed at the expense of others. However, we cannot blame any particular group, the political, social, religious or business leaders for this state of affairs. Globalisation has led to a discordant set of outcomes as was seen in the Far Eastern economic crises. Too rapid an opening up of economies not ready with systems and procedures to cope with the pace of globalisation led to a

loss of a decade of progress in these countries and growing income disparities.

Third, the inherent defects in many political systems around the world contributed to poverty in many different ways. Protected economies, particularly in the socialist countries resulted in favouritism, frequent scandals and all pervading corruption. Economic growth was minimal and was restricted to a section of the population. Moreover, constitutions that have been written scores of years ago are still being retained in their original form. Failure in adapting them to suit the changing needs of a global world economy in the next millennium has held back progress and economic expansion in these countries.

Fourth, the existence of a parallel economy in many developing countries where funds were siphoned towards terrorism, political destabilisation and fundamentalist religious activity, all of which diverted funds away from development of a free market and economic growth.

It is important to understand and tackle the above causes of poverty in a planned manner on a global scale. International institutions like the World Bank, the UN, the G8 group of countries are already deeply involved in poverty alleviation programmes, but they should also focus on the following proposals:

First, the advent of globalisation requires a global change in political, social and spiritual systems. The political system should not isolate countries and drive them to fundamentalism and militancy. On the other hand, far reaching changes in the rule of law should be introduced to match globalisation and scientific progress.

Second, state sponsored racial discrimination should end. At the moment the systems in many countries provide state benefits to those who follow a particular faith.

Third, the countries facing economic stagnation and poverty should be encouraged and assisted to change their political process so that only those who accept responsibility for the needs of the people are elected to govern. The laws of nature described in different religious traditions agree that a ruler who puts the welfare of the subjects before his personal welfare will get the maximum support from his citizens. Present day politicians should understand this great tradition of universal ethos.

Fourth, the World Bank and other organizations should take responsibility for involving business, political and religious leaders to create more awareness about the relation between faith and poverty. They must create community centres where the literate and illiterate can come together to interact with valuable traditions of faith and knowledge. Mass awareness campaigns focussing on the commonalties of different religions using films, radio, television, CD-Roms and print media would help in promoting understanding and tolerance. Multi-cultural understanding will offer peace and harmony, which are the pre-requisites for economic growth and social development.

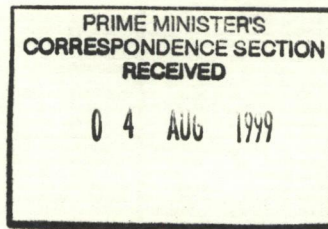
Poverty is not merely a social or economic phenomenon. It encompasses a wide range of conditions and covers a large part of humanity. Cultural, religious, geographical, communal and economic differences between people have served to widen the gap between the rich and poor. Often the poor are set apart by such differences. Development policies must

consider these factors while designing strategies for alleviation of poverty. Development strategy should attempt to make social, political and economic change more relevant by helping to break walls that divide and build bridges that unite.

Such a strategy will support all other programmes for poverty alleviation that are being pursued at present and provide a catalytic thrust to practices and technologies that are appropriate and efficient in a global context.



Srichand P. Hinduja



30th July 1999

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

5/10/99 DN.

Dear Prime Minister,

You kindly said in your letter of 14th April that you would like GP and me to keep you informed on our involvement with the Faith Zone at Greenwich.

I am delighted to report that Jennie Page and her team organised a splendid "topping out" event for the Faith Zone at the Dome last Wednesday at which Sir Maurice Laing, Claire Pillman (Joint Chair of the Lambeth Group) and I each spoke.

I enclose a copy of my speech which gave me the chance to applaud NMEC and other donors for rallying to our cry in June last year for representatives of major faiths to support this non-commercial Zone. It was also a chance to applaud the faith representatives on the Lambeth Group for agreeing on the Zone's design and content : this could so easily have been a quagmire . I believe that there is still a chance to make the Zone –content more targetted and interesting and I would urge that you give your guidance and support to Jenny Page in achieving this.



2/

If the Faith Zone emphasises the commonalities in religions I am convinced that it will secure better understanding in the world and this in turn will lead to a more peaceful world able to tackle the global problems and so promote greater economic growth.

I am especially grateful for your encouragement for our ideas from the start and will welcome your guidance in the coming months.

G.P. and I are always ready to offer our services for such causes.

With regards

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja

Srichand P Hinduja's speech at the NMEC meeting on 28 July 1999

All faiths have a history. And so does the Faith Zone.

Out of all the zones at the Dome, this zone lacked support since it was the only non-commercial one.

Many people lacked interest because they mistakenly thought the 'Spirit Zone', as it was called before, was a religious one.

Yet, when my brother GP and I decided to underwrite the Faith Zone, we felt confident that business, professional and spiritual leaders from all communities would soon join us in extending their full support.

I am glad to say that we were proved correct and we are grateful to those who joined us.

Support from different communities plays an important role in Britain's multi-cultural society.

The Faith Zone increases awareness of the commonalties of our diverse traditions.

This will help remove barriers of the mind and alleviate human suffering.

In turn, this can lead to better understanding and co-operation.

We firmly believe this will accelerate the pace of economic growth and social welfare.

And frankly, in that way, I too can get my slice of cake from economic growth.

I would like to make a special mention of our admiration for the professional capabilities of Jennifer Page.

Miss Page, amongst the many challenges you have faced at the Dome, you have handled the Faith Zone particularly well.

You have been ably assisted by all the members of the Lambeth Group who have balanced the priorities of different faiths.

We feel grateful for the support of the Government, the Prime Minister, Lord Falconer, his predecessor Peter Mandelson, and countless others.

You will all agree with me when I say that the Faith Zone is one of the best gifts we can offer our future generations in the next millennium.

Fr: Godne

0171 222 2355



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 July 1999

Dear G.P.

Thank you for your letters of 23 June and 6 July about the fighting in Kashmir, and for bringing to my attention again the letter from your brother of 25 August 1998.

When Nawaz Sharif called on me on 6 July, I made clear that we welcomed his joint statement with President Clinton and urged him to follow it up with early action. I am delighted that the infiltrators appear to be disengaging from their positions on the Indian side of the Line of Control, and that India has suspended its airstrikes against them. I very much hope that this will create the right conditions to bring an end to the fighting.

In the longer term, I also hope that India and Pakistan will resume their dialogue over all bilateral issues, including Kashmir. Resolving this long-standing issue must be in both countries' wider interests. We will continue to encourage India and Pakistan to engage in the search for a just and lasting solution, which reflects the views of the people living in Kashmir. I hope that you will convey a similar message to your interlocutors in both countries.

Yours ever
Tony

Mr. G. P. Hinduja



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 July 1999

Dear G.P.,

Thank you for your letters of 23 June and 6 July about the fighting in Kashmir, and for bringing to my attention again the letter from your brother of 25 August 1998.

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Yours ever
Tony

Mr. G. P. Hinduja

AR

→GR
R 197199



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

19 July 1999

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Janice

Reply from the Prime Minister to Mr Gopichand Hinduja

Thank you for your letters of 28 June and 7 July to Lisa Farrington with which you enclosed letters to the Prime Minister from Mr Gopichand Hinduja about the fighting in Kashmir. I enclose a self-explanatory draft reply.

Yours ever

Andrew Patrick

(Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Mrs Janice Richards
10 Downing Street

DRAFT REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO:

Mr G P Hinduja
New Zealand House
14th Floor
80 Haymarket
LONDON SW1Y 4TE

SCANNED

Thank you for your letters of 23 June and 6 July about the fighting in Kashmir, and for bringing to my attention again the letter from your brother of 25 August 1998.

When Nawaz Sharif called on me on 6 July I made clear that we welcomed his joint statement with President Clinton, and urged him to follow it up with early action. I am delighted that the infiltrators appear to be disengaging from their positions on the Indian side of the Line of control, and that India has suspended its airstrikes against them. I very much hope that this will create the right conditions for bringing an end to the fighting.

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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

109479

13 July 1999

Dear Janice

Reply from the Prime Minister to Mr Gopichand Hinduja

... Thank you for your letter of 7 July to Lisa Farrington,
which enclosed a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr
Gopichand Hinduja about the fighting in Kashmir. I enclose a
self-explanatory draft reply.

Yours ever
Andrew Patrick

(Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Mrs Janice Richards
10 Downing Street

Hinduja

SCANNED

DRAFT REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO:

pb > 14/7

Mr G P Hinduja
New Zealand House
14th Floor
80 Haymarket
LONDON SW1Y 4TE

(1)

Thank you for your letter of 6 July about the situation in Kashmir.

When Nawaz Sharif called on me later that day, I made clear that we welcomed his joint statement with President Clinton, and urged him to follow it up with early action. I am delighted that the infiltrators appear to be disengaging from their positions on the Indian side of the Line of Control, and that India has suspended its airstrikes against them. I very much hope that this will create the right conditions for bringing an end to the fighting.

In the longer term, I also hope that India and Pakistan will resume their dialogue over all bilateral issues, including Kashmir. Resolving this long-standing issue must be in both countries' wider interests. We will continue to encourage India and Pakistan to engage dynamically in the search for a just and lasting solution, which reflects the views of the people living in Kashmir. I hope that you will convey a similar message to your interlocutors in both countries.

Dominic Meiklejohn
SAD, FCO

270 2377

HINDUJA
Friday 16 July

HINDUJA



COS PB
FA/PS
AC/Press

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

109060

7 July 1999

GRs

London SW1A 2AH

I think there has just
been another letter.

TL's needs to take account

of it. Can you please get a further letter from
Poo asap

Dear Philip

India: Kashmir: Letter from Gopichand P Hinduja

... I enclose a self-explanatory draft reply from the Prime
Minister to Gopichand P Hinduja's letter of 23 June about
Kashmir. Poo

The Prime Minister wrote to the Indian and Pakistani
Prime Ministers on 25 June expressing our concern over the
current fighting in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Hinduja's are well connected to the Indian
establishment and have commercial interests there. They
cannot be relied upon to keep any correspondence with the
Prime Minister confidential. We would therefore advise
against entering into debate on our policy towards India or
Pakistan with them.

Yours ever

Andrew Patrick

(Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Philip Barton Esq OBE
10 Downing Street

SKP 7/7/99

SCANNED

DRAFT REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO:

HE Mr Gopichand P Hinduja
c/o New Zealand House
14th Floor
80 Haymarket
LONDON SW1Y 4TE

Thank you for your letter of 23 June about the current fighting in the Kargil sector of Jammu and Kashmir between armed infiltrators from across the Line of Control and Indian security forces. I fully share your concern about the situation there.

I have spoken and written to Nawaz Sharif recently, urging him to ensure that early action is taken to resolve the current crisis. I reinforced this message when I met him on 6 July. I have also written to the Indian Prime Minister to underscore the importance of respecting the Line of Control. Robin Cook has spoken in similar terms to his Indian and Pakistani counterparts. We will continue to urge both sides to work to lower the tensions to avoid action which might escalate the situation and to return to the political dialogue established at Lahore.

We welcomed the joint statement by President Clinton and Nawaz Sharif which suggested an approach to de-escalating the fighting. And we are encouraged by reports that the Government of Pakistan will urge the infiltrators to withdraw. We will continue to encourage India and Pakistan in their search for a just and lasting solution to the Kashmir issue.

Helen Teasdale
SAD, FCO

270 2383



Gopichand P. Hinduja

PR
CC: JP
JS
MT
VAC

GRs: FC/PM

6th July 1999

**The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1**

Dear Prime Minister,

In view of the continuing seriousness of the clashes in Kargil and the delicacy of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's political position after his weekend meeting with President Clinton, I thought I should share with you some fresh thoughts.

These are based on extensive conversations we have had over the last 48 hours with key figures in Washington and Delhi. If, as I understand may be the case, Mr Nawaz Sharif calls on you before returning to Pakistan, you may wish to draw on them when you see him.

First, it should not be taken for granted that Nawaz Sharif will secure the agreement from the Pakistani Army for his Joint Statement with President Clinton. Nor can we be confident that he can take with him the Militant Groups whose troops are on the Indian side of the LOC. This being so, India will have to keep up full pressure until it is clear that the infiltrators have got the message and accepted their effort has failed.



We would urge that in discussion with Nawaz Sharif the emphasis be on how he is going to secure the implementation of his agreement with President Clinton. It may be that both the US and the UK can help him convince the Army and others in Pakistan that the longer the infiltrators remain the worse it will be for Pakistan in the long run. There is no alternative for Pakistan to bow to the inevitable and the sooner this is done the less the pain.

Once it is clear that the infiltrators are withdrawing and the lesson has been learnt in Islamabad, there is no sensible reason for India to make Nawaz Sharif's task more difficult. It would help him if you, Prime Minister, and President Clinton re-assured him that you will use your influence in Delhi to ease his domestic difficulties. After the diplomatic support both Governments have shown Delhi since 28 May, it would be reasonable to expect Delhi to exercise presentational restraint once its principal goals have been met. We have good reason to believe this will be the case.

It will be helpful also if the UK and US Governments warn the Pakistan Government of the dangers for their access to international loans and finance if they do not change course at once. One last thought: how best to engage the Chinese. Islamic fundamentalism is a growing problem for the Chinese. The Taliban are beginning to foment dissent among Chinese Muslims. China and the West have a common interest in combatting this threat which can only grow if groups such as those in Kargil succeed.



3/

We see your meeting Nawaz Sharif as potentially crucial in helping him out of the hole he has dug. Your responsibilities for Northern Ireland are crushing but if you do find time to see Mr Sharif, the peoples of the sub-Continent will be in your debt. If SP or I can help in any way, we are entirely at your disposal.

With warmest regards.

Yours sincerely

Gopichand P Hinduja

Hindujs
22/7.

HW



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

✓ack
sent 7 July 1999

Dear Lisa

I enclose a copy of a further letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr Gopichand Hinduja.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach this office by Thursday 22 July.

If your Department is not responsible for this subject, please let us know as soon as possible to which Department the correspondence has been forwarded.

Yours ever

Janice Richards

JANICE RICHARDS

pm JR/PB -

CONQUEROR

Miss Lisa Farrington
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Hinduja
13/7.

Hw
cc: HO



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

lock sent 28 June 1999

Dear Lisa

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr Gopichand Hinduja.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for Prime Ministerial signature, to reach this office by Tuesday 13 July. Please could you co-ordinate/clear your reply with other Departments as necessary.

If your Department is not responsible for this subject, please let us know, as soon as possible, to which Department the correspondence has been forwarded.

I am copying this letter to Ailish King Fisher (Home Office).

Yours ever

Janie Richards

MRS J K RICHARDS

pm JK/PB.

OK.

Miss Lisa Farrington
Foreign and Commonwealth Office



Gopichand P. Hinduja

✓

22/6

23rd June 1999

FCO/PM

cc HO

**The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1**

Dear Prime Minister,

It was a pleasure to meet you again last week with HRH The Prince of Wales at the event for the Prince's Trust. Your decision to speak without notes and from the heart underlines your commitment to this cause. We have long been supporters of the Prince's Trust and its championing of the self-employed and of entrepreneurship. We will continue to do so.

Your kind remarks in your recent letter about our contribution to community relations in Britain are much appreciated.

I mentioned to you last week our concern that the fighting in Kargil was becoming more serious. SP had warned of this precise danger when he wrote to you in August last year. The most serious consequence of allowing these clashes to go unchecked is military escalation with the awesome danger of nuclear weapons being used. The longer the fighting goes on

For UK correspondence

New Zealand House, 14th Floor, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE
Telephone: 0171 839 4661 Fax: 0171 839 5992

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Hinduja/1220



2/

the more difficult to limit it both geographically and in the weaponry deployed. This carries the even more serious danger of other powers being drawn in.

The G8 should consider a structure for intervening in world trouble spots to prevent their spreading and causing further misery. You have shown in the Balkans how local conflict can be contained by resolute action taken promptly. President Clinton has already called publicly for the Pakistani-backed forces infiltrated over the Line of Control to withdraw. May I respectfully urge that you do so as well? I am confident that your voice carries real weight with the Pakistani Government at this crucial moment. I believe you have spoken once recently to the Pakistani Prime Minister and the G8 Summit Communique sent a clear message but further pressure is urgently needed.

We see another important dimension to this conflict that also concerns us deeply, namely its effect on community relations in Britain. The longer the conflict continues the greater the danger of hotheads in the Pakistani community here exploiting strong feelings and targeting others in the Asian community. This could undermine the progress you and your Government has made over the last two years.



The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data.

In the second section, the author details the various methods used to collect and analyze the data. This includes both primary and secondary sources, as well as the specific statistical techniques employed to interpret the results. The goal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the findings.

The third part of the document focuses on the implications of the research. It explores how the data can be used to inform decision-making and identify areas for improvement. The author also discusses the limitations of the study and suggests directions for future research.

Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the key findings and a final statement on the significance of the work. The author expresses gratitude to the participants and funding sources that made the study possible.

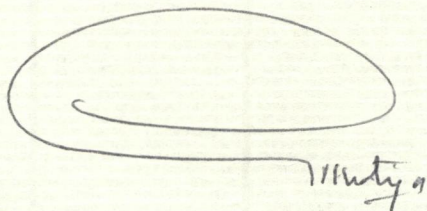


We do therefore urge you, amongst your other pressing responsibilities, to keep a close eye on the conflict in Kashmir and to lean on the Pakistan Government to stop playing with fire. It is criminally irresponsible for this Government to put its own and its neighbour, India's citizens at risk when a structures exist to resolve differences diplomatically. If you think there is anything that we can do to assist in getting this message across, please let us know through Jonathan Powell.

SP joins me in sending you our best wishes to you and Cherie. We are in touch with Kate Garvey on a date in November for you to join us for a Diwali celebration. I hope we will have a definite date soon so we can begin our preparations.

With Warm regards and Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Gopichand P Hinduja

0171 222 2355



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*File
Tone
H*

15 June 1999

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear G.P.

Thank you for your letter of 21 May, welcoming the appointment of Keith Vaz to a Ministerial post within the Government.

It is always a pleasure to appoint people of talent and ability to the Government, and I have every confidence that Keith will do an excellent job in his very important post at the Lord Chancellor's Department.

I am also grateful for your kind comments about the progress we are making in our drive to build the tolerant, multi-racial Britain the vast majority of us in this country want to see. As you know, I think it is absolutely right that we should all take pride in an identity which is limited and defined by the geography of our country, but within that country, is open to all whatever their colour, religion or ethnic background. We must achieve a Britain where we can all celebrate our diversity, and recognise that it brings us strength and teaches us a patriotism that enriches and unites our nation rather than divides it.

Let me once again express my gratitude to the Hinduja family for all that you are doing to help make this vision a reality.

Yours ever

Tony

Mr. Gopichand P. Hinduja



Gopichand P. Hinduja

21st May, 1999

The Rt Hon Tony Blair, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister.

S P and I were delighted to learn of Keith Vaz's appointment earlier this week to a ministerial post in your Government. This re-affirms your commitment to the ethnic minorities.

We, and the rest of the Asian community see this appointment as a new stage in consolidating Britain as a genuinely multi-cultural society. We applaud your courage in moving in this way and hope you will soon identify others from minority communities who are equally worthy of serving in senior positions.

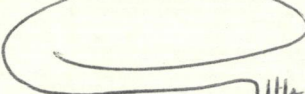
We have also noted with growing appreciation the encouragement you, Jack Straw and other ministers have given to minority communities. We were especially touched when Stephen Byers agreed to attend the opening ceremony of the Balaji Temple in Birmingham at the end of last month and he has also accepted the invitation from the Swaminaryan Hindu Mission to visit their temple in July.

Your Government has shown that you believe in actions and not just fine words and gestures.

S P joins me in sending you our best wishes for your continued good health, success and growing wisdom in your leadership.

With warmest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,


Gopichand P Hinduja

Over
for date r/s in pm

R20/5



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Free Mem
cc

From the Private Secretary

12 May 1999

Dear Mr Hinduja,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 21 April about the Faith Zone within the Millennium Dome. He was pleased to hear that progress is continuing at such an encouraging pace.

The Prime Minister was interested to read of your suggestions for a series of faith celebrations within the Dome throughout 2000. He understands from Jennie Page that the New Millennium Experience Company is already considering the possibility of offering opportunities for faith-related events on site. I am sure that Jennie will continue to exert a powerful and constructive influence on these discussions as they develop.

Yours sincerely,

David North

DAVID NORTH

Mr S P Hinduja

✓



Minister of State,
Cabinet Office

Ren

CABINET OFFICE
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 0171-270 1250

HINDUJAS

(1)

LF/99/26775

Mrs Janice Richards
Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

May 1999

Dear Mr Richards

Thank you for your letter of 23 April to Mark Langdale requesting a draft reply to Mr S P Hinduja.

The attached draft provides a non-committal welcome for Mr Hinduja's enthusiasm but stops short of endorsing his view. His reference to Jennie Page's support is somewhat overstated. The New Millennium Experience Company is already in discussion about offering opportunities for different faith related events on site during 2000 but has no plans for a multi-faith event such as that described by Mr Hinduja.

Yours sincerely
Stephen Ward

STEPHEN WARD
Assistant Private Secretary

DRAFT LETTER FROM PS/PRIME MINISTER TO:

Mr S P Hinduja
New Zealand House (14th Floor)
80 Haymarket
LONDON
SW1Y 4TE

May 1999

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 21 April about the Faith Zone within the Millennium Dome. He was pleased to hear that progress continues at such an encouraging pace.

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Private Secretary

FILE

KK

HINDUJA

10/5



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

Accel 23 April 1999

Dear Mark,

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr S P Hinduja.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for Private Secretary signature, to reach this office by Monday, 10 May.

If your Department is not responsible for this subject, please let us know as soon as possible to which Department the correspondence has been forwarded.

Yours ever

Janice Richards

MRS JANICE RICHARDS

(DN)

Mark Langdale Esq

AOB



Srichand P. Hinduja

Top: HA/PS
PU
Press

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

21st April 1999

I Dear Prime Minister,

As well as writing to you about last week's Gala Dinner which GP and I enjoyed so very much, I wanted to drop you a line on an exciting new development concerning the Faith Zone at the Millennium Dome.

First let me thank you for the kind words in your letter of 14th April which are a great encouragement to us. Michael Levy and Jennie Page continue to be a great sources of advice and support as they have been right the way through.

When I saw Jennie Page earlier in the month I mentioned to her an idea which I believe will make the Dome more interesting and appealing for the country at large. This is to arrange for nine separate celebrations during the course of the year 2000 to mark the festivals of the country's major religions. I enclose two Memorandums setting out our ideas in more detail. You will see that they exactly mirror the philosophy of social inclusion and cohesiveness set out in your speech.



2/

The Millennium Year could end with an ecumenical celebration encompassing all the major religions in a joint endeavour dedicated to tolerance and understanding.

Jennie Page was enthusiastic when I discussed the plan with her but aware of the sensitivities posed for some Christian denominations. I am sure she would value any support you can give her to move the plan forward. I should greatly value your instructions and guidance.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja

Faith Events at the Millennium Dome

While the Faith Zone is understandably Christian in emphasis based on the calendrical association with the birth of Christ and the establishment of Christianity in Britain, in addition to Christian celebrations on 31 December, it is important that other faiths be given recognition in terms of special religious celebrations during the year throughout the Dome. There are numerous benefits to this-

- Allowing the world's faiths some capacity to organise their own events will temper any criticism that the Faith Zone is predominantly Christian
- It is appropriate to reflect the multicultural nature of British society to celebrate diversity as well as commonalities
- It will enable people from all traditions to actively participate, and encourage attendance from ethnic minorities.
- Such events would be a way of garnering further community support for the Dome in general and Faith Zone in particular throughout the Millennium year.

There should be a major celebration for each of the 9 faiths represented, and consideration should be given to celebrating calendrical events in cultures not represented in the Faith Zone, eg. Chinese New Year. This would provide further balance and extend audience appeal. Recognition can be increased by the presence of celebrities from different cultures at these events.

There could also be joint event to celebrate all humanity as a finale to the year, to bring together people of all faiths and to provide an opportunity for those of no particular faith to celebrate their spiritual lives in the coming Millennium. This celebration could draw on the Millennium logo for inspiration, underpinning the entire Experience with a common recognition that the new Millennium marks a "time to make a difference" for all of us.

Balancing representations of different faiths in Faith Zone

While it is fully understood that Christianity will be the major faith celebration of the year, and that it is being given prominence in the Living Icons area of the Faith Zone, there should be some opportunity to represent the other faiths more prominently in the Faith experience. This will create a more multicultural identity for the zone and increase patronage from members of all faiths and cultures.

There should be Living Icons from other faiths represented in different areas of the Faith Zone. This will give the sense that there are shared values and common humanitarian concerns in all religious traditions, with living examples like the Dalai Lama and other spiritual leaders represented from different faith communities.

Symbols of each of the major faiths are used in the Beginnings area, but not referred to again other than the Cross, which is a major feature of the Living Icons area. This could be balanced by using projected images of all faith symbols on the interior surfaces of the canopy (subject to available lighting conditions). This would be an inexpensive effect to achieve, and especially at night would make an impressive show.

Slightly more ambitious would be to project still images of people of all faiths in a similar way. Content could be changed to show certain prophets (excepting Islam) and/or well known representatives of each faith.

Slightly more ambitious still, gauze or mist effects could be created in higher reaches of the canopy and used as projection surfaces. Symbols, images and imagery could be projected in such a way as to give more of a multicultural feel to the entire zone.

FILE

AOB



cc: CO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 April 1999

Dear S. P.,

Thank you for your letter of 3 March updating me on your support for the Spirit Zone – or “Faith” as I understand it is now called – within the Millennium Dome. I am delighted that you have been able to sign the agreement with NMEC and share your admiration for the work which Jennie Page and her team have done to make this possible. I have been pleased to hear how well the Company’s efforts to secure funding for the zone have progressed and, like you, am grateful to Lord Levy for his advice and input.

As to your suggestion that I should attend a press launch for the zone in April, I am sure you will understand that my diary is exceptionally full at the moment and I do not believe that it would be possible for me to be involved. However, I will of course retain a close interest in progress on the project and look forward to hearing more in due course.

Yours ever
Tony

Srichand P Hinduja Esq

AOB

X





10 DOWNING STREET

Kate o/r

I spoke to Faz, who has spoken to Keith Vaz. He has undertaken to try to pull together a single event, so that we don't end up pleasing one group, but not another.

We suggest you acknowledge, and say we are considering how best to mark the occasion. ✓x

David
31/3

GR

Can you draft a letter or lines of DN's suggestion - x
from the PM.
xG 2/4.

Asia - CG - KS



Srichand P. Hinduja

Probably need to do this for some news, a thing to do with some news part +

17th March 1999

Agree needs to do something and Diwali.

But should not annoy the others - Swamy, CBS Patel too much.

~~Ho / AM / SA / DA / DA~~

Presumably he did do something around Diwali, + we've customarily gone

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1A 2AA

I'll ask Keith Varke see news - perhaps he can help pull them together for an event?

KS

22/3

Don't say virtually our best news letter? A.

APS - in DL's box

Dear Prime Minister,

Last year we suggested to you the concept of the Asian Community arranging an event for yourself as Prime Minister together with your Cabinet colleagues and Labour MP's. This would enable you to explain your views to the Asian Community and to discuss your priorities with us. Together we would work to bolster the New Labour Government's laudable efforts to make Britain a more inclusive nation.

An opportune date to hold this event would be to coincide with the Indian New Year or Festival of Light (Diwali) during the latter part of October and early November. This would be an opportunity for you to join the Community at an important Festival and to join in our celebrations. You would be able to respond to the Community's concerns , reassure us on issues that create anxiety and explain your commitment to the mantra of multi-culturalism. This would encourage the Community to support your New Labour Government and open up new avenues on the economic front. For the Community your presence would be a welcome recognition of the role you see our members playing in British life.

Last/



2/

Last year you could not find time in your diary to accept the idea but we hope that you will be able to do so this year.

We and our fellow Community leaders have in mind to organise an event at Wembley Stadium, or somewhere similar, for a substantial audience, say 20,000 or more. Otherwise we would arrange a reception in the West End/ Central London for 2000 or 3000 guests.

If you think that such an event would assist the Labour Government to generate further support in the minority communities, we would be glad to initiate and organise it. I would appreciate your earliest response on the concept and, if you are supportive, with a date for our proposal. We can then move ahead with making the proper arrangements and booking a venue for what could become a yearly memorable event.

With warm personal regards *from G.P. and myself,*

Yours sincerely

Srichand P Hinduja
Chairman, Hinduja Group



Minister of State,
Cabinet Office

R814

CABINET OFFICE
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 0171-270 1250

RESTRICTED - COMMERCIAL

LF/99/26455

Mrs Janice Richards
Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 0AA

(T)

via DN

31 March 1999

Don Janice,

Thank you for your letter of 8 March requesting advice and a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Srichand Hinduja.

Mr Hinduja's letter concerns the financial support for the Spirit Zone (now known simply as "Faith") of the Millennium Dome at Greenwich. He explains that his organisation has signed their agreement with the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) for a £1m donation to the zone and encourages the Prime Minister to front a press-launch, at which the zone's financial backers would be announced, in April.

The advice from DCMS and from NMEC is that it would not be helpful for the Prime Minister to be involved in such an announcement. Notwithstanding the additional sensitivity that surrounds this zone and the Hinduja's support for it, given that the Prime Minister has not been involved in all the other sponsorship announcements, for organisations donating much larger sums, other sponsors might feel aggrieved to see him announcing a much smaller deal.

Furthermore, it is not certain that the Company would be in a position to make an announcement in April. As the Prime Minister will be aware from his recent meeting with Jennie Page, NMEC has made real progress in securing support for the zone from individuals from a range of religious backgrounds. However, the Company is rightly concerned that they should not make any announcement until the full financial support has been achieved and there is still a small shortfall which Lord Levy is trying to make up through his contacts within the Jewish community. The Company remains optimistic that the full funding will be secured in the near future but is sensibly not prepared to commit to a launch date until that point.

RESTRICTED - COMMERCIAL

RESTRICTED - COMMERCIAL

A draft reply, which pleads diary pressures during April, is attached for the Prime Minister's signature.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Ward.

STEPHEN WARD
Assistant Private Secretary

RESTRICTED - COMMERCIAL

SCANNED

Srichand P Hinduja
Hinduja Foundation (UK)
New Zealand House
80 Haymarket
LONDON
SW1Y 4TE

Thank you for your letter of 3 March updating me on your support for the Spirit Zone - or "Faith" as I understand it is now called - within the Millennium Dome. I am delighted that you have been able to sign the agreement with NMEC and share your admiration for the work which Jennie Page and her team have done to make this possible. I have been pleased to hear how well the Company's efforts to secure funding for the zone have progressed and, like you, am grateful to Lord Levy for his advice and input.

As to your suggestion that I should attend a press launch for the zone in April, I am sure you will understand that my diary is exceptionally full at the moment and I do not believe that it would be possible for me to be involved. However, I will of course retain a close interest in progress on the project and look forward to hearing more in due course.

TONY BLAIR

A5

case → Clare Salters

To DCMS
for advice.
SW 8/3



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

MARK LANGDALE
MINISTER OF STATE'S OFFICE

I attach a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Srichand Hinduja.

I should be grateful if you could provide advice and a draft reply as appropriate, for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach me by **23 March.**

If your Department is not responsible for this particular subject, please let us know as soon as possible to which Department the correspondence has been forwarded.

Janice Richards

MRS. JANICE RICHARDS
8 March 1999

CABINET OFFICE
MCU
- 9 MAR 1999
CASE NO.
LF/99/26455
REQUIRED BY:
19 MAR 99

HINDUJA FOUNDATION (U.K.)

R 3/3

New Zealand House
80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE

Tel: 0171 839 4661 Tlx: 23367 SANGAM G Fax: 0171 839 4337

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

3rd March 1999

Dear Prime Minister,

You will be pleased to know, I am sure, that thanks to helpful advice from Michael Levy and unflagging support from Jennifer Page, our Foundation has this week signed an agreement with the NMEC to donate £1million to the Spirit Zone (or Faith Zone as I understand it will be named).

The agreement recognises our role in generating support and awareness for the only non-commercial Zone at Greenwich: I am pleased that other Foundations and charities have come forward and the target figure of £4million is now very close. But between now and the end of the year a major effort is required to give public opinion greater clarity on what the Zone is designed to achieve . Adverse comment to date has detracted from the key themes of multi-cultural understanding and multi-faith co-operation.

No one knows better than you the suffering , most of all for women and children, that has flowed for over 1000 years and still continues to flow from religious conflicts around the globe: in Northern Ireland, in the Middle East, in Bosnia, in Kashmir and now in Kosovo . Political leaders alone can bring these conflicts to an end . We have admired your own strenuous efforts to give this leadership in all the main conflict areas and urge you to continue.

AL - top copy

ce JLB

AJG

IB will be to us

JL



The Spirit Zone will act as a beacon of hope and a standard-bearer for religious understanding . I see you as uniquely placed to give a lead, in the company of the Prince of Wales who shows a deep attachment to the multi-faith approach. Your presenting and launching the Spirit Zone with His Royal Highness would give a signal of immense force to the cause of multi-cultural understanding in Britain and the wider world. As the only non-commercial zone in the Dome , it would be appropriate for you to undertake this personally.

Jennifer Page and the NMEC have proposed a Press Launch in mid-April. Your attendance would be an invaluable boost to all religious faiths in Britain, symbolise the Christian roots of the Millennium calendar and help set in train a "multi-faith mantra for the Millennium". This in turn would mirror the spiritual renewal which should accompany the new Millennium.

I wrote in December about misleading articles in the Sunday Times on our involvement in the Dome. Michael Heseltine has given us invaluable advice. Next week we will take the process of securing more support for the Dome a stage further when we and other Asian businessmen entertain William Hague and colleagues: this should persuade waverers that the Dome ought to be supported and not denigrated.

I look forward to hearing your views on our suggestions for launching the Spirit/Faith Zone where I am convinced your participation will make a radical difference.

Yours sincerely

With regards,

Sr Chand P Hinduja

Srichand P Hinduja

HINDUJA FOUNDATION (U.K.)

R 3/3

New Zealand House
80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE

Tel: 0171 839 4661 Tlx: 23367 SANGAM G Fax: 0171 839 4337

**The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1**

AL - top copy

cc JPo

3rd March 1999

AM -> Lord Falchur
for advice/reply as appropriate

Az

Dear Prime Minister,

You will be pleased to know, I am sure, that thanks to helpful advice from Michael Levy and unflinching support from Jennifer Page, our Foundation has this week signed an agreement with the NMEC to donate £1million to the Spirit Zone (or Faith Zone as I understand it will be named).

The agreement recognises our role in generating support and awareness for the only non-commercial Zone at Greenwich: I am pleased that other Foundations and charities have come forward and the target figure of £4million is now very close. But between now and the end of the year a major effort is required to give public opinion greater clarity on what the Zone is designed to achieve . Adverse comment to date has detracted from the key themes of multi-cultural understanding and multi-faith co-operation.

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The Spirit Zone will act as a beacon of hope and a standard-bearer for religious understanding . I see you as uniquely placed to give a lead, in the company of the Prince of Wales who shows a deep attachment to the multi-faith approach. Your presenting and launching the Spirit Zone with His Royal Highness would give a signal of immense force to the cause of multi-cultural understanding in Britain and the wider world. As the only non-commercial zone in the Dome , it would be appropriate for you to undertake this personally.

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I look forward to hearing your views on our suggestions for launching the Spirit/Faith Zone where I am convinced your participation will make a radical difference.

Yours sincerely

With regards,

S P Hinduja

Srichand P Hinduja



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

FLB

ULB

cc: FW

From the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff

11 February 1999

Dear S.P.

Thank you for your letter of 27 January. The Government was pleased with the visit of Mr. Mishra and that of Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh.

The Prime Minister is delighted that Mr. Mishra found his talks here constructive. This mirrors the Government's own impression of them. The Prime Minister is confident that Mr. Singh took away the clear view that the UK is fully committed to developing and strengthening its bilateral relationship with India, especially in the commercial field. With the visits to India by Patricia Hewitt last week, and John Prescott in March, UK/India Ministerial contacts are healthy in the first part of this year. And, as I mentioned in my last letter, Stephen Byers hopes to visit India at a later date.

The subject of contact between the Prime Ministers came up when Mr. Singh saw the Prime Minister in No. 10 on 4 February. Both agreed that early contact would be desirable. The trick will be to find a mutually convenient time. We are keeping this under review.

Very truly
yours

JONATHAN POWELL

Mr. S. P. Hinduja



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

File

101636

10 February 1999

(5)

Dear Janice

India: Letter From Hinduja

Thank you for your letter of 5 February asking for advice and a draft reply to S P Hinduja's letter to Jonathan Powell of 27 January. I enclose a draft reply.

...

The Hinduja's continue to be active in promoting UK/India relations, as well as their own business interests in India and elsewhere. They hosted a dinner for Brajesh Mishra during his recent visit to London, but were not similarly involved in the visit by Jaswant Singh, the Indian Foreign Minister, which was largely organised by the Indian High Commission.

Yours ever

Andrew Patrick

(Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Mrs J K Richards
10 Downing Street

PB 11/02



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary

5 February 1999

Dear Lisa

I enclose a copy of a letter which Jonathan Powell has received from Mr Srichand P Hinduja on the Indo-British relationship.

I should be grateful for your advice, together with a draft reply for Private Secretary signature, to reach this office as soon as possible.

If your Department is not responsible for this subject, please let us know as soon as possible to which Department the correspondence has been forwarded.

Yours ever

Jamie Richards

MRS J K RICHARDS / P.B.

Miss Lisa Farrington
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

6



Srichand P. Windaaja

Pl. in

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2291.

27th January 1999

GB : Adv + PS / FCO

asap

Pl. in

Mr Jonathan Powell
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Jonathan,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 19th January and for your strong personal efforts to put the Indo-British relationship back on track. Our High Commissioners in London and Delhi can and are doing a first rate job but in-put from our respective Prime Ministers' offices is invaluable as well.

Our discussions with Brajesh Mishra after his meetings indicate that that he was extremely pleased with his reception and programme . He found the approach of Robin Cook and his team at the Foreign Office encouragingly constructive and positive . And he was especially heartened by his meetings with George Robertson at the Ministry of Defence and Clare Short at the Department for International Development . He left feeling that both sides understood where they stood on the nuclear issue much more clearly and it was not an issue that could be resolved at a simple stroke of the pen.



The approach of the United States Government would be pivotal in determining the way ahead but , in the meantime , the recognition in London that differences on nuclear issues should not impact on economic and trade links nor on taking decisions at the World Bank and other multi-lateral agencies on a case by case basis was viewed as a major and most welcome advance.

Of course, Brajesh Mishra would have liked to have seen the Prime Minister in order to discuss with him when he and Prime Minister Vajpayee could meet but when we explained the reasons for Mr Blair being unable to do so , as set out in your letter , he readily understood. Next month Shri Vajpayee will be travelling to Jamaica for an Economic Summit meeting . He had earlier planned to visit Germany but recent events and the German response have led to this being deferred . Subject to Mr Blair's diary, there might be an opening for Shri Vajpayee to travel via London and call at 10 Downing Street . I realise this is rather short notice but I am sure this is worth exploring. Perhaps it could be raised during Jashwant Singh's visit next week .

While he was in London we gave Brajesh Mishra an account of our idea for an infrastructure fund available for British companies to have a more active and preferential role in India . He was notably receptive and warm to this idea , particularly in relation to the Mumbai Airport Project . I referred to the proposal in my speech



3/

at the reception we gave for Sir Rob and Lady Young on 14 January . I enclose a copy which may be of interest to the Prime Minister . It will also be of interest, I believe, to Stephen Byers whom we have not yet met . We would very much welcome the chance to discuss the proposal with him and how to further the Indo-British partnership. If you were able to introduce us to him , this would enable us to elaborate our ideas to him as we have done with his predecessors.

with warmest good wishes from GP and myself,

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P. Hinduja



CH

cc DT1
CO

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

4 January 1999

Dear Mr Hinduja,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 9 December. He is grateful to you for keeping him informed of progress in your discussions with the New Millennium Experience Company and hopes that you will continue to find the discussions with Michael Levy and Jennie Page constructive. Like you, he believes that it is very important that spiritual renewal should form an important part of the Millennium celebrations, in the Dome just as elsewhere.

^v
Yours sincerely,

Angus Lapsley

ANGUS LAPSLEY

Mr Srichand P Hinduja

4

H HINDUJAS



The Rt Hon Peter Mandelson MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

31 DEC 1998

Mrs Janice Richards
Assistant Private Secretary
to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Secretary of State
**Department of
Trade and Industry**

1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Direct line
0171 215 5430

DTI Enquiries
0171 215 5000

e-mail
TLO.Mandelson@tlo.dti.gov.uk



23 December 1998

Dear Janice

Thank you for your letter of 17 December requesting a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Srichand P Hinduja. We believe that this correspondence would be better dealt with at private secretary level and attach an appropriate draft.

This response has been prepared in conjunction with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretary to Sir Richard Wilson.

*Yours ever
Ben Coates*

BEN COATES
Private Secretary

SCANNED



Srichand P Hinduja
New Zealand House (14th Floor)
80 Haymarket
London
SW1Y 4TE

December 1998

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 9 December. He is grateful to you for keeping him informed of progress in your discussions with the New Millennium Experience Company and hopes that you will continue to find the discussions with Michael Levy and Jennie Page constructive. Like you, he believes that it is very important that spiritual renewal should form an important part of the Millennium celebrations, in the Dome just as elsewhere.

Private Secretary

File

JAG

HINDUJA

7.7.99



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

ALC

From the Assistant Private Secretary

17 December 1998

Dear Margaret

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr Srichand P Hinduja.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for Prime Ministerial signature, to reach this office by Thursday 7 January 1999. Please could you co-ordinate/clear your reply with other Departments as necessary.

If your Department is not responsible for this subject, please let us know, as soon as possible, to which Department the correspondence has been forwarded.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretary to Richard Wilson (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Jamie Richards

MRS J K RICHARDS // AL.

Ms Margaret Housden
Department of Trade and Industry

mel



Srichand P. Hinduja

9 December 1998

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

PM → DTI

cc: ~~ES~~

R9

m

RS) Richard Wilson

No pps on this subject

Dear Prime Minister,

GP and I thought that in view of your own strong personal commitment to spiritual values we ought to keep you up-to-date on our support for the Spirit Zone at Greenwich.

We are, as you know, convinced that this Zone should be amply funded and make a full contribution to the success of the Dome and multi-faith understanding in Britain. We have established an excellent rapport with Michael Levy who suggested that rather than underwrite £3 million in sponsorship, the Hinduja Foundation should make a firm commitment of £1 million on behalf of the Asian community, while the remaining £3 million would be found through commitments from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities. We readily accepted his approach since we were equally concerned about the multi-cultural dimension of the Spirit Zone. We are now finalising details with Jennie Page and her team at NMEC.

We were upset that last week the Sunday Times mis-interpreted our role and sought to portray our contribution in a misleading manner. We immediately wrote to the Editor underscoring the actual facts. A copy of the letter is enclosed for your information along with articles from the Indian press.

We strongly feel that multi-cultural understanding is the solution to many conflicts of modern society and that the Spirit Zone plays a crucial part in promoting this understanding in the next millennium. I am sure you will agree that this would be the best way to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of Christ and a fitting tribute to His message of peace and goodwill.

Yours sincerely,

With the Season's Greetings.

Srichand P Hinduja

HINDUJA FOUNDATION (U.K.)

New Zealand House
80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE

Tel: 0171 839 4661 Tlx: 23367 SANGAM G Fax: 0171 839 4337

4 December 1998

Mr John Witherow
Editor
The Sunday Times
1 Pennington Street
London E1 9XW

Dear Mr. Witherow,

The Sunday Times article last week with the headline "Mandelson 'solicits' cash from Indian billionaires" seriously misled your readers about the Hinduja Foundation's support for the Millennium Dome.

The Foundation was established 20 years ago to enhance respect for different cultural traditions; it has no political agenda. Among the many educational and cultural projects we have supported are: the Hinduja Cambridge Trust at Cambridge University; Dharam Hinduja Institute of Indic Research Centre, also at Cambridge; the Nehru Galleries at the V&A Museum; the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Programme; and the Prince's Youth Business Trust's Asian Initiative.

Under the previous government, our Trustees proposed a new project: a permanent centre to explore common ground between faiths and cultural traditions. Although long-listed for Millennium Commission support, this "Concordia" Centre, to be based in Peterborough, failed to achieve the necessary support.

When we learnt that NMEC (New Millennium Experience Company) were seeking sponsors for the multi-faith Spirit Zone in the Dome, we saw this as a way to pursue our objective on a different track. All negotiations on our contribution have been exclusively with the executives of NMEC.

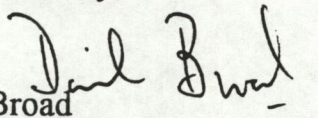
In many cases the Foundation has encouraged others, especially in the Asian community, to support a charitable project we have championed, a course we will embrace for the Spirit Zone. We have also supported causes pioneered by others: for example, the Neasden temple where our Foundation has been just one of countless donors. This temple was the vision of His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj and constructed, with his inspiration and guidance, by over 3000 professional volunteers and contributions from the Gujarati community in Britain.

We see the Dome as a national celebration where all the identities in Britain today should feel they have a stake. It is regrettable that your article should present a contribution from a minority community in a pejorative light. This can be good neither for the Dome nor for community relations. It would also be a pity if support for the Dome becomes an issue of party political controversy or a source of misleading coverage in the media.. The Spirit Zone, in particular, should enhance respect between communities, a key challenge for the next millennium and one the Foundation plans to tackle by establishing centres for multicultural understanding in Britain and overseas.

One further point, namely the assertion that the Hinduja brothers have "close links" with Mr. Peter Mandelson, MP. Those functions which Mr. Mandelson is mentioned as attending have been ones where the Hindujas have been co-hosts with other members of the Asian community. The farewell reception for the Indian High Commissioner was incidentally, attended by Mr William Hague, MP and Mr. David Heath, MP (representing the Leader of the Liberal Democrats). Since May 1997 the Prime Minister and other Ministers, including Mr. Mandelson, have been gracious in attending events hosted by the Asian community, as were their predecessors. This is appreciated throughout the Asian community.

Lastly, the Hinduja brothers' call on Mr. Mandelson at the Department of Trade and Industry office on 6 October 1998 was arranged to discuss the further development of the Indo-British Partnership. On a number of earlier occasions, under the previous government, similar calls were made on his predecessors at the DTI to discuss this same subject.

Yours sincerely,


David Broad

Director - Hinduja Foundation

Hinduja denial

LONDON: The prominent non-resident Indian business family, the Hinduja brothers, have sharply retorted to media innuendos of any cash links with British trade and industry secretary Peter Mandelson, saying that their participation in the spirit zone of the prestigious Millennium Dome was on behalf of the Asian community.

Reacting to the allegation made by *The Sunday Times* (London) that the close links of the Hinduja family with Mr Mandelson had exposed the British minister to charges of breach of promise to the House of Commons, David Broad, Director of the Hinduja Foundation, wrote to that newspaper taking exception to presenting in a pejorative light "the contributions ought to be made by the minority Asian community to the British national celebrations to be mirrored in the Millennium Dome. (PTI)

► Details on Page 10

Hindujas deny media innuendos of cash links with U.K. minister

LONDON: The Hinduja family has denied media innuendos of any cash links with British trade and industry secretary Peter Mandelson which were recently published by *The Sunday Times*, London.

Director of the Hinduja Foundation David Broad said in a rejoinder to the paper, "We see the Millennium Dome as a national celebration where all identities in Britain should feel they have a stake. It is regrettable that *The Sunday Times* should present a contribution from a minority community in a pejorative light. This can be good neither for the dome nor for community relations in Britain."

Mr Broad contended to the paper that the spirit zone of the dome, which the Hinduja Foundation has promised to underwrite, was a project motivated by enhancing respect between communities, a key challenge in the next millennium. He said it was part of the Foundation's thrust to tackle this by establishing centres of multicultural understanding in Britain and overseas.

The issue figured in the House of Commons when a Tory member, Chris Chope, attempted to hound Mr Mandelson by raising queries of his links with the Hinduja family. The unfazed British minister dismissed the allegation, saying that the Hinduja Foundation's contribution to the Millennium Dome was laudable.

On the numerous receptions held for the British trade minister, Mr Broad said these were co-hosted by the Hindujas with other leading members of the Asian community and were part of efforts by the community to get their perspective across to the new British government.

Mr Broad said that the Hinduja

Foundation, established two decades ago, was aimed at enriching modern society through reviving cultural traditions. "It is culturally and educationally oriented, with no political agenda. We have over the years set up the Hinduja Cambridge Trust, the Dharam Hinduja Indic Institute, the Nehru Gallery at London's famous Victoria and Albert Museum, the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Programme and others."

The Times had alleged that there were fears that the trade secretary could be subject to conflict of interest if he sought dome sponsorship, while making policy decisions as a government minister. However, Labour party sources said the media campaign was politically motivated to malign Mr Mandelson, who is said to be close to Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Hinduja Foundation had earlier been seeking the millennium commission's support for its "Concordia Futuristic Spiritual Centre to be set up at Peterborough, about 90 km from here", Mr Broad said. "When we learnt that the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) was seeking sponsors for a multi-faith spirit zone in the dome, we agreed to back it with other Asian community members."

The Foundation has said that all negotiation on its "contributions" for the zone had been exclusively with the officials of the NMEC, rebutting *The Times'* claims of Peter Mandelson discussing with the Hinduja brothers the question of putting up cash for the dome.

Mr Broad made it clear that the Hinduja Foundation was committed to supporting charitable projects like the spirit zone. "We had also supported causes pioneered by others, like London's famous Neasden temple," he added. (PTI)

HINDUJAS DENY CHARGES

By The Daily Staff

MUMBAI, Dec 5

THE prominent NRI business family, the Hinduja brothers, have sharply retorted to media innuendos of any cash links with British trade and industry secretary, Peter Mandelson, saying their participation in the spirit zone of the prestigious Millennium Dome was on behalf of the Asian community. Reacting to allegation made by *The Sunday Times* that close links of the Hinduja family with Mandelson had exposed the British minister to charges of breach of promise to the House of Commons, David Broad, Director of Hinduja Foundation, has written taking exception to presenting in "pejorative light" contributions sought to be made by minority Asian community to British National celebrations to be mirrored in Millennium Dome.

The Indian EXPRESS

MUMBAI ■ MONDAY ■ DECEMBER 7, 1998

Hindujas reject reports of millenium dome scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, DEC 6

LEADING NRI business family, the Hindujas, have rejected media reports suggesting cash links with British Trade and Industry secretary Peter Mandelson saying their participation in the prestigious millennium dome was on behalf of the Asian community.

Reacting to allegations by a British newspaper that the family's links with Mandelson had exposed the latter to charges of breach of promise to the house of commons, Hinduja Foundation director, David Broad, took exception to portrayal of contributions sought to be made by the Asian commu-

nity to British National celebrations in a 'pejorative light'. "We see the dome as National celebrations, where all identities in Britain should feel they have a stake. It is regrettable that the paper should present a contribution from a minority community in a pejorative light. This can be good neither for the dome nor for community's relations in Britain," Broad said.

The issue figured in the House of Commons last night, when Tory member, Chris Hope, raised queries about Mandelson's links with the Hindujas. The Minister dismissed the charge saying the Hinduja Foundation was considering contributing to the dome, which was laudable.

CS
cc JPO

To:

Zhada Bibi
APS/SOS

From:

Keith Melville
XP6d
446 Kingsgate House
215 4880cc Mr Harris, DG Export Promotion
Mr Gibson, XP1
Mr Runacres, XP6
Mr Gillham BHC, New Delhi
Mr Atkinson IEPD
Mr Shearman IEPD

23 October 1998

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH THE HINDUJAS : 6 OCTOBER

1. You were present when the Secretary of State met Mr Srichand Hinduja and Mr Gopind Hinduja. Mr P Kapetanakos, Vice President of Sangam Ltd and Mr Shahaney, Chairman of Ashok Leyland, were also present.
2. The SOS began by saying that he recognised the need to address and rectify HMG's "rather clumsy" handling of the issue of contact with Indian ministers post nuclear testing and confirmed his, and the Prime Minister's view, of the need to proceed on the basis of visiting Indian ministers being received at ministerial level. The SOS also confirmed his intention to visit India next February.
3. Mr S Hinduja stated that the apparent embargo on ministerial meetings had significantly undermined the UK's standing with India and that the US despite sanctions, Germany and in particular France, had capitalised on the UK's perceived disengagement. Certain visits by Indian ministers had been downgraded to the status of private visits to avoid embarrassment and the UK would now have to work hard to make up lost ground.
4. Mr G Hinduja referred to the size and very significant level of opportunity offered by the Indian market and stated that in view of the world economic crisis the timing was now right for UK industry, combined with the Non Resident Indian (NRI) community, to invest in India and thereby to generate much needed jobs in the UK. A reasonable target of £10 billion might be set. The UK Government could put together a small group consisting of DTI officials, the British investment community and the NRI's to invest in India. UK expertise and experience in the area of privatisation could be made available to assist in activating the process in India. The Indian Government could identify projects for which all the necessary clearances would be made and these could then be targeted by UK companies perhaps in co-operation with Japan which, despite the current economic climate, still had significant

funding available. G P Hinduja handed the SOS a note on the prevailing investment climate in India and also a memorandum on economic co-operation between Britain and India. Copies of both are attached to this note.

5. Mr S Hinduja acknowledged the work of the DTI and the success of the Indo British Partnership in promoting trade but believed the IBP had become "moribund" and needed to be reinvigorated. The NRI community could play a major role but to date had been excluded from the IBP. The SOS asked Mr Melville to comment on the health of the IBP. Mr Melville referred to Lord Paul's membership of the AAG, the fact that a proposed relaunch had been deferred due to nuclear testing and that the IBP had a full and impressive calendar of events but agreed that the IBP had now become a "little stale". The SOS stated that he would welcome, and wished to see, greater involvement by the NRI community in the work of the IBP.

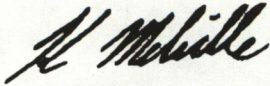
6. Mr G Hinduja referred to the slow pace of infrastructure development in India and the need to bring pressure to bear on the Indian side to push matters along. The Vizag project, jointly promoted by National Power and the Hinduja Group, had now been delayed for some time, the most pressing impediment to progress being the resolution of the Coal Supply and Transport Agreement. The SOS was asked if he would be willing to write to the Indian Finance Minister on this subject. Mr Melville referred to another and significant outstanding difficulty on this project, namely the validity of the counter guarantee. The SOS agreed that he would be willing to write on this matter, unless his officials had any major reservations, and asked that a letter be drafted for his signature in consultation between the DTI and the Hinduja Group.

7. Following the meeting the SOS placed the following actions on officials:

- i) To ensure that that his visit to India should be both "substantive and purposeful" and that the Hinduja Group should be consulted in this process.
- ii) That the SOS be kept informed of all visits to the UK by Indian ministers and that, when appropriate, Indian ministers should be met by their DTI counterpart.
- iii) That officials give detailed consideration to the activities of the Indo - British Partnership with a view to relaunching the IBP in 1999. The SOS also wished to see greater involvement of the NRI community in the work of the IBP and asked officials to look into how best this might be achieved.
- iv) That the SOS be provided with a list of AAG members and that a meeting be arranged with G Atkinson, IEP.

v) The SOS agreed to address the Asian Business Network dinner next year.

vi) That officials should meet with Mr Shahaney, prior to his return to India later in the week, to discuss options for the way forward on the IBP and project identification with a view to potential UK/Indo collaboration.



K D Melville

Mr. Ch To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what aspects of the Millennium Dome he discussed with Mr. S. P. Hinduja and Mr. G. P. Hinduja at his meeting on 6 October. [62203]

Mr. Mandelson: I met with S. P. Hinduja and G. P. Hinduja at my offices to discuss Indo-British relations. The Millennium Dome was not on the agenda, but was referred to in passing at the end of the meeting. There was no substantive discussion.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many meetings he has had with the directors or employees of Sangam Ltd. since he became the Minister responsible for the Millennium Experience; where they were held; what was the subject matter; and if civil servants were present; [62000]

(2) how many informal meetings at which Government business was discussed he has had with the directors or employees of Sangam Ltd. since 2 May 1997; and what was the subject matter; [62001]

3 Dec 1998 : Column: 291

(3) how many meetings he has had with the directors or employees of Sangam Limited since he became Secretary of State; where they were held; what was the subject matter; and if civil servants were present; [61999]

(4) on what dates he has had meetings with (a) Srichand P. Hinduja, Chairman and (b) Gopichand P. Hinduja, President of the Hinduja Group of Companies since 2 May 1997; what was the location of the meetings and the subject matter discussed; and if officials were present. [61977]

Mr. Mandelson [holding answer 1 December 1998]: I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave him today in response to questions Numbers 61976 and 62203.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many informal meetings he has had since 2 May 1997 at which Government business was discussed with (a) Srichand P. Hinduja, Chairman and (b) Gopichand P. Hinduja, President of the Hinduja Group of Companies. [61976]

Mr. Mandelson [holding answer 1 December 1998]: As Minister without Portfolio, I met the Hindujas on a number of occasions, sometimes formally and otherwise at social events. Since becoming Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, I have had one meeting with the Hindujas on 6 October.

Claire Sumner No 10
Sue Gray Cabinet Office

ci: PS/Sir Michael Scholar
Tim Williams

From: Bernadette Kelly
PPS/SoS/DTI
Tel: 0207 215 5621
Fax: 0207 215 5468

26 January 2001

CHRISTOPHER CHOPE PQs

1. I attach a note of the meeting that took place between Peter Mandelson (then SoS for DTI) and the Hinduja on 6 October 1998.
2. You should also be aware of the previous Christopher Chope PQs about this meeting (if you are not already) - these are attached.
3. As to whether we could claim the 6 October note is being withheld under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, I presume we would need to rely on provision 7(b) ie that disclosure would harm the efficient conduct of operations. But clearly it is for you to decide how best to reply in this case.



Bernadette Kelly

From: KEITH VAZ MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

15 October 1998
MY REF: SF/05

Mr Andrew Walmsley
Secretary to IND
Nationality Division
3rd Floor, India Building
Water Street
Liverpool LE2 0QN

Dear Andrew

It was good to talk to you on the telephone about the case of Mr S P Hinduja and his family which are you dealing with under reference H310363.

I understand that this matter is going to be resolved shortly and that Richard Hall will be arranging for the form to be re-endorsed.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

KEITH VAZ

Leicester Office: 144 Uppingham Road, Leicester LE5, 0GF
Telephone: (0116) 212 2020 Fax: (0116) 212 2121
Email: kvazmp@housecom.demon.co.uk
Web: www.housecom.demon.co.uk/keithvazmp

0171 222 2355



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 October 1998

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton".

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of 25 August.

I am grateful for your supportive words on the threat posed by terrorism. The atrocities at Omagh, Dar-es-Salaam, Nairobi and Capetown underline the need for determined action and for global co-operation. Terrorists must not be allowed to act with impunity. As you know, Parliament recently passed legislation to help prevent the planning in the United Kingdom of terrorist acts abroad.

I also share your view of the importance of controlling the spread of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. The UK has taken a leading role in negotiations on international non-proliferation treaties. Most recently, we have welcomed the agreement reached in Geneva to start work on a treaty to stop the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

There is no question of excluding India from the mainstream of international policy. We and our international partners have made clear our wish to see India and Pakistan rejoin the international non-proliferation regime and, specifically, to agree to join the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. India also has an important role to play in the global fight against terrorism. We will continue to engage India bilaterally and multilaterally.

You refer to the question of India's permanent membership of an enlarged UN Security Council. You will be aware of the deep international concern at India's and Pakistan's nuclear tests. Both countries' wider international aspirations are bound to be affected by the tests.

I attach great importance to maintaining and improving our bilateral trade and investment relations with India. India is a market of great interest to British companies. We will build on the good work done by the Indo-British Partnership in the last few years to promote trade links between the two countries.

Best wishes

Yours truly
 -
Tony

Mr. S. P. Hinduja



Srichand P. Hinduja

25 August 1998

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

GP and I have followed with admiration your response to the vile Omagh terrorist attack while you were on holiday. I know that curbing further terrorist attacks is your first priority for Northern Ireland and I admire equally the help you are giving President Clinton to combat terrorism directed at the United States. You can count on our full support.

In this connection, I should report that earlier this month I visited Washington, D.C. where I met with the State Department, NSC and other representatives of the Administration and Congress.

In all my meetings with Washington policy-makers, I stressed the threat to the security of democratic nations in the West and elsewhere posed by religious fundamentalism and growing anti-American and anti-Western sentiment. I left with them the enclosed paper outlining these concerns. Tragically, during our visit the terrorist bombings of two American embassies in Africa brought home this point.

I applaud your own strong stand against terrorism, and for doing so within a democratic system. It is our fervent hope that leading democracies, especially India, Europe and the US, can work together against terrorist threats. India has a special role as a democratic counter-weight to China, whose future intentions remain uncertain. Russia's situation also is worrisome and dangerous.

V. Srinivasan
can we get ACO
advice like we get
from Robin.

V. Srinivasan
2778



The recent financial crises in Asia and now Russia have added to the instability in which terrorism thrives and also threaten Europe and U.S. economies. As other markets reel under financial pressure, India is an increasingly attractive long-term prospect for Western exporters and the Indo-British Partnership an important instrument for expanding British companies' market share in India. We want to develop this partnership; without active political encouragement, it risks falling into the doldrums.

The risks of excluding India from main-stream of international policy are graphically spelt out in today's Financial Times article by William Schneider (copy enclosed), pointing out the sheer range of the ballistic missiles held by India and others. I have been warning for the last four years at least that anti-Western sentiment is growing in third-world states. The growth in missile technology has doubled the need to counter-act this trend.

Against this background of terrorist threats, economic instability and nuclear and ballistic proliferation, it would be valuable if, with the Americans and others, you took an initiative to bring the world's largest democracy into the Security Council or, alternatively, create a new platform for India to join the UK, US and other major democracies. Threats to world peace should be addressed before, rather than after, they occur. And there is a compelling need for India to be part of this effort.

I should appreciate your guidance and comments on how we can best help to keep India engaged in these major global issues.

With regards from G.P. and myself.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P. Hinduja
Chairman

Addendum
Some Comments from Washington, D.C. Visit
5-7 August 1998

Kashmir

- State Department worried about bloodshed but seemed receptive to point that Pakistan, not India, keeps issue alive.
- Also seems to fear Pakistan becoming unstable, and this, and worries about extremists in Afghanistan, may colour attitudes. Do not think Pakistan now prepared to deal seriously with India-Pakistan problems due to Pakistan's bad economic and political circumstances. Have issued new press guidance with toughened policy against terrorism, condemning terrorists and also "those who provided support of any kind to them."

China, Pakistan and Threats to India's Security

- We made point strongly that China has one foot in Southeast Asia, and one foot in South Asia through Pakistan, smuggled nuclear technology to Pakistan and Pakistan in turn helped other Islamic countries, and this a threat not only to India but to Israel and West. This, and Pakistan's bad faith in discarding agreement on the agenda in Sri Lanka, makes both look untrustworthy.
- In this context, State Department:
 1. commended India's "impeccable" behaviour in not transferring sensitive technology to other countries;
 2. indicated US had pressed China to be sensitive to India's security concerns;
 3. seemed receptive to point that with growing anti-Americanism around the world and greater terrorist threat to US and Western interests, (ironically, terrorist bombings of US embassies in Africa happened during the round of meetings) a US strategic relationship with democratic India could serve as a counter-weight to China.

August 7, 1998

MEMORANDUM
US-INDIA RELATIONS
BACKGROUND POINTS

1. It is important that US-India relations improve and go back on track. It is in the economic interests of both countries if this happens.
2. In spite of the US having given aid in terms of money, food and medicines to many countries, why is it that these very countries are now anti-America?
3. Why is it that the US is sometimes perceived as having double standards? The support it gave to military, autocratic and dictatorial regimes during the cold war was understandable, but why is it continuing now?
4. Would not such a strategy endanger democratic nations and fan fundamentalism, threatening the Western world, and in particular, Israel?
5. Democratic countries like India, which pay a huge price to maintain their systems, ought to be given a better hearing. Would it not be useful to the USA to have an ally like India as part of the G5 or in the UN Security Council rather than alienating the world's largest democracy with sanctions?
6. Why is it that security concerns of India, a nation with a democratic past and a non-aggressive history, in relation to China and Pakistan is not addressed by the US in proper terms? For example, President Clinton spoke to Nawaz Shariff twice, but when Atal Vajpayee wrote to him, the letter was not even answered.
7. The recent meeting in Colombo of the Indian PM and his Pakistani counterpart was illuminating. At this meeting, while India stuck to the agreed agenda, the Pakistani PM departed from it and became quite aggressive. The Indian PM on the other hand concentrated on the economic front by decreasing restrictions for free trade between other SAARC nations and India. The general feeling in Colombo was that Pakistan had isolated itself by delving on the nuclear issue, while India showed restraint and was appreciated.
8. We appreciate efforts by the Administration to seek waiver authority over sanctions. We are concerned that open ended economic sanctions threaten to disrupt years of progress and co-operation between the two countries. Recent reports suggest that sanctions affect US business interests more than they do other countries. The US has placed more than 2/3rd of the world population under sanctions.

9. US policy even before the nuclear tests and ensuing sanctions did not adequately reflect the understanding of India's circumstances and threats to its security and secular democracy.
10. For years, Cold War erected artificial barriers between the two countries and India could not be understood properly in the West. It would indeed be a tragedy if the world's two largest democracies cannot work their way through difficult issues for mutually advantageous co-operation.
11. Different nations have different rules of law. Some are democratic, some are dictatorships. Therefore same solution or remedy cannot be applied universally to all nations.
12. The US may say that it has nothing against India, but it is against the present Government. They should understand that the previous Government was struggling for survival and was playing a game of diplomacy and appeasement, while the present Government is not really a BJP Government. It is made up of 19 parties and difficult to control. For example, George Fernandes, the Defence Minister, is not from the BJP.
13. While recognizing the setback to US nuclear non-proliferation efforts posed by the nuclear tests, hope that US realized real dynamics in South Asia, including Chinese assistance to Pakistan and continued tensions in Kashmir. Particularly been Pakistan's effort to wriggle out of the historic Simla Agreement, and efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue.
14. China-Islamic axis pivoting on Pakistan was beginning to emerge, since Pakistan has clandestine Arab support for its nuclear programme. In light of this, it is India's nuclear capability which is a vital corrective measure for US interests in South Asia.
15. Pakistan's PR policy is good, especially on Kashmir, while India is more prone to concentrate on its internal problems. As a consequence, the Indian economy is strong.
16. If 120 million Muslims can live in India without fear, why should the 10% of the Muslim population of India which lives in Kashmir face any problem?
17. Pakistan's propaganda line is that India is not interested in resolving the Kashmir issue. In reality it is Pakistan which is not interested in solving Kashmir because once they resolve it, they would have nothing more to talk

-3-

about in international forums and nothing to distract the local population in times of political crises. Pakistan could only justify promotion of fundamentalist activities and the drug cartel by keeping the Kashmir issue alive.

18. Hope US Congress will provide waiver authority for the sanctions so that the Administration can promote a constructive dialogue with both India and Pakistan, engaging, not punishing, each.
19. We support efforts by those in the U.S. who are seeking to move forward and engage India in a dialogue in which common ground can be achieved that accommodates both nations' regional and global security concerns.

From : Andrew Walmsley
Nationality Directorate
India Buildings
0151-237 5307

14 August 1998

Mr O'Brien

MR S P HINDUJA (H300363)

Issue to be decided

1. You asked for advise on whether Mr Hinduja would benefit from any change of policy regarding excess absences for people applying for naturalisation.

Timing

2. Now pressing as I believe you would like to clear the matter before you go on holiday.

Summary

3. Mr Srichand Hinduja applied for naturalisation in April 1990 along with his brother Gopichand. Both applications were refused: in Gopichand's case it was because he was unable to meet the unwaivable requirement to have been in the UK on the date 5 years before his application was received. Srichand's application was refused because he had been out of the UK for 1233 days out of a possible 1825 days in the 5 year period. Since the applications were refused in April 1991 Gopichand re-applied for naturalisation in March 1997 and his application was granted, after reference to you, in November 1997. He had been out of the UK for 540 days, compared with the normal 450 days, but Srichand has apparently been absent for 819 days in the 5 years 1993-1997. We have no indication how many days he has been absent in 1998.

Recommendation

4 That you indicate to Mr Hinduja that we would be inclined to look favourably on his application provided he is resident in the UK for tax purposes, and suggest that his solicitor gets in touch with me.

Consideration

5. Along with his brother, Gopichand, and two other brothers not apparently living in the UK, Mr Hinduja runs Sangam Ltd and the family's own charitable institution, the Hinduja Foundation. The family's business empire has a corporate wealth of between 6 and 8 billion US dollars and their personal wealth was estimated in 1991 at £500 million.

PLEASE WALK TO
CLARE SUMNER
IN THE FLAT.

- 4 pages

Jack

Did
he write
letter.

6. At the time of his earlier application Mr Hinduja was absent for most of the 5 years prior to his application. He would seem to have reduced the level of his absences and, although they are high at 819, they are within the upper limit of what we would consider waiving. In deciding whether or not to exercise discretion in favour of an applicant who fails to meet this residence requirement, we would normally take into account the total length of residence in the UK, whether an applicant has established his home and family here, whether he has transferred the bulk of his estate here, and the reasons for his absence. Sangam Ltd is established in the UK although India remains the centre of the family's business empire, Mr Hinduja's family are here with him and his absences have no doubt been caused by business trips abroad.

7. At the time of his earlier application there were doubts about the brothers' ability to meet the requirement to be of "good character. These centred on a reported Inland Revenue investigation of their tax affairs and their alleged part in the Bofors scandal in India which concerned excessive commissions paid to the Indian Government of Mr Gandhi by the Swedish firm. These were, however, resolved concerning Mr Gopichand Hinduja's application and there is no reason to believe that Mr Srichand Hinduja would not now meet the requirement.

Handling/presentational issues

8. None.

A WALMSLEY

12/10 '00 THU 12:16 FAX 0151

01712733965 NATIONALITY DIRECTORATE

002

From : A Walmsley
Nationality Directorate
India Buildings
GTN 0151-237-5307
3 July 1997

cc Home Secretary
Ms Quin
Permanent Secretary
Mr Walker
Mr Rawsthorne
Mr Warner
Mr Owen

Mr O'Brien

APPLICATION FOR NATURALISATION - MR G P HINDUJA (H245869)

Issue to be decided

1. Whether to grant the application for naturalisation made by Mr G P Hinduja.

Timing

2. Routine, although the matter has been raised with you orally by Mr Keith Vaz, and one of Mr Hinduja's referees, Lord Feldman, is also pressing for an early decision.

Summary

3. Mr G P Hinduja applied for naturalisation in March 1997 after an earlier application made in April 1990 was refused in April 1991 because of his failure to meet the unwaivable residence requirement of being in the United Kingdom on the date 5 years before his application was made.

Recommendation

4. That the application be granted.

Consideration

5. Mr G P Hinduja was born in India in 1940. He is an internationally renowned businessman and, with his elder brother Mr S P Hinduja and two other brothers not apparently living in the United Kingdom, runs Sangam Ltd and their own charitable institution, the Hinduja Foundation. They were extremely successful businessmen in Iran at the time of the Shah but fled at the time of his downfall because of their close connection with him. Mr G P Hinduja was granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom on 10 September 1986. The family's business empire has a corporate wealth between 6 and 8 billion US dollars and their personal wealth was estimated in 1991 at being £500 million.

6. When he applied for naturalisation in 1990 Mr G P Hinduja's application was refused because he failed to meet the requirement to have been in the United Kingdom on the date 5 years' previous to his application being received. (This date starts the qualifying period of 5 years in which absences from the United Kingdom count against the normal limit of 450 days in the period.) On this occasion, Mr Hinduja was in the UK on the

12/10 '00 THU 12:16 FAX 0151 237 5555

requisite date in 1992 but he has been absent from the United Kingdom for 540 days against the normal permitted level of 450 set out in Schedule 1 to the British Nationality Act 1981. However, there is discretion to waive absences in excess of the 450 limit if in the special circumstances of a particular case it seems right to do so. In deciding whether or not to exercise discretion in favour of an applicant who fails to meet this requirement, we would normally take into account the total length of residence in the UK, whether an applicant has established his home and family here, whether he has transferred the bulk of his estate to the United Kingdom and the reasons for his absences. In Mr Hinduja's case he has been resident here for 15 years, his wife and adult children live here (and are applying for citizenship separately), Sangam Ltd is established in the UK although India remains the centre of their business empire, and Mr Hinduja's absences have been caused primarily by business trips abroad. In these circumstances I would recommend that the excess absences be waived. It would be fully in accordance with current practice to do so.

6. At the time of his earlier application there were also doubts, not disclosed to the applicant about whether Mr G P Hinduja could meet the requirement to be "of good character". The Inland Revenue were said to have been investigating the Hinduja's affairs and the Indian authorities were said to be investigating the payment of excessive commissions on a large contract for artillery let by the previous Indian Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi to the Swedish firm Bofors. This was a major scandal in India at the time and Mr G P Hinduja was named, amongst others, as being under investigation.

7. In connection with the current application a letter has been produced from Mr Hinduja's Inspector of Taxes confirming that they are satisfied that his tax affairs are in order and up to date. (It is our normal practice to require such letters from businessmen and self-employed persons, especially where there are excess absences.) We have also consulted the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the application. Their view is that whilst the Bofors affair is not a dead issue interest in it has lessened and it is unlikely that the Indian authorities would be concerned one way or the other about the outcome of Mr Hinduja's application for naturalisation. After such a length of time without any proceedings being initiated against Mr Hinduja it would not seem right to continue to harbour doubts about his ability to meet the "good character" requirement. I would recommend that the application be granted.

Handling

8. There are no handling/presentational issues. India is a country which does not allow dual citizenship so Mr Hinduja is unlikely to publicise his acquisition of British citizenship because by doing so he would forfeit Indian citizenship and, possibly, the right to own property in India.

A WALMSLEY

22/01 '01 MON 14:45 FAX 01

01712733965 NATIONALITY DIRECTORATE

002

22/01 01 MON 13:00 FAX 02087808485

COMMUNICATIONS D SECRE

003

FAD PAM TEALG

0207 273 3282

002

From: Matthew LAXTON
 To: INDINDIA.B4(AWALMSLEY)
 Date: Thursday, 2 July 1998 11:20 am
 Subject: J P HINDUJA (H300363)

You will be aware that Mr O'Brien is keen to adopt a more positive approach to citizenship. In your submission of 27 February on the same subject, one of the areas that you mentioned was where people had their applications refused on the grounds of excessive absences. Mr O'Brien has recently had brought to his attention the case of Mr Hinduja whose application was refused in 1991 for that reason.

On the sketchy details that have been provided, it would appear that Mr H is a businessman/entrepreneur who runs a group of companies. He still spends a lot of time out of the country (190 days in 1993, 200 in 1994, 163 in 1995, 155 in 1996 and 111 in 1997) but believes that it is justified because his work benefits the country. The Minister would like to know:

- i) Is it correct that Mr H was refused for the reason given?
- ii) Has the policy changed in this area since 1991?
- iii) Would Mr H be likely to benefit from a positive approach to citizenship? (as far as I know, Mr H does not have an outstanding application)

Thank you for your assistance.

190
 200
 163
 155
 111

 819



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

MRM

afw
mod
co

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 June 1998

Dear S.P.

Thanks for your letter of 12 May and all your help in promoting relations between India and the UK. I am extremely grateful.

It was good to see you again last week, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours ever
Tony

Mr Srichand P Hinduja

0171 222 2355



Gopichand P. Hinduja

9 June 1998

Mr Jonathan Powell
Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Jonathan,

SP and I appreciate enormously the assistance you and Philip Barton gave to enable Brajesh Mishra to meet Mr Blair last week. Thank you for going out of your way to help each side gain a better understanding of the other's position.

I believe his talks with Robin Cook, including their valuable tete-a-tete, also provided useful clarifications. Unfortunately, common ground still seems to elude us..

We see the G8 meeting in London this Friday as a useful opportunity. I wondered whether Brajesh Mishra might be invited to meet the G8 Foreign Ministers and discuss with them how India can respond to their concerns. Prime Minister Vajpayee has agreed that he should do so, provided only that China is not present - given her nuclear links with Pakistan.

I believe that the Argentinian, Brazilian, Pakistani and Indian Foreign Ministers have been invited to send representatives for a lunch during the G8 meeting. This would be a useful occasion but not a substitute for a formal meeting with the Group. A substantive meeting is needed to produce the right atmosphere for making genuine progress.

Brajesh Mishra is currently in Moscow where he will meet President Yeltsin and his Foreign Minister. At the same time, contacts between Delhi and Washington indicate that there may be a meeting in Washington at the end of the week between representatives of the two Governments. This is encouraging. We want to see the confrontational approach against India replaced by dialogue and negotiation. SP and I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues to assist this process. Please let us know if you have ideas you would like putting informally to Delhi.

Yours sincerely,

With kind regards & best wishes.

[Signature]
G. P. Hinduja

For UK correspondence
New Zealand House, 14th Floor, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TE
Telephone: 0171 839 4661 Fax: 0171 839 5992

R 2015



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 May 1998

(T)

Dear Janice

Letter from Srichand P Hinduja

Thank you for your letter of 14 May, enclosing a copy of one from Srichand Hinduja to the Prime Minister about the recent nuclear tests in India.

...

I enclose a self-explanatory draft reply to Mr Hinduja,

I am copying this letter to Elaine Kerr (Ministry of Defence) and Jan Polley (Cabinet Office), both of whom have been consulted.

Yours ever

Andrew Patrick

(Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Mrs Janice Richards
10 Downing Street

SCANNED

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR S P HINDUJA

May 1998

Thank you for your letter of 12 May about the nuclear tests in India.

Nuclear proliferation is a serious threat to the stability and security of the international community. We have made clear to successive Indian governments our commitment to the Non-Proliferation and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaties. I have to say that the tests were particularly disappointing for the United Kingdom, as a long-standing friend of India.

The tests in India have since provoked a response in kind by Pakistan. Whatever India and Pakistan's legitimate security concerns, their tests have heightened tension in South Asia and harmed the non-proliferation regimes on which we all depend for our security. They are bound to affect our relations with both countries and their standing in the international community.

We and international partners have made it clear that India and Pakistan must now adhere unconditionally to the relevant non-proliferation regimes, including the CTBT. It is all the more important that both countries also engage in a dialogue which addresses the root causes of the differences between them, and which tries to build confidence rather than seek confrontation.

It is for India and Pakistan to take steps to rejoin the mainstream of international opinion. We shall continue to urge them to do so.

HINDUJA

28/5



AJ

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Assistant Private Secretary
Dear Andrew,

ack

14 May 1998

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Srichand Hinduja.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach this office by Thursday, 28 May.

I would be grateful if you would co-ordinate/clear your reply with the Ministry of Defence and the Cabinet Office as necessary.

I am copying this letter to Elaine Kerr (Ministry of Defence) and Jan Polley (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Janice Richards

MRS. JANICE RICHARDS

(PB)

Andrew Patrick, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

BA

113/5



Srichand P. Hinduja

The Rt Hon Tony Blair Esq., MP
10 Downing Street,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1

FCO / PM
cc MOD
CO

12th May 1998

Dear Prime Minister,

I know that you will have received the letter sent to you by the Prime Minister of India in which he sets out the reasons why India was moved to carry out the nuclear tests. With your background of affection for India I believe that no one knows better than you the very difficult regional political situation India is in.

It is vital that the world's largest democracy be able to protect that valuable democracy. I was pleased to see the very calm statement issued on behalf of the Presidency of the European Union today.

Of course I understand how very busy you are but your support of India and your guidance to your partners are of great importance at this time. I know India will be proud to have your help in our troubled region - especially after your work in Northern Ireland and the Middle East.

I am enclosing a short brief which I hope might be of some use to you.

Gopi joins me in my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Srichand P Hinduja

Enc.



Indian Nuclear Tests of 11 May 1998 Some Points of View

In a sense this is not entirely a new development since India had already carried out an underground test as long ago as 1974. Also as stated by the then CIA Director, James Woolsey, in a testimony before a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee in 1993, both India and Pakistan were known to have nuclear weapons development programmes enabling them, at a short notice, to assemble nuclear weapons.

Since the triple test would have required a certain lead time, it can be presumed that the scientific-military community of India had made preparations for such tests earlier although the political clearance would have come only after the present Govt. took office. It is quite likely that the decision was finally clinched after the Pakistanis announced the successful testing of the Ghauri missile.

To an extent this decision of the Indian Govt. can be considered a failure of international diplomacy since USA and its allies failed to curb China's nuclear activities, including the transfer of nuclear/missile technology to Pakistan, directly or through third parties like North Korea. Meanwhile India continued to suffer from denial of dual-use technology and equipment ever since the 1974 Test.

As for the financial costs of a limited nuclear weapons program, a majority of educated Indians are likely to agree with the view expressed by the analyst O.P. Sabherwal in to-day's (May 12, 98) Times of India that "...nuclear deterrence will be an economic saviour in financial and security terms for a country like India which has no hegemonistic aims. The clout and strength it will generate will enable vast savings from obsolete and quantum-wise large defence formations. Nuclear deterrence capability build-up is moreover a technological bridge for frontier science and technology of the 21st century - lasers for instance."

If the eminent Indian defence strategy analyst K. Subrahmanyam is to be believed, "India may now announce that it will be joining the CTBT, thereby foreswearing all further options to conduct tests....India should immediately declare a no-first-use policy and invite China, Russia and Pakistan to join in a joint no-first-use declaration." (TOI May 12). If Subrahmanyam proves right, the Indian tests may well turn out to be a boon in the progress of CTBT.

If this should happen, the Indian market could well open up for hitherto denied dual-use technology including light water reactors for rapid expansion of nuclear energy generation in India.

It is also argued by Indian Govt. spokesmen and analysts that in carrying out these tests, India has broken no commitments to any international treaty it has accepted.



While some public negative reaction from USA and its allies is only to be expected, Indian friends of the West would hope that they would see in this development an opportunity to persuade India to subscribe to CTBT without holding out threats of sanctions. Hints in this direction are already available in the press statement of the Principal Secretary to the Indian Prime Minister yesterday.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

2 April 1998

Dear Ms Ward,

I understand from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that you will be attending the inauguration of the "Glory of India Vedic Cultural Museum" in New Delhi on 5 April.

I enclose a message from the Prime Minister which I would be grateful if you would deliver on his behalf.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Barton

PHILIP BARTON

Ms Claire Ward MP



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

I am delighted to have this opportunity to send through Claire Ward this message of congratulations on the opening of "The Glory of India Vedic Culture Museum".

India has always been able to reconcile her strong and varied religious and cultural heritage with the demands of the modern world. Britain has benefited from this heritage through the vibrant presence of the Indian community and looks forward to working with India, in a truly modern partnership, as we approach the next millennium. I wish the Museum every success.

Tony Blair

April 1998



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 April 1998

Dear Janice,

India: Inauguration of Vedic Temple and Cultural Museum

Mr S P Hinduja wrote to the Prime Minister on 26 March inviting him to send a representative to attend and deliver a message at the the inauguration of the "Glory of India Vedic Cultural Museum" in New Delhi on 5 April. The ceremony will also include the grand opening of the Sri Sri Radhi Parthasarathi Mandir Temple. The chief guest will be the Prime Minister of India.

Clare Ward, MP for Watford (Labour), has already accepted an invitation to attend the ceremony from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), who have collaborated with the Hinduja's on the cultural museum aspect of the project. ISKCON have a sister temple situated in Letchmore Heath, close to Ms Ward's constituency, which her father was instrumental in saving from closure. Ms Ward would be pleased to represent the Prime Minister and deliver a message from him.

...

yours sincerely,

Andrew Patrick

AP (Andrew Patrick)
Private Secretary

Mrs Janice Richards
10 Downing Street

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE INAUGURATION OF
THE SRI SRI RADHA PARTHASARATHI MANDIR AND ISKCON HINDUJA
GLORY OF INDIA VEDIC CULTURAL CENTRE

"I am delighted to have this opportunity to send through Clare Ward this message of congratulations on the opening of "The Glory of India Vedic Culture Museum".

India has always been able to reconcile her strong and varied religious and cultural heritage with the demands of the modern world. Britain has benefited from this heritage through the vibrant presence of the Indian community and looks forward to working with India, in a truly modern partnership, as we approach the next millenium. I wish the museum every success."



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

3. ed

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 March 1998

Dear S.P.

Many congratulations to you and your family on the birth of your latest grand-daughter, Vedika. This is marvellous news.

How kind of you, also, to send the delicious Harrods chocolates. I am most grateful and look forward to sampling them.

Cherie joins me in sending our warm good wishes to you and your family.

Yours ever
Tony

Mr S P Hinduja

AS



Srichand P. Hinduja

R 26/3-

26th March 1998

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

FLO Adv + PM reply

Dear Prime Minister,

On Sunday 5th April in Delhi the new Indian Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, will be inaugurating 'The Glory of India Vedic Cultural Museum', which is an interactive multi-media centre that would bring awareness of the ancient Indian tradition of knowledge with state-of-the art modern technology. The project is a joint collaboration between the Hinduja Foundation and ISKCON and I am enclosing details of the Centre and the event itself. Many senior cabinet members and leaders of the opposition are attending the grand opening of the centre since it is the first public function of the new Prime Minister of this magnitude.

It would be seen by the new Indian Government as a gesture of great significance to the Indo-British Partnership if you were to nominate a representative on your behalf to attend this event and to read out a message from you. I realise it is a long way to travel for a weekend but it would enhance economic relations and cement the ancient ties that the two countries share. Gopi and I will be present and would ensure that all your comforts were met in every way.

I am sorry not to have given you more notice but, as you know, the new Indian Government was only sworn in at the beginning of this week. I hope nonetheless you will be able to support this noble cause. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

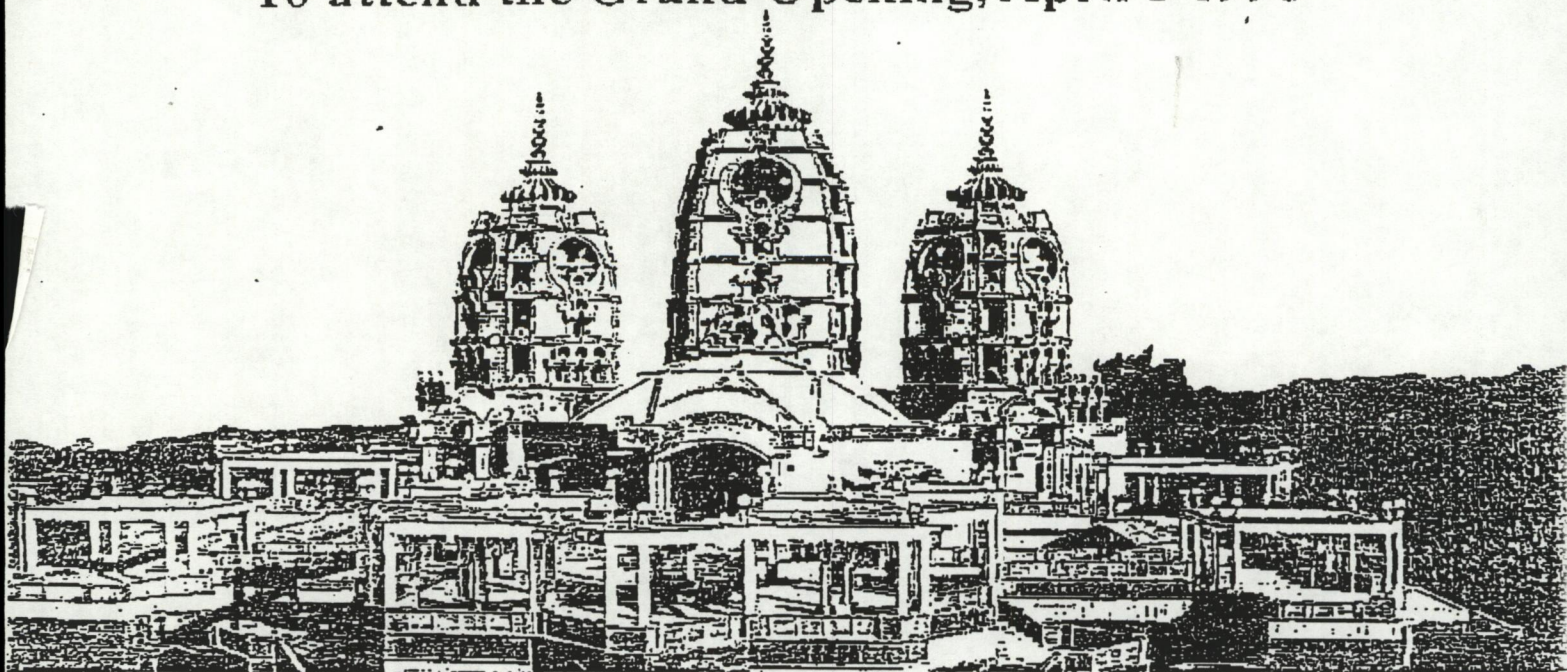
S P Hinduja

S P Hinduja

With regards from G.P. and myself.

INVITATION

To attend the Grand Opening, April 5 1998



The International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

- 7:00 am - Abhisheka of the Dieties
- 9:00 am - Pratishtha Ceremony
- 11:00 am - Installation of Srila Prabhupada's Murti on new Vyasa Asana
- 11:30 am - Arrival of Dignitaries
- 11:45 am - Ribbon-cutting and Inauguration of the Temple by the Chief Guest
- 12:00 noon - First Darshan of the Dieties
- 12:25 pm - Ribbon-cutting and Inauguration of Animatronics Theatre
- 12:30 pm - Animatronics show
- 12:45 pm - Ribbon-cutting and Inauguration of the Multimedia Theatre
- 12:55 pm - Multimedia show
- 1:15 pm - Speeches by the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and Dignitaries
- 1:45 pm - Maha prasadam for Dignitaries

IN THE MULTI-MEDIA THEATRE

- 2:00 pm - Drama by American Gurukula Children
- 3:00 pm - Multimedia show (every hour till 7 pm)

IN THE ANIMATRONICS THEATRE

- 2:00 pm - Bhagavad-Gita Animatronics Show (every ½ hour till 7 pm)

IN THE PANDAL

- 3:00 pm - Kirtan by ISKCON Devotees
- 4:00 pm - Dance by Manipuri Artists
- 6:45 pm - Drama by American Gurukula Children
- 7:45 pm - Bhajan Sandhya by Anuradha Paul

IN THE TEMPLE GROUNDS

- 5:30 pm - Elephant procession with Mayapur Gurukula boys
- 9:30 pm - Fireworks Display

IN THE PANDAL ON 6, 7 & 8

- 5:45 pm - Kirtans & Bhajans by ISKCON devotees
- 6:45 pm - Speeches by Chief Guests & ISKCON sannyasis
- 7:45 pm - Dance by Manipur Artists/ Drama by Gurukula boys

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Hare Krishna Hall, Sant Nagar Main Road, East of Kalkaji, New Delhi-110 065

Tele: (011) 6215121, 6233133, 33, 37 Fax: (011) 6215421

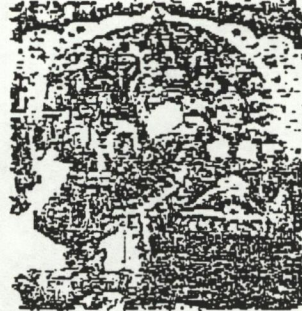
10:30 FROM: GP



His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



Sri Sri Gaura Nitai



Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi



Sri Sri Sita Ram Lakshman Hanuman

His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami

and

The Devotees of ISKCON Delhi

cordially invite you

and your family and friends

to the grand opening of the

Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir

and

ISKCON Hinduja Glory of India Vedic Cultural Centre

on the auspicious occasion of

Ram Navami, Sunday, 5 April 1998

Chief Guest: Sri Atal Behari Vajpayee

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

— Guests of Honour —

Sri M. M. Punchhi
Hon'ble Chief Justice of India

Sri Tejinder Khanna
Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Delhi

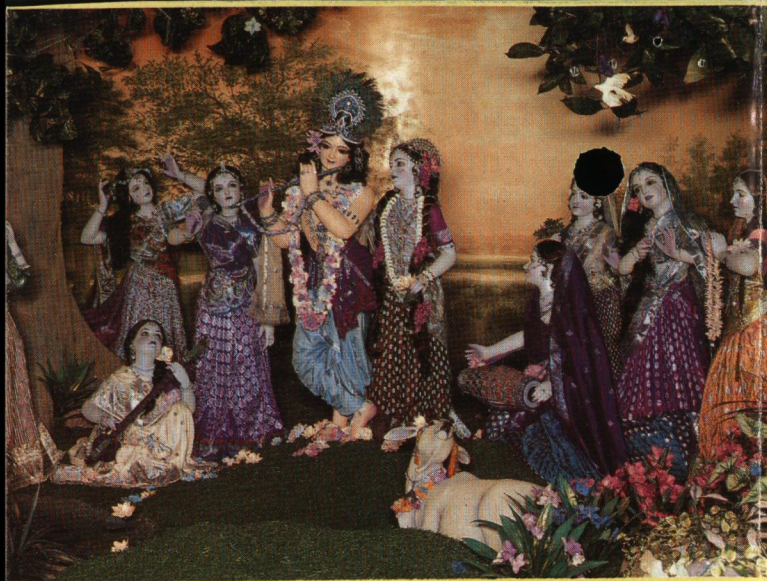
Sri Sahib Singh Verma
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi

Sri L. K. Advani
Hon'ble Home Minister of India

Smt. Sushma Swaraj
Hon'ble Information & Broadcasting Minister

Sri Srichand P. Hinduja
Hinduja Foundation

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acharya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



Bhagavad-Gita Multi-Media Experience

While the museum will provide a detailed, in-depth view to both casual and studious visitors, the Bhagavad-Gita Multi-Media Experience will provide an exciting introduction to Vedic knowledge through a completely absorbing presentation of light and sound. This presentation will take place in a specially designed theatre equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, including laser light, quadrasonic sound, and multi-screen projection. Here, the inspiring drama and profound philosophy of Bhagavad-Gita will come to life, touching the souls of all who experience it.

Centre for Vedic Studies

For serious students of Vedic culture, the Centre for Vedic Studies will provide extensive educational facilities and programmes, including seminars and conferences on Vedic philosophy and culture and special programmes for students and children. The Centre's Library for Vedic Research will house one of the world's most complete libraries of Vedic Literature and will help to safeguard this vast treasure of timeless knowledge.

Vedic Performing Arts Centre

The achievements of Vedic culture in the performing arts, especially music and dance, are already appreciated throughout the world. The Vedic Performing Arts Centre will conduct performances by India's foremost artists in a traditional open-air amphitheatre facing the Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir.



Krishna Jayanti Park

Krishna Jayanti Park will provide an opportunity for spiritual life to flourish in tranquil surroundings. Throughout the complex will be a network of wooded groves, waterfalls, ponds and gardens. At night, illuminated with colored lights, the park will be a hill-top oasis overlooking the spectacular New Delhi panorama.

From Vision to Reality

The entire complex is estimated to cost around Rs.12 crores to complete and is targeted for completion by mid-nineties. The Hinduja Foundation has stepped forward to join ISKCON in a co-operative effort to bring the project to completion. Guided by the foresight of its founder, Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja, and his four sons Srichand, Gopichand,

Prakash & Ashok, the Foundation has attempted to foster awareness of India's spiritual and religious values throughout the world. This Glory of India project will give an insight into these timeless values.

More support is needed to bring the vision to reality. It is the Vedic tradition and ideal for the public to join in the development of temples, universities and cultural edifices. The Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir and Glory of India Vedic Cultural Centre are also public projects and will reflect the growing concern for the future of human society by the proponents and adherents of the Vedic way.

Several schemes are open for ISKCON members, supporters and friends to participate with financial and volunteer assistance for the project. On completion of the temple, major contributors names shall be associated permanently with the temple on the walls of the HALL OF DEVOTIONAL FAME, to be built in the temple complex, for generations to witness the contributor's glorious service to Lord Krishna.

पूजादिना प्रवाहं महापर्वस्वथान्वदम् ।
क्षेत्रापणपुरग्रामान्दत्त्वा मत्साष्टितामियात् ॥

"One who offers the Deity gifts of land, markets, cities and villages so that the regular daily worship and special festivals of the Deity may go on continually will achieve opulence equal to My own."
(Srimad Bhagavatam 11:27:51)

For further details please contact:

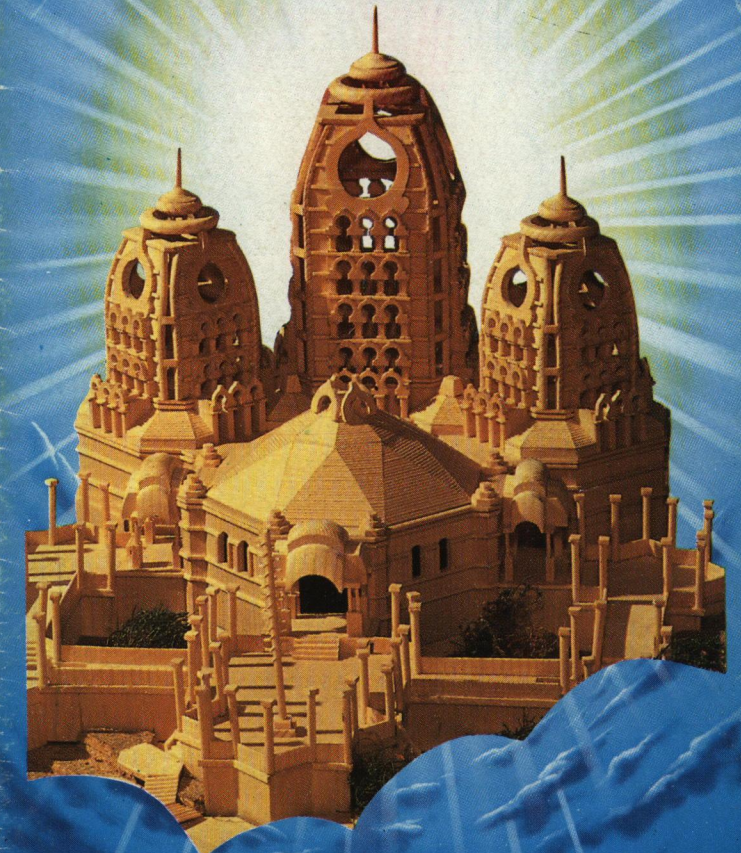
Sri Sri Radha-Parthasarathi Mandir
Sant Nagar Main Road, East of Kailash
Near Nehru Place, New Delhi 110 065.
Phones: 641 2058, 641 9701, 642 9377.

Sri Sri Radhika Raman Mandir
14 / 63 West Punjabi Bagh
New Delhi 110 026
Phone : 541-0782

Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir
&
ISKCON HINDUJA

Glory of India

Vedic Cultural Centre

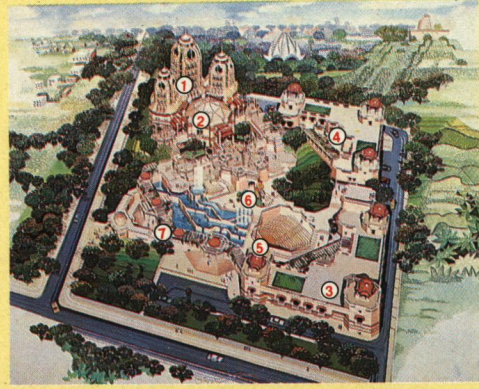


A Project Of
ISKCON

International Society for Krishna Consciousness
Founder-Acharya:

A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
In co-operation with :

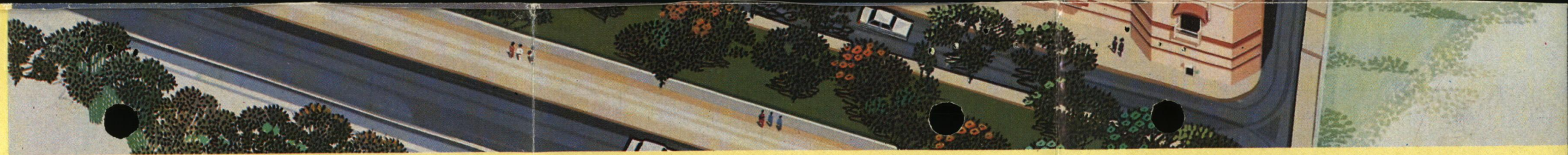
The Hinduja Foundation



① Temple Complex, ② Cultural Centre, ③ Vedic Library, ④ Museum Building, ⑤ Open-Air Theatre, ⑥ Krishna-Arjun Chariot, ⑦ Kaliya Krishna Musical Fountain

The three acre hilltop site for the project overlooks Nehru Place, the centre of South Delhi, one of India's fastest growing metropolitan centres. One of India's top architects, Sri A.P. Kanvinde, winner of India's prestigious Padmasree Award, is the principal architect for the Glory of India project. He is directing the design with a team of other prominent architects and designers. For example, Sri S.M. Jauhari, a well known architect, is associated for construction management, and Sri Damle, an experienced and competent architect, for structural designs. In addition, Italian designer Marco Ferinni and a well known American artist Alfred J. Valerio are also associated with this prestigious project. The aim is to establish the centre as a major Vedic and cultural achievement.

Vedic principles are the foundation of a synthesis of old and new. The central theme is cultivation of the higher self, reflected in the architecture and elaborate landscaping of the extensive parks and gardens of the complex. The Glory Of India project will be a



monument to the living glory of the spiritual culture of India.

Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir

The Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir is dedicated to the worship of the Lord in the form according to the timeless process of Vedic Pancharatrika Vidhi. The focus of Vedic culture is spiritual development and the authorised Vaisnava temple is the heart of this spiritual civilization.

The temple is the centre of attraction of the entire complex and focal point of architectural genius. The Principal Gopuram will extend 30 metres above the highest point of the hilltop site. Its reflective architectural framework is designed to provide natural internal illumination during the day and attractive artificial illumination at night. With carved marble, stone and wood work the temple will bring the advanced artistry of ancient India to life in devotion to Lord Krishna.

प्रतिष्ठया सार्वभौमं सद्यनां भुवनत्रयम् ।
पूजादिना ब्रम्हलोक त्रिभिर्मत्साम्यतामियात् ॥

"By installing the Deity of the Lord one becomes king of the entire earth, by building a temple for the Lord one becomes ruler of the three worlds, by worshiping and serving the Deity one goes to the planet of Lord Brahma, and by performing all three of these activities one achieves a transcendental form like My own."
(Srimad Bhagavatam 11:27:52)



Museum of Vedic Culture

Incorporating the latest in museum design and presentation systems, the Museum of Vedic Culture will show different aspects of Vedic philosophy and heritage through attractive dioramas and other exhibits. ISKCON designers and

artists, along with professional museum designers from India and abroad, will build on the experience of existing ISKCON museums in Detroit and Los Angeles to produce a truly world class museum of Vedic culture.

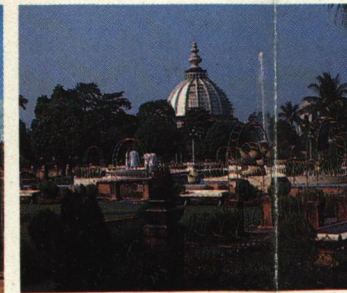


ISKCON, Bombay

The Glory of India Vedic Cultural Centre is meant to fulfill Srila Prabhupada's vision of Delhi as a dynamic international centre for the global spread of Vedic knowledge and culture.

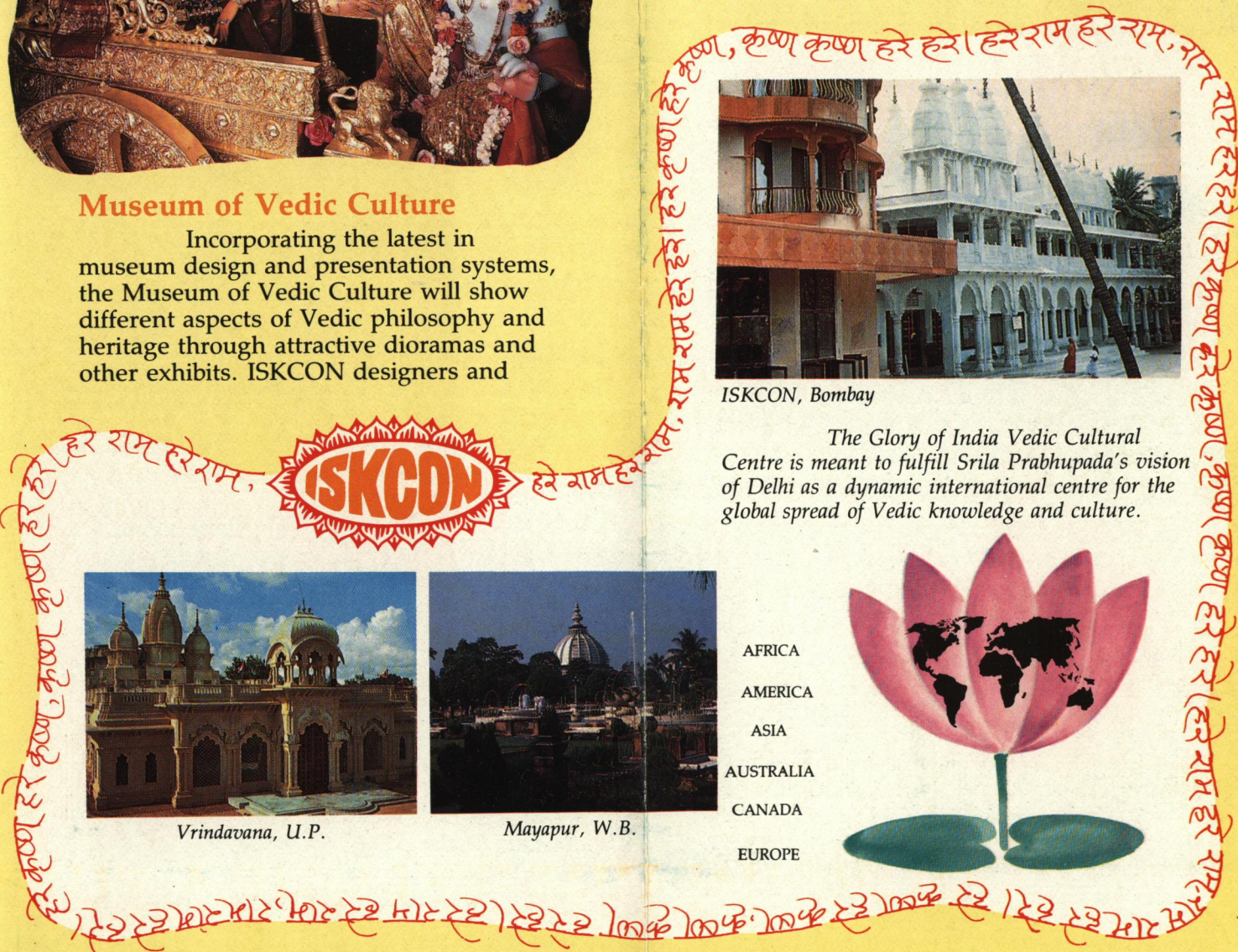


Vrindavana, U.P.



Mayapur, W.B.

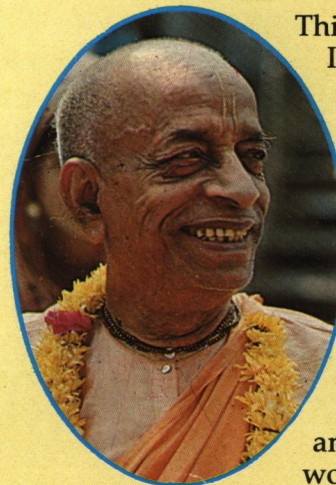
- AFRICA
- AMERICA
- ASIA
- AUSTRALIA
- CANADA
- EUROPE



W

orldwide, culture of India has been recognized as the fountainhead of man's greatest spiritual achievements. Now more than ever the ancient Vedas and Vedic culture are the most valuable and unique assets India has to offer the world.

Today, even the most progressive societies face a critical decline in moral and spiritual values. The wisdom and understanding of Vedic philosophy is the key to correct the imbalance of a materialistic society.



This is the aim of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), founded by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta, Swami Prabhupada "To systematically propagate spiritual knowledge ... and to achieve real unity and peace in the world."

For more than a quarter century ISKCON has pursued this mission and has succeeded in spreading Vedic culture to every continent. Presently ISKCON has nearly 300 centres all over the world, with 40 centres in India, dedicated to preserving and strengthening India's Vedic cultural heritage.

Today, in New Delhi, India, ISKCON has undertaken one of its most ambitious projects-the Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir & ISKCON Hinduja Glory of India Vedic Cultural Centre.



Designed to present the philosophy and culture of the Vedas through both living practise and a modern, sophisticated museum - the Glory of India Vedic Cultural Centre presents a fusion of current advancements in architecture and presentation with timeless spiritual values.



Hastinapura – A Heritage of Glory

Thousands of years ago, Delhi was known as Hastinapura and was the capital of Vedic civilization. Now, as the capital of modern India and a hub for domestic and international tourism, it is especially important as a potential focus for the presentation of Vedic philosophy and culture. The Glory of India Vedic Cultural Centre is the first major step in this direction.

ISKCON HINDUJA
Glory of India
Vedic Cultural Centre

पिता महस्य पुरतः
कुलव्यष्टौ च यनितु।
तरयेदात्मना सार्द्धं
विष्णोमंदिराकरकः॥
— अग्निपुराणः।

One who builds or
helps to build the temple of Lord
Vishnu becomes liberated
along with eight generations of
his forefathers.
— Agnipurana

Sri Sri Radha Parthasarathi Mandir



10, D [REDACTED] NING STREET,
WHITEHALL SW1A 2AA

Please return
with draft
reply

With the Private Secretary's

Compliments

01712116249



Minister without Portfolio

CABINET OFFICE
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 0171-270 1250

PM/98/P/280

Angus Lapsley Esq
Private Secretary
No10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

13 March 1998

Dear Angus,

I attach, as requested, a draft reply from the Prime Minister to S P Hinduja's letter of 25 February.

Yours

Rupert

RUPERT HUXTER
Principal Private Secretary

? with DCO

DCO have files
PA with Hinduja papers

01712116249



Minister without Portfolio

CABINET OFFICE
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 0171-270 1250

PM/98/P/280

Angus Lapsley Esq
Private Secretary
No10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

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I attach, as requested, a draft reply from the Prime Minister to S P Hinduja's letter of 25 February.

Yours

Rupert

RUPERT HUXTER
Principal Private Secretary

01712116249

Srichand P Hinduja
New Zealand House
14th Floor
80 Haymarket
London
SW1Y 4TE

March 1998

Thank you for your letter of 25 February. I am very grateful to you and to GP for your kind words about the Millennium Experience, and I know that Peter Mandelson was also very pleased to receive your letter to him of 26 February.

Peter and I are extremely grateful for your support and your offer to engage ethnic communities in sponsoring the Dome. I understand that you are continuing discussions with Jennie Page at the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) and that a meeting is planned for the near future to see how your ideas can best fit into the Company's current proposals. Peter has asked Jennie to report back to him after that meeting as we are very keen to maintain the momentum in this matter.

I am determined that the Millennium celebrations will bring the whole nation together. This means that we must have the full-hearted involvement of our ethnic communities. I am very glad you are bringing your formidable energy to bear in this matter.

TONY BLAIR



Minister without Portfolio

CABINET OFFICE
70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS
Telephone: 0171-270 1250

Our Ref: PM/97/M/681
Your Ref: Millennium/07

Keith Vaz Esq MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

11 August 1997

Dear Keith,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July about the Concordia Project. I am sorry you have had to wait some time for a reply. My officials have been finding out where the application to the Millennium Commission presently stands. My understanding is that the project is in fact still under consideration, since the Hinduja Foundation is exercising its right to insist upon a Detailed Appraisal Review. I gather that the Commission is awaiting supplementary information from the applicants.

You asked whether the Concordia project might be incorporated into the New Millennium Experience in some way. Whilst I am answerable in Parliament for the performance of the operating company, the New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC), I have no direct control over the content of the Experience. I cannot, therefore, say whether there would be any mileage in your interesting suggestion. However, I am forwarding your letter to NMEC for their consideration, and you or the Hinduja Foundation may wish to follow this up by writing directly to Jennie Page, the Chief Executive, at the following address: The New Millennium Experience Company Ltd, 110 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SB.


I understand your concern about funding for "Asian-Led" projects. However, I should point out that the Commission has awarded £4.9 million to the South Meadow Lane Centre in Preston and the Shri Venkataswara (Balaji) Temple in the West Midlands. Twenty one applications from Asian organisations were received in Round 3, of which three (Concordia, the Asia Centre in Brent and the Peepul Centre in your constituency) were long-listed. In addition, the application from the Smaminarayan Hindu Mission in Neasden was placed on the reserve list.

This is an impressive list, but to call these projects "Asian-led" is, I think, to misunderstand the nature of Millennium Commission funding. No single user-project of any kind is eligible for funding. All capital projects and Millennium awards schemes must demonstrate a clear benefit to the *whole* community. The two successful projects named above are, in the eyes of the Commissioners, simply community projects which happen to have been the subject of applications from Asian groups. The Commission does not give special consideration to applicants from particular social or cultural groups: applications are considered solely on their merits.

Having said this, the Commission is conscious that there are gaps - both social and geographic - in its funding profile. However, under current legislation it is unable to solicit applications in order to fill these. It is only able to respond to bids received, and if fewer bids from Asian organisations are received than from other groups, fewer will be successful. The Commission is able to target publicity relating to its activities, and took steps to do so for Round Three, concentrating on regions and ethnic groups which had not come forward with many applications. The fact that twenty one bids from Asian groups were received attests that these efforts met with some success.

Yours sincerely,

2.


PETER MANDELSON

I am sending a copy of this to
Tessa Day for her personal attention.

From: KEITH VAZ MP

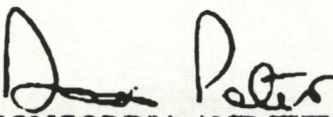


HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

My ref: Millenium/07

Peter Mandelson Esq MP
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

17th July 1997


CONCORDIA AND THE MILLENIUM DOME

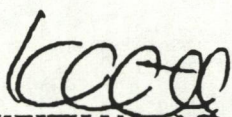
You are well aware of the work done by SP Hinduja, initiated and supported by the Asian & British community, with regards to the Concordia project. You will also know that the project did not get to the next stage for Millennium finding.

I am writing to ask if you would consider the possibility of the Concordia project as part of the ongoing revamp of The Dome. I believe the project will set well in the new scheme that is being proposed.

You may not know that 'Asian led' projects have only received £5 million of the £900 million allocated by the Commission, a pitifully small amount for such an important community.

I hope you will find my suggestion helpful

With best wishes
Yours sincerely


KEITH VAZ MP

Leicester Office: 144 Uppingham Road, Leicester LE5 0QF
Telephone: (0116) 276 8834 Fax: (0116) 246 0677
E-mail: keith.vaz@houseofcommons.gov.uk

(2) Operational capacity is defined as the total number of prisoners which an establishment can hold without serious risk to good order, security and the proper running of the planned regime.

2 Jun 1997 : Column: 3

Naturalisation Applications

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to review the language test for naturalisation applications. [1480]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have no plans to review the statutory requirement that applicants for naturalisation under section 6(1) of the British Nationality Act 1981 should have sufficient knowledge of the English, Welsh or Scottish Gaelic language. There is no language requirement for those applying as the spouse of a British citizen.

In 1996, only 27 applicants out of the 17,670 applications determined were refused citizenship because of their failure to meet this requirement.

There remains a residual discretion for the Secretary of State to waive the need to fulfil the requirement if he considers that because of the applicant's age or physical or mental condition, it would be unreasonable to expect it to be fulfilled.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the average time taken to process naturalisation applications. [1479]

2 Jun 1997 : Column: 4

Mr. O'Brien: Sixteen months, as at 30 April 1997.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications by persons of independent means have been dealt with by the Immigration and Nationality Department so far in 1997.[1816]

Mr. O'Brien: The information requested is given in the table:
Persons of independent means(3) January to April 1997

	Number of persons(4)
Given leave to enter the country	30
After-entry applications for an extension of stay dealt with(5)	90

(3) The requirement restricting persons of independent means to those who are at least 60 years old was introduced on 1 October 1994, but extant cases were not affected.

(4) Figures are provisional.

(5) Including persons of independent means seeking an extension of stay in another category or seeking settlement, and other persons seeking an extension of stay as a retired person of independent means.

Mr. Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the current waiting time for consideration of applications for each of the divisions of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [796]

Mr. O'Brien: The available information on waiting times is given in the table.