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● Prince of Wales' proposed visit  
to India.

Princess of Wales' proposed visit to Pakistan

ROYAL FAMILY

June 1980.

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

12 July 1991

Thank you for your letter of 12 July. I am content for the draft letter to Sir Robert Fellowes endorsing the visit by the Princess of Wales to Pakistan to be issued.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robin Butler and David Dell (Department of Trade and Industry).

(ANDREW TURNBULL)

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Men



cc JSW

Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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12 July 1991

London SW1 2AH

Dear Andrew,

Royal Visits Committee

The Foreign Secretary has seen the correspondence between members of the Royal Visits Committee on the proposed reinstatement of The Princess of Wales' visit to Pakistan for the autumn of this year. He is content with the conclusions drawn and proposes that, provided you have no objection, I should write in the terms of the enclosed draft letter to Sir Robert Fellowes. If the visit is to go ahead successfully, detailed planning must soon begin.

I am copying this letter to the other members of the Royal Visits Committee.

Yours ever,

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

Andrew Turnbull Esq CB  
10 Downing Street

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July 1991

Royal Visits Committee

The Foreign Secretary has seen the correspondence between members of the Royal Visits Committee in which they considered out of committee the proposed reinstatement of The Princess of Wales' visit to Pakistan this autumn. He has noted their agreement and endorses their conclusion. He is grateful for Her Royal Highness's agreement in principle to undertake this visit. He would now welcome specific dates to put to the Pakistanis as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robin Butler, Andrew Turnbull (No 10) and David Dell (DTI).

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

The Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes KCB KCVO  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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MRM



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

21 June 1991

*Dear Patrick,*

PROPOSED VISIT OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES TO PAKISTAN:  
AUTUMN 1991

The Prime Minister has seen a copy of your letter of 3 June to Sir Robin Butler. Provided no objections are raised on grounds of security or foreign policy, he was content for this visit to go ahead.

*Your sincerely*

*Andrew*

ANDREW TURNBULL

Sir Patrick Wright, GCMG  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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KW



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Sir Patrick Wright GCMG  
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

3 June 1991

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO  
Cabinet Office

*Princess Margaret*  
*To not be proposed visit*  
*by Princess Wales to*  
*Pakistan. No objection*  
*has been lodged by Dept*

*My dear Robin.*

*AT*  
*20/6*

PROPOSED VISIT OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES TO PAKISTAN, AUTUMN 1991

1. You may recall that a visit by the Princess of Wales to Pakistan was originally planned for September 1990, but that it was postponed after the dismissal of Miss Bhutto's Government and the prospect of elections in October. Reinstatement was discussed during the meeting of the Royal Visits Committee in December but was discounted because Miss Bhutto, who invited Her Royal Highness, was facing charges of corruption.

2. The charges of corruption remain and consideration of them is likely to be a long process. But the High Commissioner in Islamabad, Sir Nicholas Barrington, has advised that this should not rule out a visit by the Princess. Although it is difficult to predict the timetable or outcome of the court cases, Sir Nicholas Barrington considers that the evidence against Miss Bhutto is thin. He believes that there is no reason to expect that Miss Bhutto will seek in any way to exploit the Princess's visit for political purposes and that a meeting with Miss Bhutto should not be unduly complicated by the continuing existence of these charges. There is no reason therefore why the visit should not now go ahead at a time convenient to the Princess. Reinstatement of the visit would be warmly welcomed by the Pakistani government who have indicated that it would be an important contribution to our bilateral relations.

3. We propose that we should seek agreement from The Princess of Wales to undertake this visit. Informal enquiries of the Household have indicated that Her Royal Highness remains keen that her postponed visit should take place when circumstances permit and that she would welcome a visit to Pakistan this autumn. With the exception of the





first week, September would be most convenient. Given the timescale, I suggest that we consider this proposal out of committee.

4. Subject to your views on this proposal (and those of other members of the RVC, to whom I am copying this letter), we would consult FCO Ministers.

*Yours tr.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patrick Wright', written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Wright

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 June 1980

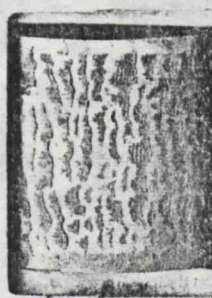
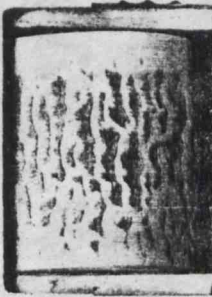
PRINCE OF WALES' PROPOSED VISIT TO INDIA

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 5 June on this subject. She agrees that the Palace should be advised as in the final paragraph of that letter.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Royal Family  
SS



or



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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister

London SW1A 2AH

I would not have thought that this letter made out a 'strong case' for the visit. But on balance it would probably be worth making the offer. After that the Palace be advised as in the final paragraph?

5 June 1980

①

Dear Michael,

- Yes  
Pmt 5/6 mt.

Prince of Wales's Proposed visit to India

Subject to the Prime Minister's views, Lord Carrington proposes to recommend to Buckingham Palace that the Prince of Wales should visit India and Nepal for 2/3 weeks in November/December of this year. This would revive a visit to India which was planned in 1975 and 1979 and cancelled, because of the imposition of emergency rule by Mrs Gandhi in 1975 and the 1979 Indian General Election.

The visit is of course subject to the agreement of the Indian government. We have heard informally that they would welcome the visit. However they may see difficulties in the timing. In the next 12 months the Prince of Wales can manage only a visit in the weeks following 16 November.

A Royal visit in the near future could have a number of advantages. First, the older generation in India, with whom we had close relations in the past, are gradually being replaced by post-Independence Indians, and we need an impetus to our relationship with the new generation. Secondly, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has provided an opportunity to move Mrs Gandhi from her attitudes of benevolence towards the Soviet Union and scepticism (to put it no higher) towards the West. Eighty thousand Soviet troops on the borders of Pakistan are, in her eyes, a destabilising factor which threatens to bring the cold war to the sub-continent. This would have important implications for India's role in the non-aligned movement. Moreover, the closing of Islamic ranks through the two Islamic Conferences at Islamabad cannot be welcome to her. We are, of course, already exploiting these two factors by intensifying our political dialogue with India; a Royal visit would underline publicly the importance we attach to developing our relationship. In the bilateral field, the prospect of a visit could help British efforts to win a major contract for a steel mill worth at least £400-500 million to Britain. (We are considering separately a recommendation for a message from the Prime Minister to Mrs Gandhi stressing our interest in this.)

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The main problem in recommending a visit has been in assessing the risk that Mrs Gandhi may once more resort to methods of government that would result in criticism in Britain of a visit by Prince Charles.

You should also be aware that difficulties have arisen over the BAE Jaguar contract worth at least £570 million in total. The Indians are dissatisfied with the serviceability of their aircraft and are thought to be responding to behind-the-scenes pressure from the French to drop the contract and switch to an all-French aircraft. It is hoped that this problem can be contained by vigorous action to put right the problems which the Indians have found and the prospect of a visit by the Prince of Wales might also be helpful in this context. But a cancellation in the autumn could give rise to British criticism of the visit and the repercussions of this for the Royal programme would have to be carefully considered.

On balance we consider that the case for a Royal Visit this autumn is strong but we propose to advise the Palace that if this cannot be agreed with the Indians we should make no firm commitments for future years as we cannot be certain what course Mrs Gandhi will pursue.

*yours ever,  
Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

Michael Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London

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