

State Dinner in Honor of Prime Minister Morarji Desai of India, 6/13-14/78

Folder Citation: Collection: Records of the First Lady's Office; Series: Mary Hoyt's State Dinners Files; Folder: State Dinner in Honor of Prime Minister Morarji Desai of India, 6/13-14/78; Container 22

To See Complete Finding Aid:

http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/findingaids/First_Lady's_Office.pdf

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 1, 1978

TO: RSC
FROM: Jane ^{jsf}
RE: Informal tea for Mr. and Mrs. Desai (Prime Minister's son and daughter-in-law) - June 13, 3:00 P.M.

You will be having an informal and small ^{private} tea with Mr. and Mrs. Kantibhai Desai during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington. Mrs. Desai is his official hostess in India.

In addition to the Desais, we will also invite Mrs. Palkhivala (wife of the Indian Ambassador) and Mrs. Goheen (wife of our Ambassador). Since at present there is only one man in the party, you may wish to invite Chip and Caron and/or Jeff and Annette.

YES _____

NO _____

Is there anyone else you would like to include?

cc: Gretchen
Mary

Mary

June 13 - 3 PM

small, informal

3011

May 18, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR MARY HOYT

FROM: Christine Dodson

SUBJECT: Tea for Desai Family Members

Attached is a State Department recommendation that Mrs. Carter consider hosting an informal tea for Prime Minister Desai's son and daughter-in-law, who serves as his official hostess. The NSC concurs that such a gesture by Mrs. Carter would be well received by the Prime Minister.

cc: Gretchen Poston
Jane Fenderson ←



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

7809803

May 17, 1978

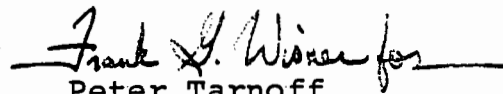
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Visit of Prime Minister Desai - Tea for Desai
Family by Mrs. Carter

Mr. and Mrs. Kantibhai Desai, Morarji Desai's son and daughter-in-law, will accompany the Indian Prime Minister to the United States. Mrs. Desai usually acts as the Prime Minister's hostess for official functions; his 52 year old son, Kantibhai, is a frequent travelling companion.

Prime Minister Desai made a particular point of inviting Mrs. Carter to accompany the President to India. The Indians would welcome and appreciate a reciprocal gesture. Desai's son and daughter-in-law will not be involved in many aspects of the visit and a small and informal tea hosted by Mrs. Carter on June 13 would be appropriate. The guest list might include Mrs. Vance and relatively junior Indian Embassy officers managing the visit, such as Mr. and Mrs. K.V. Rajan and Miss S. Bala Subramaniam. (Mrs. Vance will not be in Washington on June 14).


Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Working Dinner
Prime Minister of India
13 June 1978
40 guests

M E N U

Broiled Red Snapper
Selection of Fresh Vegetables

Tossed Green Salad

Fresh Raspberries
with Cream

Cookies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 13, 1978

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY'S PRESS SECRETARY

Working Dinner Honoring Prime Minister Morarji Desai

Prime Minister of India

Tonight's dinner for Prime Minister Desai will begin at 7:45 p.m. in the State Dining Room. Approximately 40 guests will be seated at E-shaped tables decorated with mixed bouquets of spring flowers in silver baskets along with silver candelabras. The tables will be set with the King Charles silver and the Truman china.

The following menu will be served:

Broiled Red Snapper

Selection of Fresh Vegetables

Tossed Green Salad

Fresh Raspberries
with Cream

Cookies

Following the dinner, brief entertainment will be provided by harpsichordist James Weaver, Associate Curator at the Smithsonian and director of the Smithsonian Chamber Players. The harpsichord music is by a French composer, Claude Balbastre (1729-1799). The harpsichord itself was built by a Washington couple, Barbara and Thomas Wolf.

7:20 p.m.

Pick up in West Wing for arrivals at North Portico.

OPEN COVERAGE

8:30 p.m.

Pickup for coverage of toasts.

RESTRICTED COVERAGE

(Attire: Business suit)

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

FOR MARY HOYT

FROM GRETCHEN POSTON *Sp*

DATE: 12 June 1978

SUBJECT: DIETARY RESTRICTIONS
WORKING DINNER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
13 June 1978

The Prime Minister observes a very restricted diet, consisting primarily of yogurt, nuts, fruit, dried fruit, and Indian sweetmeats. His beverages are freshly squeezed juices, and fresh cow's milk.

I have attached a portion of the memo received from the Department of State which outlines dietary restrictions in general. In addition, I am attaching a copy of the menu that will be served to the guests at the working dinner, with the exception of the Prime Minister (see red-tagged attachment), and Mr. Kantibhai Desia and Mr. Heshmukh Shah, who are vegetarians, and who will be served vegetarian plates.

Attachments



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS FOR THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF
HIS EXCELLENCY MORARJI DESAI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

1. Attached are Dietary Preferences of the Prime Minister (provided by the Embassy of India).

A. General additional guidelines

- The Prime Minister does not drink coffee or tea.
- The Prime Minister does not mind if others eat meat in his presence, as long as it is not beef or pork.
- Pasteurized milk may be substituted for raw milk when raw milk is not available. It should be served lukewarm (slightly heated).
- No alcoholic beverages should be served at any function where the Prime Minister is a guest. Fresh fruit juices and soft drinks should be available instead.
- If there is any problem with the Prime Minister's dietary preferences, it is suggested that he be served only a fresh fruit plate, nuts and milk using the guidelines attached.

2. Dietary preferences of other members of the party are as follows:

- A. Foreign Minister Vajpayee is not a vegetarian but he does not eat pork and beef.
- B. Mr. and Mrs. Kantibhai Desai and Mr. Shah are vegetarians and should be served accordingly, i.e., fresh vegetable plate and fresh fruit.
- C. Mr. Asrani does not take red meat.
- D. All other members of the party are non-vegetarians.

3. The Prime Minister and members of his party are Hindus. Attached is a list of general religious restrictions.

4. In general, no beef, pork or lamb should be served at any function where a meal or hors d'oeuvres are served. Chicken or fish would be best with a variety of fresh vegetables (cooked with butter) and fresh fruits. Cheese and eggs should be avoided for those who are vegetarians. Hors d'oeuvre trays should include a variety of items for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians.
5. For further assistance and clarification, please contact:

In New York: 212/879-7800 Mr. Srini Vasan
Consul General of India

In Washington: 202/265-8507 Mr. Krishna Rajan
Embassy of India

In San Francisco: 415/982-7036 Mr. L.L. Mehrotra
Consul General of India

Attachments:

1. Dietary Preferences of the Prime Minister
2. General Hindu religious restrictions

FROM THE EMBASSY
5/12/78

DIETARY PREFERENCE OF THE
PRIME MINISTER

BREAKFAST - 0800 hours

- (1) A glass of boiled water (without ice) at room temperature.
- (2) Carrot juice - only when deep pink carrots, the type grown in Northern India are available in winter season.
- (3) Salt and pepper, to be passed separately.
- (4) Nariel Pani - When carrots are not in season, he may take tender coconut water (Nariel Pani).

LUNCH - 1000 hours

- (5) Raw Garlic - 5 pcs. These should be peeled and washed properly before serving.
- (6) Half a litre of cow's milk (lukewarm) with no sugar. Honey (two small creamer-full) to be served separately.

OR

Half a litre curd prepared from cow's milk. It should not be sour at all.

- (7) Fresh Panir (Cheese) slices - Plain (No salt, pepper, etc). prepared from cow's milk : 50 gms.
- (8) Takes all types of seasonal fresh fruits (sweet variety) like Banana, Papaya, Apples, Pears, Litchi, Cherries, Apricots and Mangoes (Alphonso, Dusehri, Safeda, Langra in order of preference).

Fruits must not be sour. (Two to three varieties of fruits be provided).
- (9) He takes cucumber also.
- (10) DRY FRUITS - Cashewnuts (50 gms), Badam (Almond) (20 gms), Pista (10 gms) and Moongphali (Groundnut) dana roasted (50 gms).
- (11) Indian sweets (prepared from cow's milk) e.g. Sandesh, Pera, Chunchun, Rasmalai, Rasgulla or Gajar Halwa (Carrot) - if made with Khandsari or Jaggery - in winter (Gajar used must be the ones grown in Northern India in winter).

Ghee needs to be avoided, if used in small quantity for Gajar Halwa, Ghee should be from cow's milk.

AT 1530 hours.

- (12) Fresh apple juice (not sour) ; OR
Tender cocoanut water/water-melon juice (without ice).

DINNER - 1900 hours

- (13) Raw Garlic - 5 pcs. These should be peeled and washed properly before serving.
- (14) Half a litre of cow's milk (lukewarm).
- (15) Fresh seasonal fruits (not sour), like Mangoes (Alphanzo, Dusehri, Safeda, Langra, in order of preference), Banana, Papaya, pears, Peaches, Cheeko, Cherries, Leechis, Apples, Apricots (Two to three varieties be provided).
- (16) DRY FRUITS - Dates (100 gms); Figs (100 gms); Cashewnuts (50 gms); Moongphali dana (Groundnut) roasted (50 gms); Badam Almond (20 gms), Pista (10 gms).
- (17) Indian sweets prepared from cow's milk as shown in Item 11.

- NOTES :
- (i) The quantities are mentioned in many places. It has been noticed that these items are served to the Prime Minister in large quantities. He does not like such display. The quantities, as mentioned, may be placed before him, although he takes less than what is stated above.
 - (ii) The Prime Minister does not take sugar in any shape or form but takes sweets made from Khandsari or Jaggery.
 - (iii) The difference in Lunch and Dinner food items is that for Lunch he takes fresh panir (cheese) and for Dinner he takes Dates and Figs. Other items like Garlic, cow's milk, fresh fruits, dry fruits, and Indian sweets are common for both the meals.
 - (iv) The Prime Minister does not take any Cereals, pulses and cooked or raw vegetables at all.
-

HINDUISM:

The Hindu religion is practiced widely in India, Nepal and Ceylon.

Dietary restrictions will vary widely among Hindus according to local custom, caste, and their acceptance of outside practices. Most (not all) Hindus do not eat meat, fish or fowl. Others will also refrain from eggs, others, especially Jains, will not eat root vegetables, such as onions, carrots, garlic, beets. The best practice is to ask the guests' preference in advance; they will not mind. Milk and milk products are normally acceptable. Most Hindus do not drink alcoholic beverages, but fruit juice or cola may be offered as a substitute.

Nepal is predominantly Hindu with considerable Buddhist influence. While there are no special dietary restrictions associated with Buddhism, Hinduism does have traditional inhibitions about eating meat, particularly beef. Most Nepalese government officials coming to the United States are likely to be relatively high-caste Hindus but also well-educated and therefore, somewhat westernized in their habits. It is well to assume that beef should not be served, but beyond that, to inquire as to personal preferences concerning food and drink.

India is also a predominantly Hindu country but with a large Moslem minority. Here again, Hindus do not eat beef, although among the westernized elite, there are some exceptions. Many Hindus are vegetarians and some vegetarians will not eat eggs. There is only one way to be sure of an Indian Hindu's dietary preferences, and that is to ask the individual concerned. Indians will not take offense at being asked. Many, but not all, westernized Hindus will drink alcoholic beverages. However, there are many Indians, particularly in political circles, who do not. Soft drinks should always be available, particularly for women.