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Head of the Direct Communications Unit

16 December 2022

Dear Mr Solanki

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your email of 2 November, regarding the 80th anniversary of the SS Tilawa tragedy.

The loss of the SS Tilawa in 1942 is desperately sad. Eight decades on, the impact is still being felt by the families of those who sadly died, including yours. It is commendable that you hosted an event in Mumbai to mark the 80th anniversary of the incident, which was attended by His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for South Asia and Deputy High Commissioner for Western India, Alan Gemmell OBE. It was particularly poignant for the Commissioner to be able to meet Arvind Jaani, one of only two known survivors from the SS Tilawa. I hope that the Commissioner's commitment to lay a wreath each year on Remembrance Sunday, in memory of those who were lost in this tragedy, will bring some comfort to families like yours.

Thank you, once again, for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandy Godridge'.

MANDY GODRIDGE

Mr Emile Solanki