

December 19, 1979

Dear Prime Minister,

Prime Minister: Delay  
reply until after the signing ceremony  
on Friday? *Yes not* *And*

As the Lancaster House Conference formally concludes, I write to acknowledge the deep sense of gratification which I know is widely felt throughout the Commonwealth at its outcome and over the major personal contributions that you and Peter Carrington have made to that result.

I was confident, as you know, that success would come; but it was a confidence born not of unawareness of the difficulties but of certainty in overcoming them given continuing Commonwealth commitment to the objectives of Lusaka. We shall of course need to sustain that unity of purpose in the even more testing period of implementation that lies ahead. I am sure you can count upon its being forthcoming from your Commonwealth colleagues - as it goes without saying you can from me and my colleagues at the Secretariat.

A surprised, and still largely disbelieving, world waits to see whether the Commonwealth can indeed make it all happen. I am sure we can. If and when we do, its achievement will in great measure be your own.

*Shridath S. Ramphal*

Shridath S. Ramphal

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher  
Prime Minister  
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