

T39A
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RESTRICTED

Subject Sri Lanka - relations

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RR COLOMBO

PRIME MINISTER'S

GRS 220

PERSONAL MESSAGE

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SERIAL No. T39A/797

FM FCO 061630Z 6 JULY 1979
TO ROUTINE COLOMBO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 125 OF 6 JULY

Encl m
GM
9/7

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE DATED 3 JULY FROM THE
PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE:- BEGINS:-
MY DEAR PRESIDENT, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 21 MAY
AND FOR YOUR GOOD WISHES. I WAS GLAD TO HEAR OF THE GREAT
PROGRESS THAT YOUR COUNTRY HAS MADE IN THE LIBERALISATION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY. THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE ALREADY
WIDELY RECOGNISED. I PLEASED THAT BRITAIN HAS BEEN ABLE
TO SHARE IN THEM, AND THAT THE PART WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO PLAY IS SO MUCH APPRECIATED.

THE LEVEL OF OUR FUTURE SPENDING IN OVERSEAS AID PROGRAMME IS,
AS YOU KNOW, AT PRESENT UNDER CONSIDERATION AS PART OF OUR
OVERALL REVIEW OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE. BUT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME
(AND WE SHALL LET YOUR GOVERNMENT KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE),
I DO NOT THINK YOU WILL FIND US UNGENEROUS OR LACKING IN
CONFIDENCE IN YOUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE. WE GREATLY VALUE THE
LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP WE ENJOY WITH SRI LANKA, AND THE
COMMONWEALTH LINK BETWEEN US.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COURTESY AND CONSIDERATION IN SENDING
TWO OF YOUR MOST SENIOR MINISTERS TO EXPLAIN YOUR PLANS.
I UNDERSTAND WE MAY SEE MR PREMADASA NEXT MONTH: I MYSELF
HOPE TO MEET HIM BEFORE THE LUSAKA MEETING.

YOURS SINCERELY, MARGARET THATCHER. ENDS.

2. SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL BE IN BAG DATED 13 JULY.

CARRINGTON

FILES
SAD
AS
MR BLAKER
MR CORIAZZI
MR MURRY

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