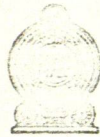


R. PREMADASA, M.P.
Prime Minister



PERSONAL MESSAGE

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

OF

SRI LANKA

No. PDD/PL.2/17/81

February 16, 1982.

Ops
cc Madis
Subject Sri Lanka /
Relations with 5/79

No. T75/82

My dear Prime Minister,

International Year of Shelter
for the Homeless

As you may be aware the UN General Assembly at its XXXVth Sessions last year decided to designate in principle 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

This Resolution followed a proposal made by me to the UN General Assembly at its XXXVth Sessions in 1980. On that occasion, I envisaged the provision of adequate housing as a basic concept in the global assault on poverty. The General Assembly then requested the UN Commission on Human Settlements at its IVth Session in Manila in April 1981, to consider and report on this proposal to the Economic and Social Council of the UN. The present Resolution is based on the draft submitted by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of this report. The Resolution has therefore been the subject of careful consideration and meeting of minds. I am deeply gratified that the General Assembly saw fit to adopt this Resolution by consensus.

The problem of Shelter for the Homeless in developing countries particularly, has increased to crisis proportions. It is a humanitarian issue which should evoke the concern of all states, regardless of their level of development. Furthermore, its magnitude is such that a co-ordinated effort involving the entire international community is called for. As stated in the preamble of the UN Resolution, the declaration of an International Year of Shelter for the Homeless would undoubtedly serve to increase public awareness at local, national, regional and global levels and lead to a significant improvement in the situation.


(2/..)

The Government of Sri Lanka has made the provision of adequate housing an integral part of its development strategy and attaches great importance to the successful implementation of the UN Year and its Programme. This goal would require for its fruition the careful preparation of a specific programme of measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Year.

The UN General Assembly calls for the funding of this work to be based in principle on voluntary contributions. I am confident that your Government will readily assist in the financing of this International Year as requested in the Resolution. This would facilitate the task of the Secretary-General of the UN who has undertaken the preparatory work with regard to this aspect as requested by the General Assembly.

The Government of Sri Lanka and I would greatly appreciate your kind consideration of this matter.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.


(R. Premadasa)
Prime Minister
of the

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Her Excellency
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher M.P.,
Prime Minister of United Kingdom of Great
Britain
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN.