

Subject: Sri Lanka  
Int Sit May 79

ops



PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T118/83

New Delhi,  
August 4, 1983

Dear Prime Minister,

Yesterday our Finance Minister, Mr. P.K. Mukherjee, spoke to your Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, about Sri Lanka.

The lives and properties of Indian citizens and persons of Indian origin have been affected. Many of the Tamils, even of Sri Lanka citizenship, are asking for our help and wanting to come to India. President Jayewardene agreed to my suggestion that my Foreign Minister should go to Colombo to meet him. But the report Mr. Rao brought back about the ability or even the willingness of the Sri Lanka Government to deal firmly with the situation and to restore confidence among the minority community was not very convincing.

We regret that the Sri Lanka Government is spreading an entirely fictitious story about threats of foreign, particularly Indian, invasion. We appreciate the British Government's decision not to encourage these rumours by declining to send military assistance. We have assured

the Sri Lanka Government of our willingness to extend any help it may need.

As you know we do not believe in interference in the internal affairs of other countries. But I am terribly worried about the recent tragic developments in Sri Lanka. They are having grave repercussions for us. Our people are greatly agitated.

I hope you don't mind my burdening you with this brief explanation of my Government's attitude towards the events in Sri Lanka at a time when you are indisposed.

With all good wishes,

*James Callaghan*  
*Prime Minister*

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,  
London