



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 November 1985

Dear Charles,

Maldives: Access to EC/Malé Hospital

Len Appleyard wrote to you on 1 November about the two matters raised with the Prime Minister in Nassau by President Gayoom. You asked whether we would look again at the President's first point about preferential access to the EC for Maldives tuna fish. I now enclose a draft of a letter which the Prime Minister might send.

As the draft explains, and as you yourself know all too well, the rules governing the Generalised Scheme of Preferences are complex. As far as we can determine, tuna fish originating in the Maldives would be entitled to duty-free entry to the EC. But without knowing more about the history of the Maldives' problem it is difficult to give President Gayoom a more detailed and helpful response. The suggested draft reply therefore offers the President assistance in Brussels to resolve the problem. The draft also takes account of the recent visit to Malé of the Second Secretary (Aid) from our High Commission in Colombo.

Yours,  
me,

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

**DRAFT:** minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

**TYPE:** Draft/Final 1+

**FROM:**  
Prime Minister

Reference

**DEPARTMENT:**

**TEL. NO:**

**SECURITY CLASSIFICATION**

**TO:**

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

HE Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom  
 President of the Republic of  
 Maldives

Copies to:

*SRWAKI*

**PRIVACY MARKING**

**SUBJECT:**

.....In Confidence

**CAVEAT**.....

As promised in my letter of 29 October, I am writing  
 to follow up the points you raised with me at Nassau.

I sympathise with your desire to accede to the Lomé Convention. We would of course support any application you might make. But, as you know, it does not depend on us alone. On the related point of preferential access for your tuna fish, I understand that tuna fish originating in the Maldives would be entitled to duty-free entry under the European Community's Generalised Scheme of Preferences. However, as the rules concerning the operation of the GSP are complex, the issue is best raised with the European Commission in Brussels if you have been experiencing difficulties. We would be very happy to see whether we could help you with this in Brussels, if your office would like to let my officials know the details of your difficulties. The address of the office of the United Kingdom Permanent

Enclosures—flag(s).....

/Representative

Representative to the European Community is rond-point  
Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels (tel 230-62-05).

You also mentioned the new hospital building in  
Malé. An official from our High Commission in Colombo  
has recently visited the Maldives to discuss this and  
other questions with your officials. We shall be looking  
at the details of your Government's request.

*With best wishes.*

