

Subject a master
of

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cc FCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 September 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T156/84

Dear Prime Minister

I was grateful for your kind letter and enclosures of 20 August and particularly for the photograph which was a happy reminder of our earlier meeting.

I am very sorry that I shall not now be able to attend the inauguration of the Victoria Dam, but have suggested that Timothy Raison, our Minister of Overseas Development, represent me. I hope that we shall have some other opportunity to meet again in the not too distant future.

The inauguration will be a great occasion and a celebration of our close collaboration on the Mahaweli scheme and other developmental projects. We are proud to have been able to contribute to their success.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Premadasa.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Honourable R. Premadasa, M.P.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 September, 1984

INAUGURATION OF THE VICTORIA DAM

Thank you for your letter of 5 September about representation at the Inauguration of the Victoria Dam.

The Prime Minister is somewhat concerned that we are not proposing to meet the Sri Lankan request for a Cabinet Minister. But she recognises that, given Sir Geoffrey Howe's inability to be present, it would not really make sense for a Cabinet Minister with no particular responsibility for either foreign affairs or aid to attend, while Mr. Raison's responsibilities are directly involved. She agrees, therefore, to send a message suggesting Mr. Raison though thinks that we shall have to reconsider in the unlikely event that the Sri Lankans hold out for a Cabinet Minister.

I have made some minor amendments to the message contained in the draft telegram enclosed with your letter. I attach an amended version.

(C.D. Powell)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

EST

I was grateful for the understanding message you passed through your High Commissioner in London about the postponement of my visit to Sri Lanka. I too very much hope that I shall soon have an opportunity to visit the Victoria Dam as well as seeing other parts of Sri Lanka.

I should, if you agree, like Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, to represent me at the inauguration of the Victoria Dam on 26 September. I believe this would be particularly appropriate in view of the contribution made by the British aid programme to the successful completion of the project. As you say, the inauguration will be a historic occasion and a fitting celebration of the warm relations between our two countries. I am so sorry that I shall not be able to be there.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 September 1984

Dear Charles,

Inauguration of the Victoria Dam

Your letter of 4 September enclosed a copy of a message from President Jayewardene to the Prime Minister. Sir John Nicholas, our High Commissioner at Colombo, has advised that in view of President Jayewardene's reference to a Cabinet Minister representing the Prime Minister at the inauguration, it will be important to convey as tactfully as possible our wish that Mr Raison should attend as the Prime Minister's representative. We agree that the best means to this end would be a short message from the Prime Minister. I enclose a draft cast in the form of a telegram of instructions to Sir John Nicholas.

I also enclose, in response to your letter of 30 August, a draft reply to the letter from the Sri Lankan Prime Minister to the Prime Minister about the inauguration.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE
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ZCZC
GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
PRE/ADD
TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
4
5
6 FM FCO AUGUST 84
7 TO IMMEDIATE COLOMBO
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 INFO ROUTINE NEW DELHI
10 YOUR TELNO 407: COMMISSIONING OF THE VICTORIA DAM
11 1. The Prime Minister had agreed that Mr Raison, as the
12 Minister responsible for aid matters, should represent her at
13 the Victoria Dam inauguration, before we received President
14 Jayewardene's message, with its specific reference to a Cabinet
15 Minister. I shall be in New York at the UN General Assembly at
16 the time of the inauguration. Please therefore convey the
17 following message from the Prime Minister to President Jayewardene:
18 BEGINS
19 I was ~~deeply~~ grateful for the understanding message you passed
20 through your High Commissioner in London about the postponement
21 of my visit to Sri Lanka. I too very much hope that I shall
22 soon have an opportunity to visit the Victoria Dam as well as
23 seeing other parts of Sri Lanka.
24 I should ^{if you agree} like to suggest that Timothy Raison, Minister for
25 Overseas Development, represent me at the inauguration of the

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/

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword Victoria
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution Ltd SAD SEAD News D PD PS PS/Lady Young PS/Mr Raison PS/PUS Sir P Cradock Sir W Harding Mr Boyd cc: No 10
Drafted by (Block capitals) PETER RICKETTS		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

Mr Vereker, SAD/ODA
Mr Baxter, FAD/ODA

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	IMMEDIATE	Page 2
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1 ~~████~~ <<<<

2 Victoria Dam on 26 September. I believe this would be

3 particularly appropriate in view of the contribution made by

4 the British aid programme to the successful completion of the

5 project. ~~I very much hope that you will agree to this.~~ As

6 you say, the inauguration will be a historic ~~██~~ occasion and a

7 fitting celebration of the warm relations between our two

8 countries. I am ^{so} ~~very~~ sorry that I shall not be able to be

9 there.

10 ENDS

11 3. When delivering the above message, you may point out that

12 my own visit to New York precludes attendance at the inauguration.

13 4. If the President agrees this proposal, Mr Raison will

14 probably be accompanied by a Private Secretary and Vereker.

15 Mrs Raison will not (not) accompany. He proposes to arrive at

16 0655 on 24 September on UL 502, and to depart from Colombo at

17 2355 on 27 September by UL 511. It would be helpful to have

18 your proposals for an outline programme as soon as possible.

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20 HOWE

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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
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