

SUBJECT

T37AA/797

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T37AA/797



cc LPS
FLO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 July 1979

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 am 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 our 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

Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, M.P.

T39A/79T

RESTRICTED

Sri Lanka

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SUBJECT

RR COLOMBO

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T39A/79T

GRS 220

RESTRICTED

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

Endu ma
Gm
9/17

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
PS
MR BLAKER
MR CORMAZZI
MR MURRY

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FILE

4 July 1979

I enclose a copy of a letter dated 21 May to the Prime Minister from President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka and the signed original of the Prime Minister's reply. I should be grateful if you would arrange for the reply to be forwarded to Colombo for delivery to the President's office.

B. G. CARTLEDGE

J. S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

HLS



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 June 1979

Dear Bryan

I sent you on 15 June the original of a message from the President of Sri Lanka to the Prime Minister which the Sri Lanka Finance Minister, Mr Ronnie de Mel, left with the Lord Privy Seal when he called last week. I now attach a draft reply, which aims to be reassuring about our continuing interest in Sri Lanka's future developments. The Prime Minister has already sent a message to Mr Premadasa expressing the hope that they might meet before Lusaka.

If Mrs Thatcher agrees with the draft, it could be sent by hand of Mr de Mel, who is in Britain until 24 June.

*Yours.ew
Stephen Gomersall.*

S J Gomersall
Private Secretary to
the Lord Privy Seal

B G Cartledge Esq
No 10 Downing Street

FOLKLAND ISLANDS

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22 JUN 1979

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DRAFT

LETTER

Type 1 +

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret,
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Unclassified.

To:- Mr J R Jayewardene MP
President of the Republic of
Sri Lanka
Colombo

From
Prime Minister
Telephone No. Ext.
Department

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Dear Mr President

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