



Prime Minister

Agree A - again

Yes and *Hand* 3/11

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 November 1979

Dear Michael,

Sri Lanka: Victoria Dam Scheme

In your letter of 2 October you confirmed that there was no question of the Prime Minister visiting Sri Lanka in February 1980 to attend the inauguration of the Victoria Dam.

The Sri Lankans have returned to the charge in the enclosed letter to Lord Carrington from their Foreign Minister. They apparently accept that the Prince of Wales cannot make the visit at such short notice, but have asked if the Prime Minister could attend the inauguration in February, March, or April.

Our views remain as stated in my letter of 28 September. The UK has made a major contribution to the dam, which we would be happy to see acknowledged; but we do not think this warrants a special visit by the Prime Minister.

On the assumption that the Prime Minister will not be available, Lord Carrington proposes to reply to Mr Hameed in the terms of the attached draft.

Yours ever
Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO
THE HON A C S HAMEED MP

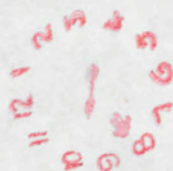
Thank you for your letter of 30 October. I am very glad that we were able to meet during your visit to London.

The Prime Minister was pleased to learn of the suggestion that she should pay an official visit to Sri Lanka next spring and of your Government's invitation to her to attend the inauguration of the Victoria Dam project. I am sorry to have to tell you that Mrs Thatcher's Parliamentary and other commitments make it impossible for her to take up your kind invitation. She hopes that there will be an opportunity for her to visit Sri Lanka on a later occasion.

However, I should let you know that the Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Neil Marten, would very much like to visit Sri Lanka next year, perhaps in April. Even if his visit does not coincide with your inaugural ceremony, I know that he would be very interested in seeing something of the site of the dam.

[I must also thank you for your kind wishes for success in the Constitutional Conference on Rhodesia. Although we have not yet reached a conclusion, some progress has been made since you were here. There are still considerable difficulties to be overcome, but we are making every effort to reach the agreed settlement which would contribute so much to Rhodesia and the neighbouring countries.]

30 NOV 1979



Sri Lanka

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SD



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 December 1979

Sri Lanka: Victoria Dam Scheme

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 30 November on this subject. She has confirmed that she will not be able to attend the inauguration of the Victoria Dam next year. She agrees that Lord Carrington should reply to Mr. Hameed in the terms of the draft enclosed with your letter.

M.O. D. 1979/12/04

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Handwritten initials

Communications on this subject should be addressed to:

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA.



HIGH COMMISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA.

13 HYDE PARK GARDENS
LONDON W2 2LU

Our Reference

Your Reference

Telephone: 01-262 1841 (7 lines) Ext
Telegrams: Lankacom, London
Telex: 25844

Date 30th October, 1979.

Dear Lord Carrington,

It was a pleasure to have met you. You will remember that I mentioned to you my President's wish to have with us His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at the inauguration ceremony of the Victoria Project.

I have now been informed by my President that if His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales is not available, I should inquire whether we could arrange an official visit for your Hon'ble Prime Minister, in the first week of February or in any part of March or April, so that in addition to official talks, she could also be present at the inauguration ceremony of the Victoria Project.

I am fully aware how deeply you are engaged in the Lancaster House talks. Therefore, I chose to send this letter rather than to seek a further meeting.

I hope you will be able to steer the talks on Zimbabwe Rhodesia to a successful conclusion.

I am leaving for Colombo tomorrow and I have requested my High Commissioner to keep in touch with you.

Yours sincerely,

A.C.S. Hameed
A.C.S. Hameed,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Sri Lanka.

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Carrington, KCMG, MC,
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
London SW1.