

SUBJECT



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. TAIB/80

President of Sri Lanka

April 23, 1980.

My dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you in connection with the meeting of the Sri Lanka Aid Group which is to be held in Paris in the first week of July, 1980.

In my previous letters on this subject I had set out in some detail the policy of my Government and the programme of economic development which we had embarked upon. Our policy objectives continue to remain the creation of a just and free society, in which social welfare is matched with economic growth, human rights and freedom of the individual are ensured, and adequate employment opportunities provided to the many unemployed youths in our country. The short and long-term projects undertaken by my Government are designed to realise the optimum development of the individual and to further strengthen the political and economic stability of the country, within the framework of our multi-party democracy.

We have taken several measures, including the liberalisation of our economy, towards the fulfilment of these objectives and I am happy to say that, notwithstanding the several constraints which are beyond our control, we have been able to achieve a fair measure of success. The economy of the country has registered a substantial and significant recovery in the past two years.

Our economic policies and programmes have been endorsed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which have extended to us substantial assistance during the past two years. This is a tangible demonstration of the confidence the international community has in Sri Lanka's economic policies and prospects.

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

It would not have been possible for us to achieve even the ~~degree~~ of success we have had, if we had not received the generous assistance extended to us by the international institutions and friendly countries like the United Kingdom. I wish to take this opportunity to thank your Government and you personally for the generous economic aid so far extended to Sri Lanka.

The changing international economic situation, however, is causing us great concern, as it is making it increasingly difficult for us to sustain the economic growth achieved in the recent past and to improve on it. World inflation, over which we have no control and with its magnified impact on developing countries like Sri Lanka, is jeopardizing our economic progress. Sri Lanka's terms of trade have deteriorated sharply in 1979 due to the steep increase in import prices, especially of oil.

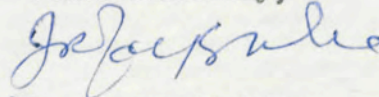
While we are persevering in our efforts to mobilise our domestic resources to the maximum, it will still not be possible for us to make substantial progress towards economic development, unless continuing and increasing external assistance is forthcoming.

While we need support for the major projects we have undertaken, in the short-term we will need assistance for quick-yielding projects and also balance of payments support or commodity assistance. The World Bank will be informing all members of the Sri Lanka Aid Group of Sri Lanka's minimum requirements of external assistance. We also will be circulating among members a document listing out the projects for which external assistance will be required, arranged in an order of priority.

May I look forward to the same sympathetic consideration you have shown to Sri Lanka in the past at the forthcoming Aid Group Meeting.

With my warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



J. R. JAYEWARDENE

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29 April 1980

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Jayewardene. I should be grateful for a draft text of a reply which the Prime Minister might send to Mr. Jayewardene.

It would be helpful if the draft reply could reach me by close of play on Friday 9 May.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

KRB

29 April 1980

Thank you for your letter of 29 April. I have, of course, brought the enclosed letter from President Jayewardene to the Prime Minister's immediate attention. I am sure that she will wish in due course to reply.

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

His Excellency Mr. Nanediri Wimalasena

From the High Commissioner



*High Commission of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
13, Hyde Park Gardens,
London W2 2LU*

29 April 1980

Dear Mr Alexander,

I am enclosing a letter addressed to
The Rt. Hon'ble Margaret Thatcher, M.P., Prime
Minister, by my President, H.E. J.R. Jayewardene.
I should mention that the letter relates to the
forthcoming meeting of the Sri Lanka Aid Group.

I shall be grateful if you would kindly
place this before the Prime Minister at the
earliest possible date.

I shall greatly appreciate confirmation,
in due course, when this has been done.

N. Wimalasena

N. Wimalasena.

Michael Alexander Esqr.,
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London SW1.

From the High Commission

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. in relation to the above mentioned matter.

I am sorry to hear that you are unable to attend the meeting on the 15th inst. I am sure that your absence will be regretted. I am sure that you will be able to attend the meeting on the 18th inst. I am sure that you will be able to attend the meeting on the 18th inst.

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