

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 950/82



cc Master BK
ops

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 May, 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 16 February, drawing attention to the United Nations decision to designate 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

I agree that the provision of shelter for the needy is one of the world's important problems. Your letter is a timely reminder of your valuable initiative in urging the international community to pay greater attention to this issue. We shall look carefully at the comments and recommendations that emerge in the United Nations for measures and activities to be undertaken in relation to the Year.

I am afraid that I cannot guarantee that we shall be able to make a financial contribution but we shall certainly be glad to consider carefully how we in the United Kingdom could most appropriately mark the Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Yours sincerely
Rajawadee

The Honourable R. Premadasa, M.P.

RM



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 April 1982

Dear John,

International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987)

Thank you for your letter of 16 April in which you asked for a draft reply to a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr Premadasa, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, about the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

I enclose a draft reply in sympathetic but non-committal terms. We have no great enthusiasm for international years. With the obvious recent exception of the Year of Disabled Persons, they make little contribution in real terms to their causes. They are by their frequency in danger of becoming devalued.

Still less do we favour contributions to the voluntary funds set up by the United Nations to finance such Years. These funds are not always well administered, nor do we have any say in how the money is disbursed. Where we have in the past chosen to mark the Years by some international action we have done so by earmarking suitable projects from our bilateral Aid Programme.

Nevertheless, there will undoubtedly be interest domestically among voluntary organisations concerned with shelter for the homeless in using the Year to promote their interests. We have accordingly ensured that the Department of the Environment are aware of the event, so that they can consider its implications.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

J E Holmes

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing St

*Type letter p.
A.S.C. 30/4*

SR

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/teleletter/despatch/note
XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:
Mr R Premadasa
Prime Minister of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 16 February, drawing attention to the United Nations decision to designate 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

CAVEAT.....

I agree that the provision of shelter for the needy is one of the world's real and important problems. Your letter is a timely reminder of your valuable initiative in urging the international community to pay greater attention to this issue. We shall look carefully at the comments and recommendations that emerge in the United Nations for measures and activities to be undertaken in relation to the Year.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

I am afraid that I cannot guarantee that we shall be able to make a financial contribution but we shall certainly be glad to consider carefully how we in the United Kingdom could most appropriately mark the Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Handwritten signature

30 APR 1982

