

SUBJECT

cc MENS + Ops

ofc  
Sri Lanka

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 121/83



ofc

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 August 1983

My dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August about the recent tragic events in Sri Lanka. It was most useful to have your views.

I appreciate your concern. I too have been following the situation closely and I am relieved that it now appears to be calm. I very much hope that the problems can be solved peacefully.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Her Excellency Shrimati Indira Gandhi



BF 24/8



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 August 1983

Dear Tim,

/ I enclose a copy of a letter from the Indian High Commission conveying a message from Mrs Gandhi to the Prime Minister about the situation in Sri Lanka. We have already telegraphed the text to our High Commission in New Delhi and Sri Lanka.

/ Given the Indian government's sensitivity about the Tamils in Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lankan government's sensitivity about any hint of Indian interference, any reply from the Prime Minister would best be in the blandest terms. I attach a draft reply in the form of a telegram to Delhi. There is no particular need for a reply to be despatched urgently and you may prefer not to bother the Prime Minister at this stage. If so, I would be grateful if we could be given a chance to look at the terms of the reply again before it issues.

*Yours ever*  
*J E Holmes*  
(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq  
10 Downing St



File No. ....

OUTWARD

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Department .....

Drafted by  
(Block Capitals) .....

TELEGRAM

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USE

Despatched (Date) .....  
(Time) .....Z

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[TEXT]

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MRS GANDHI

1. Please pass following message from the Prime Minister  
to Mrs Gandhi:

Begins. Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August about the recent  
tragic events in Sri Lanka. It was most useful to have  
your views.

I appreciate your concern. I too have been following the  
situation closely <sup>and I am relieved that the situation now appears to be calm</sup> and very much hope that the problems  
can be solved peacefully.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Ends