

CONFIDENTIAL

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 October, 1983

Dear John,

Type letter pl.

Sri Lanka

10/7/83

Thank you for your letter of 5 October about the request from the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) for the Prime Minister to receive Mr Amirthalingum.

Mr Amirthalingum's supporters in this country approached the FCO last month asking that he should be received by Ministers. It was decided that this would not be appropriate for several reasons. Firstly we had not at that stage had an account from Sri Lankan Ministers of the causes of the recent communal disturbances in Sri Lanka and their intentions for the future; it would therefore have been likely to be misunderstood by the Sri Lankans if Mr Amirthalingum, the main Tamil leader, had been received first. Secondly, the political and security situation in Sri Lanka remained sensitive and care needed to be taken to avoid HMG becoming a focus of criticism for either of the two communities. It was however agreed that a senior official would offer to see Mr Amirthalingum. Two appointments were made: Mr Amirthalingum failed to make the first by being delayed in Scotland and did not turn up for the second. We have heard nothing from him since.

The Foreign Secretary has since had a short discussion with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Mr Hameed, in New York, but the Sri Lankan Government would certainly not consider this balanced a call by Mr Amirthalingum on the Prime Minister. Mr Amirthalingum has been seen by officials rather than Ministers in both the United States and Canada.

In these circumstances, the Foreign Secretary does not think the Prime Minister should see Mr Amirthalingum. You may wish to reply along the lines of the attached draft which uses the coincidence of the Conservative Party Conference as a convenient excuse and steers Mr Amirthalingum back in the direction of Mr Giffard.

Yours ever
J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Private Secretary
10 Downing Street

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: Pat Mylvaganam
Public Relations Officer
Tamil United Liberation Front
10 Harefields
Summertown
Oxford OX2 8NS

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 October requesting an appointment for Mr Appapillai Amirthalingum.

CAVEAT.....

*particulars
have engagement
in the foreseeable
future make this
impossible.*

I regret that the Prime Minister's diary does not permit

Unfortunately this will not be possible. The dates in question fall within the week of the Conservative Party Conference when the Prime Minister as well as other Government Ministers have particularly heavy engagements.

I understand however that it has already been proposed that Mr Amirthalingum should call on a senior official at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Sydney Giffard, the Deputy Under-Secretary of State responsible for Asia. I know that Mr Giffard would still welcome the opportunity of a discussion with Mr Amirthalingum if a fresh appointment could be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

MR 2/6

- 7 OCT 1983

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 October 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 October requesting an appointment for Mr. Appapillai Amirthalingum.

I regret that the Prime Minister's particularly heavy engagements in the foreseeable future make this impossible.

I understand, however, that it has already been proposed that Mr. Amirthalingum should call on a senior official at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr. Sydney Giffard, the Deputy Under-Secretary of State responsible for Asia. I know that Mr. Giffard would still welcome the opportunity of a discussion with Mr. Amirthalingum if a fresh appointment could be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

A. J. COLES

Pat Mylvaganam, Esq.

Bd

THAMIL United Liberation Front 7/10
fa Kb



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 October 1983

SRI LANKA

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Public Relations Officer of the Tamil United Liberation Front and which requests that the Prime Minister should receive, between 10 and 14 October, Mr. Amirthalingum, Leader of the Opposition in Sri Lanka and Secretary General of the Tamil United Liberation Front Party.

7 I should be grateful for advice and a draft reply by close of play on 6 October.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR

THAMIL UNITED LIBERATION FRONT

(Ceylon Tamils Official Party — H.O. Jaffna, Sri Lanka)

— ENGLAND BRANCH —

Telephone: 0865/514544



Please reply to:

10 Harefields,
Summertown,
Oxford OX2 8NS,
1st Oct. '83

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London.

Meeting with Mr A. Amirthalingum, Leader of the Opposition, Sri Lanka

Dear Prime Minister,

Mr Appapillai Amirthalingum, Leader of the Opposition and Secretary-General of the Tamil United Liberation Front Party, requests a meeting with you on any day between the 10th October and 14th October 1983. He will be in London during that week on his way back to the East from the United States.

The enclosed ~~book~~ booklet "Genocide in Sri Lanka" will give you the horrific details of the manner in which State Terrorism operates in our country. You, who are the champion of the 269 people killed in the Korean air disaster will no doubt wish to express your horror at the bestial and cannibalistic killing of over 2000 Tamils in Sri Lanka and chastise the guilty President and his equally ~~Ministers~~ guilty Ministers - particularly when they come to you with a begging bowl for more money for arms and military equipment.

I rang the Conservative Party's Headquarters last month and spoke to the Chief Executive's assistant as he was out. I requested that the information I gave should be passed to you and to your Foreign Secretary. Unfortunately, to this day I have had no response.

I look forward very much to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Mylvaganam

Pat Mylvaganam

Public Relations Officer.