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SM Lanka: Int Sit<sup>n</sup> SA



cc: Sir R ARMSTRONG  
HIGH COMMISSIONER  
SIR A. ALLAN

Vcc CHGM A7

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

28 November, 1983

Sri Lanka

During the retreat for Commonwealth Heads of Government in Goa, the Prime Minister had a talk with the President of Sri Lanka about the Tamil problem.

The Prime Minister told me afterwards that she had raised the subject largely with a view to being helpful to Indian efforts to bring about a solution. The main point which she made to President Jayewardene was that it was desirable to offer proposals which would separate the moderates from the extremists. But that implied a proposal which the moderates could accept. Mrs. Thatcher did not get the impression that President Jayewardene had in mind any clear ideas on this point. He was very worried about his own position and said that both his Cabinet and many of his people were opposed to his position on the Tamils.

The Prime Minister advised him informally to keep talking and play the issue long. President Jayewardene appeared to accept this advice but the Prime Minister was conscious of having put the words in his mouth.

Also during the Goa retreat the Prime Minister had a brief discussion with Mr. Parthasarathy and Mr. Natwar Singh. I do not know how much she told them of her talk with President Jayewardene but she commented to me afterwards that she had found Mr. Parthasarathy's approach reasonable.

AJC

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