

SRI LANKA: Relations : May 79

MASTER

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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T64AA/84.

President of Sri Lanka

25th April 1984.

My dear Prime Minister,

I am happy to inform you that the Victoria Project is now nearing completion. I take great pleasure in extending an invitation to you to visit Sri Lanka to commission this Project.

The Victoria Project has been made possible by the generous grant given by the U.K. Government. Its completion within the short period of four years is a tribute to the expertise and engineering skills made available from Britain. The Government and people of Sri Lanka are most appreciative of your country's signal contribution to this Project, symbolising as it does the close friendship between our two countries.

The Project will generate 210 megawatts of power, which is almost half the total power now generated in Sri Lanka. It will also provide irrigation to about 150,000 acres of land and will settle about 60,000 families.

The Victoria Project will be a landmark in the economic development of Sri Lanka. It will therefore be fitting if you could commission this Project, which will be a monument to the generous assistance and technical skills of your country.

I sincerely hope that you and your husband will find it possible to visit Sri Lanka for the commissioning of this Project. Dates in the last week of September or in the first half of October this year, which are convenient to you, will be acceptable to us.

My wife and I look forward to receiving you both in Sri Lanka and assure you of a very warm welcome.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. R. Jayewardene'.
(J. R. Jayewardene)
PRESIDENT

The Rt.Hon.Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister,
LONDON

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CCP



Victoria Dam

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 May, 1984

Amil for the F/C.O. advice.

Dear John,

MR 14/5.

Sri Lanka
dated 23/4

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I enclose a letter from President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka to the Prime Minister, in which he invites her and Mr Thatcher to attend the commissioning of the Victoria Dam. This project is a major example of British engineering skills and has been funded from our aid programme to the tune of £113 million. President Jayewardene suggests that the ceremony might be held in the last week of September or in the first half of October on dates convenient to the Prime Minister.

We shall let you have advice shortly on this proposal, and on how a visit by the Prime Minister to Sri Lanka might be fitted into a programme of overseas visits in the latter half of September.

Y ew,
Peter Ricketts

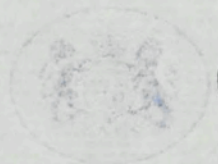
(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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Forsyth and Thompson's Office

London, W.1A 1AH



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27 April 1984

, I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which was received in this office on 26 April.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach this office by Friday, 11 May.

David Barclay

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

File

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27 April 1984

Thank you for your letter of 25 April to my colleague John Coles, who is away from the office this week.

I shall place the President's letter before the Prime Minister immediately.

David Barclay

His Excellency Mr. A. T. Moorthy.

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cc PC

From the High Commissioner



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

25 April 1984

Dear John

I enclose herewith a letter addressed to The Rt. Hon'ble Margaret Thatcher, M.P., Prime Minister by H.E. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The letter relates to the forthcoming 20th Meeting of the Sri Lanka Aid Group, which will be held in Paris on the 21st of June, 1984.

I should be grateful if you would kindly submit the letter to the Prime Minister as early as possible.

I would also be thankful to have your confirmation, in due course, when this has been done.

All good wishes and warm regards

Yours sincerely

(A. T. Moorthy)

John Coles Esqr.,
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.