



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr. Bandaranaike is  
Leader of the Opposition in  
Sri Lanka. He has asked to

London SW1A 2AH

2 August 1984

see you and FCO suggest that  
you agree. I really don't think  
it is necessary to suggest that I write a very polite  
Dear Charles, letter explaining that you are otherwise  
engaged and offering a call on an FCO  
Minister.

Visit of the Leader of the Opposition in Sri Lanka

Thank you for your letter of 30 July asking whether  
the Prime Minister should agree to see Mr Anura Bandaranaike  
during his forthcoming private visit to London.

Agree?  
CDP  
2/P.

We consider that a short courtesy call would be  
appropriate. Our High Commissioner in Colombo, whom we  
have consulted, agrees. Mr Bandaranaike is the son of  
Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the former Prime Minister of  
Sri Lanka, and at present leads the opposition Sri Lanka  
Freedom Party (SLFP) in Parliament.

I'm afraid  
I shall  
have to  
see him  
briefly  
mf

Against the background of the recent visits here by  
President Jayewardene and the Sri Lankan Minister of  
National Security and the Prime Minister's forthcoming  
visit to Sri Lanka, a meeting would help demonstrate that  
we are ready to take account of the views of the Sri Lankan  
opposition. It would also provide an opportunity to urge  
on Mr Bandaranaike the importance of the SLFP participating  
in the All-Party Conference. We have no reason to fear an  
adverse reaction by the Sri Lankan Government; their High  
Commission has apparently been asked to assist with arrange-  
ments for the visit.

We shall provide a brief for the Prime Minister's use,  
when a call has been arranged.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

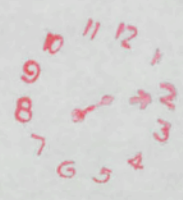
(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AA



22 AUG 1984





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 July, 1984

Visit of the Leader of the Opposition  
in Sri Lanka

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition in Sri Lanka, Mr. Bandaranaike, asking whether the Prime Minister would see Mr. Bandaranaike between 3-14 August. I should be grateful for advice on whether the Prime Minister should agree.

C. D. POWELL

Colin Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CB

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தொலைபேசி  
Telephone

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அலுவலகம்  
Office } 564262  
564263  
ලේකම්  
செயலாளர்  
Secretary } 564257



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எதிர்க்கட்சி முதல்வர் அலுவலகம்  
OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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பாராளுமன்றம்  
ஸ்ரீ ஜயவர்தனபுர கோட்டே  
Parliament  
Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte, SRI LANKA

මගේ අංකය  
எனது எண்  
My No.

} LO/S/1.

ඔබේ අංකය  
உமது எண்  
Your No.

}

26th July, 1984.

Charles Powell  
Rt. with you deal.

FERR

Dear Sir,

30.7.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Hon.Mr.Anura Bandaranaike, M.P. will be on an unofficial visit to the United Kingdom shortly. He wishes to avail himself of this opportunity to pay a courtesy call on the British Prime Minister, Rt.Hon. Margret Thatcher, M.P. on any date convenient to her, between the 3rd and the 14th of August 1984.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in London will also get in touch with you regarding this. Hon.Mr.Anura Bandaranaike will be pleased if you could kindly arrange to enable him to call on the Rt.Hon.Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during his visit to Britain please.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

R. Perinpanayakam

( R.Perinpanayakam )  
Secretary

to the Leader of the Opposition

Mr.F.E.R.Butler,  
Principal Private Secretary,  
Prime Minister's Office,  
10, Downing Street,  
London SW-1,  
ENGLAND.

3-0 JUL 1984

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Yours sincerely,

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 August, 1984

Dear Charles,

Call by Mr Anura Bandaranaike, Leader of the Sri Lankan

Opposition

You asked for a letter providing background for the call on the Prime Minister by Mr Anura Bandaranaike on Monday, 6 August.

I enclose personality notes on Mr Bandaranaike; his mother, the former Prime Minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike; and on the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, (who is likely to be present during the call) and a fact sheet on Sri Lanka.

Mrs Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) suffered a landslide defeat in 1977 by the United National Party (UNP) led by Mr Jayewardene. The SLFP was left with only eight seats out of 168 in Parliament. The election result reflected widespread disenchantment with state socialism and left the SLFP and their communist electoral allies in disarray. In 1980, Mrs Bandaranaike was deprived of her civil rights for 7 years following allegations that she had abused power when Prime Minister. She is ineligible to stand for Parliament or hold public office, but still retains a firm grip on the SLFP, of which she is the President.

Mr Bandaranaike's Party

Mr Anura Bandaranaike now leads the SLFP in Parliament, where he is leader of the Opposition. The Party is now less stridently socialist than in the past, and its hopes of attracting popular support have improved as the authority of the UNP, under the 78 year-old President Jayewardene, has been weakened by the endemic inter-communal problem and continuing economic troubles.

The Inter-Communal Problem

President Jayewardene mentioned to the Prime Minister in June his plan to create a second Parliamentary Chamber elected on a provincial basis. This proposal, designed to win over the Tamil minority, was put forward at the All-Party Conference in July. Discussion will continue when the Conference reconvenes in the middle of this month. However, there is little to suggest that President Jayewardene's proposal will satisfy the Tamil demand for provincial autonomy. For as long



as the Conference continues, a further major explosion of inter-communal violence is unlikely, but if it collapses the risk of a repetition of the violence of July 1983 would be high. We have consistently urged the Sri Lankan Government to adopt a policy of reconciliation and have argued that any solution must be acceptable to all communities.

The Sri Lankan Freedom Party withdrew from the All-Party Conference at an early stage and there is no sign of their returning to the table. Given the lack of progress they would probably regard it as a mistake to do so and have said little except to criticise the efforts of the Government. They claim that if they were in power they would solve the problem in six months, but have not said how. The Prime Minister may wish to seek Mr Bandaranaike's views on the problem and reiterate our hope that a peaceful settlement will be possible.

The Prime Minister might also ask Mr Bandaranaike:-

- (a) how he sees the present attitude of the Indian Government to the inter-communal problem, and about relations with India in general (Mrs Bandaranaike has long-standing contacts with Mrs Gandhi);
- (b) for his assessment of his Party's chances in four by-elections due later this year;
- (c) for his views on the more open and liberal economy established by the present government, and the changes the SLFP would like to see made if they came to power.

Mr Bandaranaike will probably be well aware of the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Sri Lanka (25-27 September) for the opening of the Victoria Dam. As Leader of the Opposition he will undoubtedly meet Mrs Thatcher when she addresses Parliament in Colombo. If he should ask for the Prime Minister to make time during her visit to meet his mother the Prime Minister may wish to explain that she will be in Sri Lanka as the guest of the Government and that such a request should be put to the Sri Lankan authorities who are organising the programme.

Yours ever,  
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr Powell

Confirmed for  
1730 on 6 Aug.

JMB

3/8



FACT SHEET

THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

DEMOGRAPHY

Population : 15.6 million (1983 estimate)  
Distribution : 74% Sinhalese, 18 Tamils, 7% Muslims  
Population Increase : 2% per annum (1.7% allowing for net migration)  
Religion : Buddhist (67%), Hindu (18%), Christian (8%), Muslim (7%)  
Language : Sinhalese (official language)  
Tamil (national language) and English

GEOGRAPHY

Area : 25,332 sq miles (65,600 sq km)  
Capital : Colombo (population 585,776 in 1981)

GOVERNMENT

Government : Executive President directly elected for 6 year term. Unicameral Parliament elected 6-yearly by proportional representation.  
Ruling Party : United National Party (since July 1977)  
President : Junius Jayewardene

ECONOMY

Basis : Agriculture  
Gross Domestic Produce 1983 : US \$5,199 million  
Per capita income 1982 : US \$320

TRADE

Total exports 1983 : US \$1,354 million  
Total imports 1983 : US \$2,136 million

TRADE WITH BRITAIN

Exports to Britain 1983 : £39.8 million  
Imports from Britain 1983 : £70.1 million

BAJIRANAIKE, ANURA PRIADASSI SOLOMON DIAS, MP (SLFP)

Second MP for Nuwara Eliya-Maskeliya.

Sinhalese Buddhist. Goigama caste. Born 1949. Upper second class degree at University College, London 1973. Active in publicising Sri Lankan politics in London. On return appointed head of SLFP Youth Leagues (in which he was not very successful) and made (unpaid) adviser on Youth Affairs to Ministry of Planning 1975. Obtained a controlling interest in the 'Times' newspaper group together with some business associates 1975. This together with a Sinhalese newspaper 'Adha', which he founded, served as a public voice for him until the UNP victory at the 1977 election, shortly after which the new Government took over the 'Times' group which was in financial trouble. Elected for first time 1977. Professes a special interest in Latin America. Has travelled widely.

Since both his parents have been Prime Ministers and he is one of only 8 SLFP MPs he is clearly regarded as a possible heir apparent in the SLFP. He is to the right of his party and had a hand in the expulsion of the LSSP from the coalition in 1975. He is not liked by many to his left including his sister and brother-in-law, while the Deputy Leader of the SLFP, Mathripala Senanayake, sees him as a rival. He did better than expected in his multi-member constituency. Joined Maithripala Senanayake in 1982 attempt to oust his mother from party leadership, but later returned to the fold. Showed little enthusiasm in supporting Kobbekaduwa the SLFP candidate in the 1982 Presidential election. Has obvious ambitions to lead SLFP and Sri Lanka. He has been compared with the late Sanjay Gandhi but the similarity is superficial.

Inclined to be stout, he is amiable socially and enjoys the table. Not a good listener. His voice is hoarse and causes him problems at political meetings especially since, like his mother, he speaks very fast. He is unmarried.

BANDARANAIKE, MRS SIRIMAVO RATWATTE DIAS (NEE RATWATTE) MP (SLFP)

President of SLFP. Former Prime Minister.

Sinhalese (Kandyan). Buddhist. Goigama caste. Born 1916. Educated Ferguson's High School, Ratnapura and St Bridget's Convent, Colombo. Mrs Bandaranaike comes from a leading family of the Kandyan aristocracy and was married in 1940 to Mr S W R D Bandaranaike, then Minister of Local Government and later Prime Minister 1956-9; in April 1960, after her husband's assassination in September 1959 she became President of the SLFP. Sworn in as Prime Minister July 1960 and appointed a Senator. Leader of the Opposition 1965-70 and Prime Minister again 1970-77.

When she became Prime Minister, though sensible and pragmatic, Mrs Bandaranaike was essentially a family woman lacking the necessary education and intellect required. However, a certain personal magnetism coupled with the liberal advice from her family saw her through her first years of office.

A believer in the non-aligned movement and the Commonwealth, her main foreign affairs initiative was the promotion of the Indian Ocean Peace Zone.

Accused by many of nepotism, she became less popular during the succeeding ten years and in October 1980 lost her seat and her civic rights through misuse of power. Torn between her right-wing son Anura and her left-wing daughter, Chandrike, she has since failed to hold together a gradually disintegrating SLFP

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MR L B C [CHANDRA] MONERAWELA

High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in London since May 1984.

Born in September 1937; obtained a BA in Economics from the University of Ceylon

- 1961:                   Joined Foreign Service  
                          Held diplomatic assignments in Peking,  
                          Washington and Bangkok
- 1971 - 1974:            Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1974 - 1980:            Permanent Representative to the Economic and  
                          Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
                          (ESCAP)
- 1980 - 1983:            Director, Economic Affairs, Ministry of  
                          Foreign Affairs
- January 1984:          High Commissioner to Singapore

Mr Monerawela is married with three children. Pleasant but somewhat colourless personality.

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