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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister
Agree to
gift of books?
CDD
14/9

14 September 1984

Dear Charles,

Yes no

Conference of Attorneys-General, Colombo, 8-12 August 1984

The Lord Advocate, accompanied by Lady Cameron, attended this Conference which was held to mark the centenary of the appointment of an Attorney-General in Sri Lanka. The Conference passed a Draft Resolution (copy attached) proposing the establishment in Sri Lanka of a Legal Research Centre (Asia and Pacific Region). This would operate under the direction of the Attorney-General or Sri Lanka who was authorised by the Conference to take the necessary steps, including "utilisation of any financial assistance voluntarily received from countries and areas of the region".

The Lord Advocate subsequently commented:

"It might be advisable that the Prime Minister know of this Resolution - if accepted by the Delegates - perhaps with a view to making some English contribution to it."

We consider there is a good case for making a contribution, given the long historical connection and the continuing close relationship between Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. The Lord Advocate considered that text books might be an appropriate way of registering our interest. If agreed, then this might be provided from the 'Books Presentation Scheme' administered by ODA, who would be happy to make available five hundred pounds for this purpose.

I would be grateful if you could let me know whether the Prime Minister agrees.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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DRAFT RESOLUTION

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Whereas the countries of the Asia and Pacific region represented by the Honourable Attorneys-General or their nominees at the "Conference of Attorneys-General (Asia and Pacific Region) to Commemorate One hundred Years of the Institution of Attorney-General of Sri Lanka" held from the 8th to the 12th of August, 1984 at Colombo in Sri Lanka, have during their deliberations given expression to numerous matters of mutual interest and concern;

and whereas it is the desire of such countries to foster better understanding amongst each other and to further their knowledge concerning all aspects of the law, legal learning and legal practice by, inter alia, the collection, collation and exchange of legal material of mutual interest;

and whereas it is agreed between all participants present, by consensus, that a LEGAL RESEARCH CENTRE (ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION) be established in Sri Lanka to give effect to such purpose;

and whereas the Honourable Attorney-General of Sri Lanka has already been assured of the initial financial assistance for the establishment of such LEGAL RESEARCH CENTRE (ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION) in Sri Lanka,

the participants here assembled, recognising the fact that the necessity for such LEGAL RESEARCH CENTRE (ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION) does exist in the region, and being fortified in their belief that such Centre will play a useful role in the sphere of law in the Asia and Pacific Region, do hereby agree to the establishment of the aforementioned LEGAL RESEARCH CENTRE (ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION) under the general direction of the Honourable Attorney-General of Sri Lanka, and do hereby authorize him to take all necessary steps for the fulfilment of such purpose including the holding of discussions among the nations of the region and the utilization of any financial assistance voluntarily received from countries of the region.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 September 1984

Conference of Attorneys-General, Colombo

Thank you for your letter of 14 September conveying the Lord Advocate's recommendation that a British contribution should be made to the proposed Legal Research Centre in Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister agrees that a gift of books from the Books Presentation Scheme administered by the ODA would be appropriate.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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