

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM FCO 151400Z OCT 84

TO IMMEDIATE COLOMBO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 350 OF 15 OCTOBER

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA

1. THE SRI LANKAN HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED AT NO 10 DOWNING STREET ON 25 SEPTEMBER TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE RENEWING HIS INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT SRI LANKA FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE VICTORIA DAM. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE VISIT MIGHT TAKE PLACE EARLY NEXT YEAR.
2. DECISIONS ON THIS AND THE RELATED VISITS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE NOVEMBER. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD DELIVER THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE.

BEGINS: THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 20 SEPTEMBER CONVEYED THROUGH YOUR HIGH COMMISSIONER. I MUCH APPRECIATE THE RENEWAL OF YOUR INVITATION TO ME AND MY HUSBAND TO VISIT SRI LANKA FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE VICTORIA DAM. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO FIND A CONVENIENT TIME: AND IT WAS KIND OF YOU TO INCLUDE TIMOTHY RAISON IN THE INVITATION.

AS YOU KNOW, I AM LOOKING FORWARD VERY MUCH TO MY VISIT TO SRI LANKA. BUT IT IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO MAKE FIRM TRAVEL PLANS FOR THE COMING MONTHS WHILE THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION HERE REMAINS UNCERTAIN.

I SHALL OF COURSE BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS THE PROSPECTS ARE CLEARER.

WITH KIND REGARDS, MARGARET THATCHER. ENDS.

HOWE

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PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR RENTON  
PS/MR RAISON  
PS/PUS  
SIR W HARDING  
MR BOYD

COPIES TO:

AS/NO. 10 DOWNING STREET.

MR. VEREKER, ODA.  
MR. BENJAMIN, CAB. OFFICE

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MS SH  
cc: SPC

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

15 October, 1984

Sri Lanka: Opening of the Victoria Dam

Thank you for your letter of 10 October enclosing a draft reply to President Jayewardene's message to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister agrees the proposed reply and I should be grateful if it could now be despatched.

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C. D. POWELL

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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CCP ①



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 October 1984

Prime Minister  
Agree message?CDP  
10/10.

Dear Charles,

Yes ml

Sri Lanka: Opening of the Victoria Dam

Your letter of 25 September asked for a draft reply to the message to the Prime Minister from President Jayewardene delivered by the Sri Lanka High Commissioner.

President Jayewardene clearly still hopes that the Prime Minister will be able to visit Sri Lanka early next year. He has made it plain that he is willing to adjust the timing of the Victoria Dam inauguration to suit the Prime Minister's convenience. But as you made clear in your letter of 4 October to Len Appleyard on the signature of the Hong Kong Agreement, decisions on this will need to wait until the beginning of November. Meanwhile, you have told Mr Monerawela that the Prime Minister is not able to commit herself at this stage.

The enclosed draft reply to President Jayewardene is therefore a holding one.

Yours ever,

P F Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



OUT TELEGRAM

		Classification and Caveats <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	Precedence/Deskby <b>IMMEDIATE</b>
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ZCZC	1	ZCZC
GRS	2	GRS
CLASS	3	CONFIDENTIAL
CAVEATS	4	
DESKBY	5	
FM FCO	6	FM FCO
PRE/ADD	7	TO IMMEDIATE COLOMBO
TEL NO	8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
	9	PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA
	10	1. The Sri Lankan High Commissioner called at No 10 Downing
	11	Street on 25 September to deliver a message from President
	12	Jayewardene renewing his invitation to the Prime Minister to
	13	visit Sri Lanka for the inauguration of the Victoria Dam. He
	14	suggested that the visit might take place early next year.
	15	2. Decisions on this and the related visits will not take place
	16	before November. Grateful if you would deliver the following
	17	reply to President Jayewardene.
	18	BEGINS: Thank you for your message of 20 September conveyed
	19	through your High Commissioner. I much appreciate the renewal
	20	of your invitation to me and my husband to visit Sri Lanka for
	21	the inauguration of the Victoria Dam. I am most grateful for
///	22	your efforts to find a convenient time; and it was kind of you
//	23	to include Timothy Raison in the invitation.
/	24	As you know, I am looking forward very much to my visit to
	25	Sri Lanka. But it is unfortunately not possible for me to make

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword  firm
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution LIMITED PS
Drafted by (Block capitals) P F RICKETTS		PS/LADY YOUNG      CC: No 10 PS/MR RENTON        Mr Vereker PS/PUS                Mr Benjamin Sir W HARDING        Cabinet Office MR BOYD
Telephone number 233-4641		SAD
Authorised for despatch		PROTOCOL DEPT NEWS DEPT
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	SEAD PS/MR RAISON

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats  
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1 <<<<

2 firm travel plans for the coming months while the industrial  
3 situation here remains uncertain.

4 I shall of course be in touch as soon as the prospects  
5 are clearer.

6 With kind regards, Margaret Thatcher. ENDS.

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8 HOWE

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Catchword



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1984 OCT 12



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*CC PC*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 October, 1984

*NBPM*

*CDP 8/10*

*Dear Charles,*

Sri Lanka

I enclose a sealed letter from President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka to the Prime Minister. It is likely to be the signed copy of the message conveyed by HE Mr Monerawela to No 10 on 24 September.

*BF*

We shall let you have advice and a draft reply to the letter of 24 September shortly; we have held this back so as to be able to offer the Prime Minister advice on the question of reinstating each part of her postponed visit to Asia.

*Yours ever,*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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