

R. PREMADASA, M.P.
Prime Minister



Prime Minister (2)
Wynndham Franklin Plaza
Hotel,
Philadelphia, U.S.A.

April 22, 1985

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
OF
SRI LANKA

My No. S/PM/44
mt

My dear Prime Minister,

I was extremely happy to learn that your brief visit to Sri Lanka from the 11th to the 13th of April 1985 was a great success. My inability to be personally present in Sri Lanka is deeply regretted. As explained to you in my previous letter, it was unavoidable.

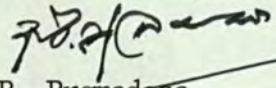
From here I will be proceeding to Kingston, Jamaica to address the 8th Session of the Commission on Human Settlements (UNCHS) scheduled to commence on the 29th of April 1985. On my return journey I will be briefly stopping over in London from the 1st to the 3rd of May 1985. I appreciate your inability to meet me on account of your participation in the Economic Summit in Bonn during the same period.

I am writing to thank you for the kind references made by you at the commissioning of the Victoria Project, during your address to Parliament and at the press conference, on my role in regard to the U. K. Grant of £ 100 million for the Victoria Reservoir Project. Your magnanimous gesture in making available this grant at a time when your country was facing economic problems will go down in history as one of the most outstanding contributions to a friendly country.

I need not overemphasize the fact that it was your determination of purpose and courageous decision that paved the way for the restoration of this grant which was in the balance. I am confident that you would have derived tremendous satisfaction by seeing for yourself the great contribution the grant you released has made towards the development of Sri Lanka's infrastructure. It is gratifying to note that you have pledged further assistance for which I am very grateful to you.

Mrs Premadasa joins me in conveying to you and Mr Denis Thatcher our warm personal regards and best wishes. We have brought with us a souvenir as a token of our friendship. It will be hand delivered by the Sri Lanka High Commissioner in London on the 2nd of May to your office.

Yours sincerely,


R. Premadasa

Right Honourable
Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP,
Prime Minister of
Great Britain



CORAD B fly to

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 April 1985

Thank you for your letter of 29 April, with which you enclosed a letter to the Prime Minister from the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. I have drawn this to Mrs. Thatcher's immediate attention.

CHARLES POWELL

His Excellency Mr. Chandra Monerawela.

AB



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

3 May, 1985

File - already done CCF

CF
I think that the
PM has already
written to Mr. Premadasa.
Please check
Dear Charles
CA
In W/E box 4/5/85

Letter to the Prime Minister from the Sri Lankan Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 29 April asking for a reply to Mr Premadasa's letter of 22 April to the Prime Minister.

Mr Premadasa arrived in London on 1 May and was met by a Special Representative of the Foreign Secretary. He did not revert to the question of a call on the Prime Minister although, as you know, he had raised the matter again with our High Commissioner at Kingston on 26 April. The High Commissioner explained that in view of the imminence of the Paris Summit, the Prime Minister would be unable to receive him. Mr Premadasa indicated that he was not pleased, but said he understood. He declined an invitation to meet the Foreign Secretary.

I enclose a draft reply to Mr Premadasa. If the "souvenir", to which Mr Premadasa refers in his letter, has turned up, you will want to add a suitable expression of thanks for it.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
PS/No 10

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: The Hon R Premadasa MP

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I was most grateful for your letter of 4 April about my visit to Sri Lanka. The inauguration of the Victoria Dam was indeed a wonderful occasion and the opportunity to address your Parliament was a rare honour which I shall never forget. Denis and I were very glad to be able to see something of your beautiful country.

I was very sorry not to be able to see you while you were in London. I had a great deal of Government business to attend to before leaving on Thursday morning for the Bonn Economic Summit. I do hope that you and your wife enjoyed your stay here and that we shall be able to meet again before too long.

With best wishes to you and Mrs Premadasa.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

For Pol: SE Asia Trip Pt 3.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 April 1985

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister
from the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

Bill
I should be grateful for a draft reply after the
Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's meeting with
Mr. Premadasa.

CHARLES POWELL

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

CB

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cc. P.C.

From the High Commissioner



NB Top copy of Premadasa
letter on Sri Lanka
relations file

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

29 April 1985

Dear Mr. Powell,

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter
from the Hon. R. Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka
which I would like to be placed before the Rt. Hon. Margaret
Thatcher, Prime Minister urgently.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

C. MONERAWELA.

Mr. Charles Powell
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1.