

①

Prime Minister  
Sri John Kotelawela, a former Prime  
Minister of Ceylon, has died. Accept  
text of message below?

Print - 2/11

GRS 80  
UNCLASSIFIED  
DESKBY 21000Z  
FM COLOMBO 020850Z OCT 80  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 186 OF 2 OCTOBER  
MIPT

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE DEATH OF GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWELA.

IT WAS WITH GREAT REGRET THAT I LEARNT OF THE DEATH OF GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWELA. FOR MANY YEARS BOTH AS SOLDIER AND POLITICIAN HE WAS A DISTINGUISHED FIGURE IN THE LIFE OF SRI LANKA. DURING HIS PERIOD OF OFFICE AS PRIME MINISTER HE MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO COMMONWEALTH UNDERSTANDING. HE WILL BE SADLY MISSED BY HIS MANY BRITISH FRIENDS AS WELL AS BY THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES AT THIS TIME OF LOSS.

NICHOLAS

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

STANDARD

SAD  
P & C D  
CCD  
OID  
NEWS D  
CABINET OFFICE

*mbi*





10, DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

3 October, 1980.

Death of Sir John Kotelawela

As I have already told you, the Prime Minister has agreed that the draft message from her on the death of General Sir John Kotelawela in Colombo Tel. No. 188 should issue.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

R.