

SUBJECT

cc Ops  
Master  
cc Ho



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

25 April 1983

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. TS28/83

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April about the next meeting of the Sri Lankan Aid Group.

As you say, the difficulties faced by Sri Lanka are common to many other non-oil developing countries and we understand them well. I am glad that you have been so successful so far in surmounting them. You will, I know, understand that we have many calls on our resources, and it will not be easy to strike a balance between the needs of Sri Lanka and those of other countries in a similar predicament. But we shall take fully into account the needs of Sri Lanka as you have so convincingly described them and shall do all that we can within the resources available.

Since you wrote, I have seen Mr. Premadasa and received his letter of 25 March asking for further assistance with the Victoria Dam project. We are looking urgently into the possibilities.

It will be a great pleasure to see you again during your State Visit in June.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. J.R. Jayewardene





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 April 1983

*Type done.*

*A.S.C. 21/4.*

*Dear Idun,*

Sri Lanka Aid Group

Thank you for your letter of 11 April enclosing a letter from the President of Sri Lanka. This is the latest in a series of circulars which he sends at about this time every year to the heads of donor governments. I enclose a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature. Because of the financial difficulties in the aid programme the draft has been cast in rather pessimistic terms.

*Yours ever*  
*J E Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note~~  
~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

HE Mr J R Jayewardene  
President of Sri Lanka

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 4 April about the next meeting of the Sri Lankan Aid Group.

CAVEAT.....

As you say the difficulties faced by Sri Lanka are common to many other non-oil developing countries and we understand them well. I am glad that you have been so successful so far in surmounting them. ~~Our aid~~ <sup>*you will, & know,*</sup> ~~programme, as you will realise,~~ <sup>*understand that our aid*</sup> cannot be exempted from our policy of tight control on public spending, and it will <sup>*not*</sup> be easy to strike a balance between the needs of Sri Lanka and those of many other countries in a similar predicament. ~~All that I can promise is that~~ <sup>*but*</sup> the needs of Sri Lanka, as you have so convincingly described them, ~~will be fully taken into account.~~ <sup>*we*</sup> shall do all that we can for Sri Lanka within the resources available.

*we shall take fully into account*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Since you wrote, I have ~~of course~~ seen Mr Premadasa and received his letter of 25 March asking for ~~more money~~ <sup>*for the assistance*</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>*will*</sup> the Victoria Dam project. We are looking urgently into the possibilities.

/I look



It will be a great pleasure to see you again  
~~I look forward to discussing all this with~~  
~~you~~ during your State Visit in June.

*M*  $\frac{21}{4}$

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