

Prime Minister



IMMEDIATE

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COLFO 010/29

OO F C O DESKBY 291300Z

PP NEW DELHI

PP KATHMANDU

PP MODUK

GRS 250

SECRET

DESKBY 291300Z

FM COLOMBO 291125Z JUL 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

ELEGRAM NUMBER 188 OF 29 JULY

INFO PRIORITY NEW DELHI, KATHMANDU, MODUK (DS11, DI4C AND DEPUTY CDS)

YOUR TELNO 144 : SRI LANKA : POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR MILITARY AID

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED TO SEE THE DHC THIS AFTERNOON ABOUT THIS MATTER AND YOUR TUR ARRIVED IN THE MEANTIME. NASON TOOK THE LINES: (attached)

- A. OUR MILITARY RESOURCES WORLDWIDE WERE UNDER STRAIN, AND
- B. THAT WE ARE PRECLUDED BY THE TERMS OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL AGREEMENT FROM PROVIDING GURKHA TROOPS.

HE DID NOT REFER TO THE SRI LANKAN COMMUNITY IN UK NOR TO THE EXCLUSION CLAUSE THAT GURKHAS MAY NOT BE USED AGAINST UNARMED HINDU MOBS.

2. HAMEED WAS CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED. FIRST HE ASKED WHETHER, IF THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT OBTAINED THE AGREEMENT OF THE INDIAN AND NEPALESE GOVERNMENTS WHO WOULD PROVIDE THE GURKHAS NASON

D/By
 [Recd 291327Z]
 Hd's
 [Hd SAS] before Sept
 MAED, News Sept,
 Planning Staff, Security Dept,
 Ps, Ps/Lady Young, Ps/Mr. Whitney
 Mr. Wright, Mr. Donald
 (XFE) Mr. (Cortledge
 Ps/No to Downing St (3)
 (Then to agents)

IF THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT OBTAINED THE AGREEMENT OF THE INDIAN AND NEPALESE GOVERNMENTS, HMG WOULD PROVIDE THE GURKHAS. NASON REPLIED THAT WE THOUGHT IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD AGREE, BUT THAT IN ANY CASE THE OVERRIDING QUESTION OF OUR WORLDWIDE COMMITMENTS WOULD PREVENT US FROM PROVIDING THEM ANYWAY. HAMEED THEN ALLEGED THAT WE HAD PROVIDED TROOPS FOR MRS BANDARANAIKE DURING THE 1971 INSURRECTION. NASON CORRECTED HIM, POINTING OUT THAT WE ONLY SUPPLIED ARMS. THEN HAMEED ENQUIRED WHEN WE HAD LAST PROVIDED A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT WITH TROOPS IN THIS SORT OF SITUATION. NASON REPLIED THAT SPEAKING OFF THE CUFF THE LAST TIME HE COULD REMEMBER OUR PROVIDING TROOPS IN THIS TYPE OF SITUATION WAS IN 1963 OR 1964 IN EAST AFRICA, AND REMINDED HAMEED THAT THIS WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO AND THAT TIMES HAD CHANGED.

3. HAMEED CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT HE WILL INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF OUR REPLY.

NICHOLAS

NNNN

SENT // RECD AT 291315Z RJ/LRD

[Handwritten notes and signatures are present in the lower half of the page, including a signature that appears to be "D. J. ..."]