

SUBJECT.

2

Prime Minister CC OPS Master.

The Sri Lankans are delaying the commissioning of the Victoria Dam in the hope of catching you early next year. Reply in preparation.



HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA. PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL No. T.163A/84. 24 September 1984

My Dear Prime Minister,

C.D.A. 25/4

I have been directed by His Excellency J. R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka to convey the following message to you.

"20 September 1984

My dear Prime Minister,

We had decided to commission the Victoria Project on September 27th, though the scheme was not completed and only one of the three units was operational, as you were to visit Sri Lanka during this period. It was my desire that the commissioning should be done by you, as the Victoria Project will change the course of Sri Lanka's economic development and is a monument to the generosity of the United Kingdom.

When I heard of the possibility that you may make your visit to Sri Lanka early next year, I had the matter reviewed. The technical authorities are of the view that it would be preferable to commission the project, when it is fully operational and completed. That would be early next year.

I look forward to your visit and your personal presence with Mr. Dennis Thatcher for the inauguration ceremonies, which we now propose to have early next year to coincide with your visit. We would appreciate if the Rt. Hon. Timothy Raison, MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, whom you so kindly nominated to deputise for you, could be associated with the inauguration ceremonies as a member of your delegation.

With all good wishes and my personal regards,

Yours sincerely,
J. R. Jayewardene."

Yours Sincerely
C. MONERAWELA.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1.



PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T.163A/84

President of Sri Lanka

20th September 1984.

My dear Prime Minister,

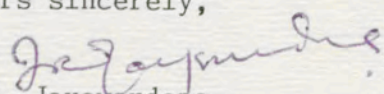
We had decided to commission the Victoria Project on September 27th, though the scheme was not completed and only one of the three units was operational, as you were to visit Sri Lanka during this period. It was my desire that the commissioning should be done by you, as the Victoria Project will change the course of Sri Lanka's economic development and is a monument to the generosity of the United Kingdom.

When I heard of the possibility that you may make your visit to Sri Lanka early next year, I had the matter reviewed. The technical authorities are of the view that it would be preferable to commission the Project, when it is fully operational and completed. That would be early next year.

I look forward to your visit and your personal presence with Mr. Denis Thatcher for the inauguration ceremonies, which we now propose to have early next year to coincide with your visit. We would appreciate if the Rt. Hon. Timothy Rjiyon, M.P. Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister for Overseas Development, whom you so kindly nominated to deputise for you, could be associated with the inauguration ceremonies as a member of your Delegation.

With all good wishes and my personal regards,

Yours sincerely,


J.R. Jayewardene

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister,
UNITED KINGDOM.



FILE (AMENDED)

cc: P.C

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 September, 1984

SRI LANKA: OPENING OF THE VICTORIA DAM

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner called on me this morning to deliver the enclosed message to the Prime Minister from President Jayewardene. As you will see, it refers to the possibility of a visit by the Prime Minister early next year and the intention of the Sri Lankan Government to delay the commissioning of the Victoria Dam project until then. I told the High Commissioner that the Prime Minister had no firm plans for future visits abroad and would be unable to take any decisions about this as long as the present industrial situation lasted. She would not therefore, at this stage, be able to commit herself in replying to President Jayewardene. The High Commissioner said that he thought this was well understood and that his government were simply getting their bid in.

The High Commissioner thought that the initiative for postponing the commissioning of the project had in fact come from Balfour Beatty Limited, the project managers, who particularly wanted the Prime Minister to be present.

I should be grateful for a draft reply.

(Charles Powell)

C. Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

dy