

2nd April, 1988.

Dear Prime Minister,

I felt I wanted to write to you and say how pleased I was to learn that you proposed to visit Sri Lanka. I spent all my business career there as a Scottish Chartered Accountant, (for 34 years) and retired in 1958 as Managing Director of a large Estate Agency house in Colombo.

In 1952 I entered the Ceylon Parliament on the invitation of the Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, and served in that capacity for six years. The main reason for my appointment was - I think - that for 5 years - from 1950 to 1954 - I was Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce; so, one way and another, I had a very busy public life!

I believe I am now the last survivor of the European Appointed members of the Ceylon Parliament, the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, will be particularly glad to meet you. He has been going through a very trying time during recent years because of the communal troubles, and your visit will be a great encouragement to him. He was a good friend to me while he was leader of the House.

As I am now in my eighties there is no prospect of my visiting 'The Island' again, so if you would be so kind as to convey to him my best wishes for many more years of service to Sri Lanka I feel sure that, coming from you, it would be much appreciated by both the President and

Yours very truly,

John R. Murray

P.S. I realise how extremely busy you must be, but I hope you can spare a moment to read this. Before you leave on your travels, Bon voyage! (over)