

Subject in master
of 1

CONFIDENTIAL PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE ^{41550 -}

SERIAL No. T152/84

ZZ COLOMBO

GRS 277

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 291029Z AUG 84

TO FLASH COLOMBO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 276 OF 29 AUG 84

MIPT: MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE
BEGINS.

1. I AM VERY SORRY TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT IT WILL NOT AFTER ALL BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO VISIT SRI LANKA NEXT MONTH TO ATTEND THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR THE VICTORIA DAM. I HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD KEENLY TO THIS EVENT, TO SEEING YOUR COUNTRY AFTER ALL THAT YOU TOLD ME DURING YOUR OWN VISIT HERE, AND TO THE HONOUR OF ADDRESSING THE SRI LANKA PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION IN THE UK MAKE IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO BE SO FAR FROM HOME FOR THE PROTRACTED TIME ENVISAGED IN MY PLANNED TOUR OF SOUTH EAST ASIA AND SRI LANKA. I AM SURE THAT WITH YOUR OWN HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY REASONS FOR THIS DECISION.

2. IT IS A VERY DECP DISAPPOINTMENT TO ME AND MY HUSBAND THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BE WITH YOU AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE VICTORIA DAM AND, IN PARTICULAR, THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION TO WHAT WILL BE A HISTORIC OCCASION. I ALSO MUCH REGRET THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO YOU AND TO YOUR GOVERNMENT BY THIS CHANGE OF PLAN AFTER ALL THE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN DONE ON MY PROGRAMME. I HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY BY A BRITISH MINISTER.

3. I SEND YOU MY BEST WISHES AND HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO REINSTATE MY VISIT TO SRI LANKA BEFORE TOO LONG.
ENDS.

HOWE

NNNN

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