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Visit of President Gayoom of the Maldives

THE MALDIVES

AUGUST 1981

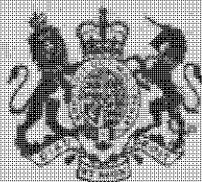
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Letter for President visit on 10/15/82 in attached folder.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE



SERIAL No. ITS.9/89

TO DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

Subject cc MASTER
OPS

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 March 1989

Dear Mr. President,

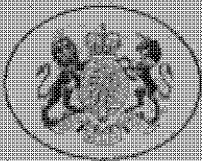
I do hope that you will enjoy your stay in London. Sadly I will in fact be away for much of the time you are here, and I do not think it will be possible for us to meet.

Perhaps I could take this opportunity to say how pleased I was to see the Maldives represented at the Saving The Ozone Layer Conference in London earlier this month. We are all too aware of the Maldives' special interest in environmental matters.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 March 1989

Dear Charles

President Gayoom of the Maldives

President Gayoom is undertaking a private visit to Britain from 21 March until approximately 4 April. He has asked for a courtesy call on the Prime Minister. This request was conveyed in parallel by Jameel, the Maldivian Foreign Minister, during his call on the Foreign Secretary on 15 March and via our High Commission in Colombo.

Because of the limited advance notice of the visit, and the pressure on the Prime Minister's diary during the time he is in London, we do not wish to recommend that the Prime Minister should see President Gayoom. The Foreign Secretary will see him later today. The Prime Minister may however wish to send a note to President Gayoom; we are sure that he would appreciate it. I attach a draft.

Yours ever

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:
Prime Minister
DEPARTMENT:

TEL NO:

Reference

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

HE Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
President of the Republic of the Maldives
Male

80

SUBJECT:

I do hope that you will enjoy your stay in London & Saudi
~~Welcome to London. I am sorry that my commitments prevent us from meeting during your visit.~~

I will in fact be away for much of the time you are here, so I do not think it will be possible for us to meet.

Perhaps I could take this opportunity to say how pleased I was to see the Maldives represented at the Saving The Ozone Layer Conference in London earlier this month. We are all too aware of the Maldives' special interest in environmental matters.

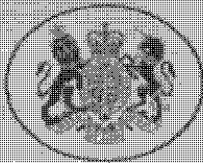
With every good wish

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

CAVEAT

Enclosures flag(s)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 August 1984

Dear David,

Letter to the Prime Minister

The Maldivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have requested that the enclosed envelope be passed to the Prime Minister. President Gayoom of the Republic of the Maldives visited London from 18-21 June. The President called on the Prime Minister on 20 June.

Yours,
P F Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq
10 Downing Street

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File

ECL

SUBJECT

cc Master



cc: Sir P. Craddock

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 June 1984

MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT GAYOOM
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MALDIVES

The Prime Minister received President Gayoom of the Maldives for a brief courtesy call this afternoon. Sir William Harding was also present.

The Prime Minister began by complimenting President Gayoom on his speech to the Royal Commonwealth Society Conference on the problems of small states. President Gayoom observed that the Maldives Foreign Minister was a member of the Commonwealth Study Group on the Security of Small States. The Prime Minister commented that it was easier to perceive the problems than produce solutions.

In reply to a question by the Prime Minister about the Maldives economy, President Gayoom said that it had been hard hit by recession, particularly in the fisheries, tourism and shipping sectors. Fishing had been badly hit by the slump in tuna prices which had dropped some 55% since 1982/83. This was due primarily to a glut in the American market. Tourism had been hit by ethnic violence in Sri Lanka. The Gulf War had led to a fall off of some 20% in liftings by Maldives-registered ships. Despite this the economy had made substantial progress. There had been a steady rise in per capita income. A point of particular pride was the increase in the number of schools to 46. There were now two or three schools in every atoll.

The Prime Minister said that this was a remarkable achievement. There might be problems later with increased expectations on the part of school-leavers. Were there problems in getting them to work in the tourist industry? President Gayoom replied that on the contrary people were leaving the fisheries sector for tourism. He did not wish the Maldives to depend wholly on tourism. In reply to a further question from the Prime Minister, President Gayoom said that tourists came principally from Western Europe and Scandinavia. It was now possible to bring tourist flights direct to the Maldives. The British advisers who were managing the airport were doing a good job.

/President Gayoom

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CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

President Gayoom referred to the Maldives balance of payments difficulties as a result of the problems he had described. The World Bank was arranging a Donor Conference in Paris for the Maldives next month. He hoped that the UK would be well represented. The Maldives hoped for short term assistance. A substantial report on the Maldives problems had been prepared. He had given a copy to Lady Young earlier. The Prime Minister said that the UK would certainly take part in the Conference and hoped that it would be successful. The report would be studied closely. She understood that the small UK aid programme was proceeding smoothly. President Gayoom said that he hoped it would continue. He recognised that the Maldives had to help themselves. He was doing his best to mobilise domestic investment and to broaden the tax base. He had also phased out subsidies on foodstuffs. The Prime Minister commented that this was a courageous decision.

The Prime Minister then raised the wider point of the problem created by Islamic fundamentalism and particularly the dangerous situation caused by the conflict between Iran and Iraq and asked President Gayoom's views. President Gayoom said that Iran did not represent Islam. He was at a loss to say what could be done about the war between Iran and Iraq. He had taken part in earlier Islamic mediation efforts. But all attempts by the Islamic Conference as the non-aligned movement had led to nothing.

President Gayoom spoke warmly of Maldives relations with the UK. He had not requested an audience with The Queen since he was not on an official visit. But he would be grateful if the Prime Minister would convey to Her Majesty his deepest respects. The Prime Minister agreed to do so.

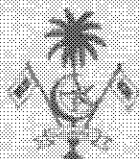
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Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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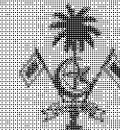


Opening Address by
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOOM
President of the Republic of Maldives

to the Conference on
"THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE SMALL STATES"
held by the Royal Commonwealth Society

LONDON, 19 JUNE 1984

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



*Mr. President Lord Trend, Mr. Chairman Sir Eric Norris,
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Fellows of the Royal
Commonwealth Society, Ladies and Gentlemen-*

I am very happy to be with you today; indeed, I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Council of the Royal Commonwealth Society for inviting me to deliver the Opening Address at this Conference on the Commonwealth and the Small States.

This being my very first Commonwealth engagement in London, I would also wish to convey to Her Majesty The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, the sincere greetings of the Government and people of the Republic of Maldives. We have had a long and honourable association with Britain, which has stood the test of time, and we regard

our membership of the Commonwealth as a happy continuation of that association.

Mr. Chairman, though the Maldives became a member of the Commonwealth only two years ago, we have been greatly encouraged by the spirit of mutuality and shared assumptions which is a prominent feature of its deliberations. Such an atmosphere of mutual concern and purpose justifies in good measure my country's decision to become a member state. It is our wish and intention to participate in Commonwealth activities as fully as circumstances permit. While the special membership status held by the Maldives does not permit it to attend the biennial meetings of Heads of Government, we closely observed the progress of its November 1983 Conference at New Delhi, and had good reason to take particular interest in member states' vigorous concern with events in Grenada of the previous month.

Consequently, the Government of the Maldives entertained a keen appreciation of that part of the 1983 Commonwealth communique which, with regard to Grenada, reaffirmed members' "commitment to the

principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and called for the strict observance of these principles".

Similarly did we welcome that part of the Goa Declaration on International Security which pronounced a notable concern at the "vulnerability of small states to external attack and interference in their affairs" and further expressed a "moral obligation to provide effectively for their territorial integrity". True to the very best traditions of the Commonwealth, such sentiments were given particular substance by the decision to request the Secretary-General to institute a study of the special needs of small states within the Commonwealth "consonant with the right to sovereignty and territorial integrity that they share with all nations." This is a study I at once wished to be associated with, being of the opinion that the Maldives, as one of the world's smallest island Republics, could make a positive contribution to. Accordingly, I wrote as such to Sir Shridath.

In the eight months which have elapsed since the invasion of Grenada, little has taken place to dispel the concern and apprehension we in the Maldives felt at the

beginning of the crisis. Indeed, to the contrary, the precarious nature of the times in which we all live, with the condition of the international community being one of tension and charged with violent potential, the situation the small states of the world contemplate is, put at its best, uncertain.

There is an ancient saying in neighbouring India which I will, with your kind permission, quote: "When the elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers". While elephants are not a feature of life on coral islands, the evident message of the quotation is not lost to us. Indeed, it contains an unyielding truth and one that states such as my own are obliged to constantly take into account.

Now I accept that in a world and at a time dominated by the military strengths of the Eastern and Western blocs, the affairs and expectations of the Third World are of secondary importance. That, while the super powers' monopoly on the control and manipulation of world events remains as it is the interests and destiny of small states is of no real significance, can only be given serious attention when in

some manner an interruption of grand designs takes place. The instance of Grenada is a clear example of this; indeed, may I suggest, proof of it. For it was only when the administration of the late Maurice Bishop was perceived to be conducting its affairs in a manner deemed incompatible with the vision of the Caribbean region held by the West, that it became subject to foreign military intimidation. These facts are now matters of established history and the conclusions to be drawn from them are very real and immediately apparent upon even the most cursory examination.

Even though the concern which was expressed at the deteriorating situation in Grenada by her island neighbours, following Maurice Bishop's assassination, was well understood and appreciated, the invasion was essentially based upon the dangerous precept that if one state does not particularly like the social and political climate prevailing in another it can carry out a military adventure. The British Prime Minister was quite correct and well justified when she condemned the invasion of Grenada in similar terms. She upheld a high and enduring principle - that of territorial integrity.

And of course we cannot ignore the fact, indeed it is pivotal to the whole debate, that the state invaded was a small island one, that it became subject to the hostile designs of others when the policies of its Government were deemed to be unacceptable. It is unfortunate in the extreme that the Commonwealth which by its very existence and endeavour emphasizes the principles of mutual respect, tolerance, understanding, co-operation and, perhaps most significantly of all, the principle of interdependence, could not have played a more effective role in the Grenada saga.

Grenada is yet another alarming manifestation of the increasing trend towards the use of force in settling international disputes, a trend that has grown in strength as a result of the apparent success of Israel, in spite of worldwide condemnation and relevant UN resolutions, in occupying and holding to territories in four neighbouring Arab countries after the so-called "Six-Day War". The use of force on many occasions such as this has constituted invasion by one state of another. Further afield there has been the invasion of Afghanistan and, further still, the invasion of war-torn Kampuchea. It is a practice that has now assumed a

fearful momentum of its own.

Where the Commonwealth is of considerable help is in its provision for co-operation for the social and economic development of member states. In this context, the very special problems relating to the development of small states have for some time been given particular consideration by the Organization, for which many have good cause to be grateful.

Mr. Chairman, given that small states together constitute half of the total membership of the Commonwealth, you will understand when I remark that I do not believe such a level of consideration to be inordinate, particularly during recent times when the rough winds of economic recession which blow so strongly over the landscape of industrial society reach hurricane force when they arrive on our shores and at our borders.

Indeed, and in not a few instances, the effects of the prolonged recession in the western world has played havoc with the economies of small states, which fragile at the best of times, have been unable to contain the situation and continue with vital development plans.

The Maldives has not, in company with so many others, been immune from the devastating effects of the recession; they have adversely effected our economy and, therefore, our ability to institute and carry out programmes of national development. In this respect, the widely held notion that many have of the island states as being remote and isolated "far from the pressures of contemporary living" is, in all terms practical, a fiction. While we could be so described in geographical terms, it is quite simply no longer true when related to the speed with which the effects of the conditions of the world beyond reach us.

The recession has, of course, caused the most intractable problems on industrial society. Of this we are well aware and indeed sympathetic to. But it is because so many problems of a political nature arise from economic decline that I believe it quite imperative for the Commonwealth, in the overall interests of stability and progress, to exercise its collective influence in international fora to achieve a greater awareness of the very special problems being experienced at this time by the primary producing small states which, again Mr. Chairman, comprise half of the Organization's

membership. To embark upon such a mission would be to be true to the highest ideals and purpose of the Commonwealth and, in hard practical terms, of ultimate economic benefit to both primary producing small states and the large industrial ones within its membership. It would be a most fitting example of the Commonwealth in action, from which we could all emerge greater in individual strength and greater collectively in our belief in the convictions and principles which bring us together.

The influence I call upon the Commonwealth to exercise is that which will lead to a re-structuring of those international trading and financial arrangements which at this time inhibit the economic development of small states. These states, more often than not, lack a variety of natural resources upon which a sound national economy can be constructed. Small states, by their very definition, have severely limited infrastructures around which a viable economy can be built. They possess equally limited means of protection at times of economic decline in the wider world.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, it should be apparent to all those committed to rational thought that it is only through greater equity in international trade that effective and durable development of the Commonwealth's small nations will be achieved. And it should be equally apparent that it is only economic development, and with it social advancement, which will obtain national progress and, consequently, a greater national strength which would undeniably be in everyone's interest. For without the generating of such national climates through a re-organization of the world's financial institutions, so many of the small states will continue to remain in the doubtful pastures of economic crises and, therefore, in potential instability.

The West often describes small island states as constituting 'paradise'. Though it is true that many small countries, including the Maldives, are richly endowed by God and nature, the gross over-working of such a description has a marked tendency to detract from the reality of our having many of the challenges which confront people and governments in the industrialized manufacturing nations. We too have to find employment for our people, provide them with

adequate health services and educational opportunities, improve our systems of communication and do so with not only severely limited resources, but at a time of prolonged international recession and in the face of quite often discriminatory trading and financial arrangements.

That is why urgent remedies are sought. If more Grenadas are to be avoided, the very best manner in which the long term security of the Commonwealth's small states can be obtained is to introduce without delay economic and trading reforms in the international market place which will in turn introduce economic justice and equity. For without such a remedy, the possibility that small states will look to measures to solve their economic and social ills, that would be regarded by others as extreme, remains very real.

Yet none of this need be so.

Indeed, such a possibility is clearly avoidable; reform is in the interests of the industrialized world every bit as much as it is in the interests of the small primary producing states.

There was a phrase very much in evidence a decade ago — "small is beautiful". In the uncertain times in which we all live, it is a phrase that, for the greater majority of us in the small states, is most effectively disguised. But with a concerted will and a practical application of the Commonwealth's founding ethics — mutuality and co-operation — as opposed to the unholy creed of enlightened self-interest and confrontation, it can again be said with truth and pride, "small is beautiful".

It would be for the Commonwealth a triumph of human will to take up the challenge of advocating a change of direction in the way the international community runs its affairs. And few organizations are so suited to help turn the world away from the concept of dependence and dominance to the reality of interdependence and the imperatives for change which this produces. It is a task the Commonwealth is well placed to assume, and it is my earnest hope and prayer that it will have both the courage and the initiative to take it up.

I have spoken with candour about what I see as the likely consequence of failure to institute economic reform. Let me now be equally candid about what I mean when I call, as I now do, for a new deal between the "Davids and Goliaths" of this world.

By 'interdependence' I essentially refer to the mutuality of interests of primary producing and industrial manufacturing societies. For it is an inescapable truth that the latter depends upon the raw materials - the natural resources of the former - as much as the former needs good reliable markets. The Maldives, for example, has vast reserves of fish of a quality which we are informed is remarkable. We have husbanded these stocks well and we seek markets with a return that will do justice to the product and will, thus, be equitable. Such reserves of fish as we have constitute our most valuable national asset - our greatest natural resource - and upon its successful marketing depends much of the future development of our Republic and its people.

When I refer to a re-structuring of the patterns of international trade, I imply a fairer return to those who

supply primary resources to industrialized society. I imply also a lowering of the tariff barriers which prohibit the sale in the industrialized countries of much which the primary producing countries have to sell.

The Lomé Convention, for example, will remain sadly short of its declared purpose if the 'rules of origin' are not radically amended. We look particularly to Britain, as a member of both the European Economic Community and the Commonwealth, to help the small nations of the Organization achieve this. Such an achievement would greatly assist us in the vital all important human task of economic and social development, and with it a fostering of a security based on an evident national progress in which all the people would share.

When I speak, Mr. Chairman, of 'mutuality' I mean just that. For if we can indeed prosper, if the standards of living in the small states are improved, then, and only then, will we be able to afford to purchase the manufactured goods industrial society has to sell in order to, itself, survive. If the principle of mutuality is difficult for some to grasp, basic self-interest provides

the means to making the matter simpler. In that context, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and irrespective of the priorities attending the larger nations of this world, we too matter.

Earlier I referred to the Commonwealth possibly playing a role of influence in the maintenance of the security of the small states. It is my belief, and which I have stated clearly here today, that the very best manner in which the Commonwealth can help small states to feel ultimately secure is for it to exert its influence in the wider councils of the world to ensure the means for our economic development. That in my considered opinion is the front line of battle, the point of rational departure for a journey which has to be embarked upon. Remove the threat and debilitating effects of poverty, and the first - the most important - battle will be won, and quite possibly, the war. It will never be enough, or indeed good enough, for the small states of the Commonwealth to be just well defended bastions of poverty.

However, Mr. Chairman, the security of our shores and borders presents quite the most desperate

problems. The Maldives is, yes, small, but our nation encompasses 1,200 coral islands spread over 90,000 square kilometres of open seas. The protection of our people in the far flung islands of our Republic, together with the policing of our waters - the safeguarding of our vital fishing grounds - is quite truly a task of staggering proportions.

It is an immediate problem and a very real one. During recent years we have had many instances of the illegal plundering of our fishing grounds. It is not just that such blatant acts of poaching, or to give the incidents their true and most effective definition - theft, piracy and systematic depletion of our most precious natural and national resource - but the attitude of mind behind it that is so disturbing. In many ways it is an echo of the past when the primitive concept that the strong could treat the vulnerable as personal reserves of plunder held humanity in its dubious thrall.

If there is anything of conviction and strength that I can say today in the name of the small states of the Commonwealth, it is this. The time when international pirates and mavericks could regard the small nations as

natural prey is at an end. And those who seek to engage in such unsavoury activities will certainly stand condemned at the bar of history. Yet, there are those who still have to learn this elementary lesson.

In the past decade there has been attempts at alien subversion in the independent Commonwealth nations of the Bahamas, on Abaco, Vanuatu, the Seychelles and of course there is the case of Grenada. And the Kingdom of Lesotho has suffered the gross injustice of military incursions into its territory of a particularly brutal nature by the armed forces of South Africa.

To such a sad sequence of events there has to be a response.

We, in the Maldives, have made our own modest material arrangements, but which we pray will never have to be put into action, for we are most essentially a peaceful and peace-loving people. Indeed, it is in such a spirit and in keeping with such principles that we have, as a Government and a people, long supported the implementation of the UN resolution that the Indian Ocean be declared a Zone of Peace. This is a clear statement and an equally clear intention of what we

seek to achieve in co-operation with our friends and neighbours in the region.

The demilitarization of the Indian Ocean is a goal we have yet to achieve, my Government is firm of purpose and will continue to pursue it through the currency of debate and discussion. However, it is much to be regretted that at the present time a stalemate exists as to the mechanics of achieving such a mutually desired aim, that of making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, free of all military activity. This is a circumstance that, as long as it continues to exist, prompts a greater urgency on formulating a collective strategy which would make for the security of the small island states.

Mr. Chairman, with all this in mind, the Government of the Maldives looks forward to contributing to the exercise envisaged at the New Delhi Summit. It is a most necessary endeavour and will, furthermore, be continuing evidence of the high ideals of the Commonwealth of which the Maldives is happy to be a member.

In opening this Conference, and wishing it well, I reaffirm my personal belief that it can make an important contribution to the solution of many of the problems and difficulties with which we in the small states are beset.

We in the Maldives have every confidence in the Commonwealth's endeavour and stand ready to play our full part, sure in the knowledge that the Organization will continue its progress, sustained by its past success and a vision of the future that, working together, we can achieve.

We joined the Organization in high optimism and good faith.

We hope that what the Commonwealth is able to achieve for small states will justify both our optimism and our faith.



PRIME MINISTER

Meeting with President Gayoom of the Maldives

He is coming at 2.30. He knows you have only half an hour. Suggest meet in White Drawing Room.

He will have dined with Commonwealth Secretary General and met ~~Sir Geoffrey Howe~~ ^{Lady Young}

Main purpose of his visit is to address Royal Commonwealth Society's Conference on "Small States in the Commonwealth". I shall try to get a text or an account tomorrow before he comes. A brief is attached. Sir William Harding will attend.

C.D.P.

19 June 1984

Meeting with President Gayoom
of the Maldives

Remember 1982 visit. Glad to have been able to send you a message when you passed through in January.

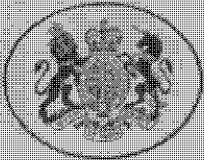
Understand you gave interesting and successful address on small states yesterday. Tell me how you see problems.

Prospects for meeting of Foreign Ministers of SARC in your capital in July?

Ready to take part in international discussion of your balance of payments problems.

Need to be very cautious about proposals for an Indian Ocean Zone of Peace.

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 June 1984

Dear Charles,

President Gayoom of the Maldives

Further to my letter of 18 June I understand that the Prime Minister has agreed to receive President Gayoom of the Maldives at 2.30 pm on Wednesday, 20 June.

I attach a brief in the form of Points to Make and Background for this meeting. This covers:

- (a) Maldives and bilateral relations;
- (b) Commonwealth issues;
- (c) South Asian Regional Cooperation;
- (d) Indian Ocean Peace Zone.

President Gayoom is likely to be accompanied to his call on the Prime Minister by Mr Salim of his Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sir W Harding will attend from our side.

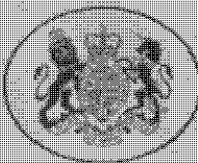
In view of the meeting of E(S) during the morning of 20 June, Sir Geoffrey has asked Lady Young to call on his behalf on the President during the morning.

Yours ever,
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 June 1984

mt

Prime Minister has agreed to see him at 16-30 on 20 June

C.D.P. 19/6.

Dear Charles,

President Gayoom of the Maldives

President Gayoom of the Maldives is visiting London privately from 18-21 June. The main purpose of his visit is to address the Royal Commonwealth Society's Conference on "Small States in the Commonwealth" on 19 June. President Gayoom has asked if it would be possible to call on the Prime Minister.

We consider there is a good case for the Prime Minister agreeing to see President Gayoom. The Maldives is one of the smallest and most recent members of the Commonwealth. It obtained independence from the United Kingdom in 1965, since when we have sought to encourage the Government to resist Soviet attempts to gain access to the ex-RAF facilities on the island of Gan. We have a small aid programme worth about £500,000 a year, but otherwise contacts between the two Governments lack substance. President Gayoom is attempting to modernise the Maldives and is keen to build up relations with other countries, in particular in the West. He visited the UK officially in 1982, when he had lunch with the Prime Minister and announced the Maldives' decision to join the Commonwealth. He passed through London on 15 January this year when the Prime Minister sent him a welcoming message.

During his present visit, President Gayoom will be dining with the Commonwealth Secretary-General on 19 June. Sir Geoffrey Howe plans to call on the President at his hotel on the morning of 20 June. From the point of view of the President's programme, the best time for a call on the Prime Minister would be on the afternoon of 20 June. I would be grateful if you could let me know whether the Prime Minister could offer a brief call at that time.

*Yr ever,
Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

PRESIDENT GAYOOM'S SPEECH ON 'THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE SMALL STATES',
ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY, LONDON 19 JUNE

MAIN POINTS

1. Particular interest in New Delhi CROGM discussion on Grenada and Commonwealth Study on Needs of Small States.
2. Super-powers ignore interests of small States.
3. Supported British condemnation of invasion of Grenada. Unfortunate Commonwealth did not play more significant role. Evidence of increasing use of force to settle international disputes.
4. Commonwealth could help by assisting social/economic development of small States threatened by recession. Maldives directly effected by latter. Need for greater awareness of problems of primary producing small States.
5. Call on Commonwealth to lead in restructuring international trading/financial arrangements. In particular lowering of tariff barriers. Main key to security for small States.
6. Attempts at 'alien subversion' of independent Commonwealth nations continues, eg Lesotho by South Africa. Implimentation of proposal for Indian Ocean Zone of Peace could help to remove such threats by demilitarising region.

CONFIDENTIAL

VISIT OF PRESIDENT GAYOOM OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
18-21 JUNE 1984

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Very pleased to welcome you back to London. Successful visit in 1982. Remembered with much pleasure.
2. Delighted that you were able to address Royal Commonwealth Society Conference. Important forum. Essential that all Commonwealth member states - including 'special members' - take active part in Commonwealth business.
3. Problems of small States subject of considerable interest and concern. UK views at preliminary stage. Believe best safeguards are regional co-operation, both political and economic. Arrangements such as SARC useful move in this direction. And domestic stability. UK contributing to latter by assisting economic development of small states. Welcome your views.
4. This and Consultative Group on international economic questions are important elements in wide range of valuable Commonwealth activities.

UK Aid

5. Glad we are assisting Maldives' economic development through our aid programme.
6. We are ready to take part in international discussion of Maldives' current balance of payments problems.

South Asian Regional Co-operation (SARC)

7. Noted developments with interest. How do you see the future? Particularly in field of transport, on which Maldives lead? What do you hope will emerge from meeting of Foreign Ministers in Male in July. (Summit likely

later in the year?).

Indian Ocean Zone of Peace (IOPZ) (if raised)

8. Urge caution over proposals for a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean.

9. Still no agreement on what an IOPZ would mean in practice. Views are as far apart as ever. Until we reach a greater measure of agreement, it is premature to set a date for a conference.

10. In considering proposals for an IOPZ we cannot ignore the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, and the present conflict in the Gulf.

11. We doubt that a conference on IOPZ would help to resolve conflicts in these areas; could prejudice the legitimate defence interests of other states.

12. If all states adhered to fundamental norms and principles of international law and behaviour the political and security situation in the Indian Ocean region would be greatly improved and the economic climate enhanced.

CONFIDENTIAL

ESSENTIAL FACTS

A. MALDIVES AND BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. The Maldives are an archipelago of about 20 coral atolls containing nearly 1,200 tiny islands scattered over an area 500 miles long by 80 miles wide in the Indian Ocean, some 400 miles south-west of Sri Lanka. Total land area about 115 square miles. Population in 1982 about 160,200, almost 100% Muslim.

Internal Situation

2. Britain exercised sovereignty from the 18th century until 1887, when the Maldives became a British protectorate. It achieved independence in 1965.

3. During the 1960s and early 1970s the Maldives remained a backwater, with little economic and social development. Modest changes began in 1972. Communications improved with the beginning of regular air services to Colombo, and tourism grew slowly. On succeeding to the Presidency in November 1978, Gayoom set out to transform the islands - in particular the outer islands - more thoroughly and more quickly. The former repressive regime was relaxed, and a large number of detainees released. President Gayoom was re-elected in October 1983 for a further five-year term.

Foreign Relations

4. The Maldives follows a policy of non-alignment, critical of super-power involvement in the Indian Ocean. A member of the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference. Joined the Commonwealth as a special member in July 1982. With other members of the Islamic Conference it has condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Few substantive ties with USSR which continues to show interest in the former RAF base at Gan despite Maldives' repeated insistence that no power will be allowed to use the military facilities on the island. Relations with India and Sri Lanka cordial but lack substance. Maldives active in the South Asian Regional

/Co-operation

Co-operation forum (see below). Particular attention is paid to Muslim countries, in particular the Arabs from whom Maldives receives most of its aid.

Economy and Trade

5. The Government's economic strategy emphasises an open economy and investment in areas where the country has natural advantages - fishing, tourism and shipping. Tourism is main foreign exchange earner. Fish and fish products make up 90% of exports.

Bilateral Relations

6. Britain's chief interest in Maldives is to deny the former RAF facilities at Gan and other benefits of the islands' strategic position to the USSR or other potentially hostile powers. We support Maldives robust assertion of non-alignment and continued development of relations with the West.

7. Relations with the Maldives have improved since President Gayoom came to power in 1978. In 1972 HM The Queen visited the Maldives but bilateral relations were clouded by the withdrawal of the RAF from Gan in 1976. President Gayoom paid a successful visit to Britain in May 1982 as a guest of HMG during which he called on the Prime Minister, lunched with Her Majesty The Queen and announced the Maldives' application for membership of the Commonwealth. The President passed through London in January when the Prime Minister sent him a short welcoming message.

9. Britain's exports to Maldives in 1982 were £615,000 and imports were £34,000.

UK Aid

10. The aid programme dates from the £3.3 million offer made to the Maldivians following the closure of the RAF facility at Gan in 1976. We have disbursed about £1.5 million of the offer, principally on an electrical generator for Male, fishing boat engines and an international airport /consultancy

consultancy.

11. We are currently considering Maldivian aid requests for 1984/85. These include a further generator for Male and more fishing boat engines (total cost about £300,000). Under technical co-operation we are continuing to support the international airport management consultancy and provide funds for UK and third country training.

12. The Maldives have recently made a request, endorsed by the World Bank, for a £25 million two year balance of payments assistance programme. It is not clear how the UK could effectively contribute to this programme, but we have agreed to meet the Maldivian officials this month and to attend a World Bank donors meeting if one is convened next month.

B. SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL CO-OPERATION (SARC)

13. The South Asia Regional Co-operation (SARC) forum originally proposed by Bangladesh in 1978, was launched at a Foreign Ministers meeting in Delhi in August 1983. It includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Broad objectives, include accelerated regional development, collective self-reliance mutual trust through greater collaboration, and co-operation in internal fora with other international and regional organisations.

14. Emphasis is on non-controversial and non-political subjects (eg exchange of agricultural and telecommunications data, workshops on alleviating rural poverty). All members appear agreed on desirability of achieving gradual progress without excessive institutionalisation. Still far too early for any comparison with ASEAN. A meeting of Foreign Ministers will take place in July in Male. A summit may follow.

C. COMMONWEALTH ISSUES

CHOGM: Security of Small States and Economic and Financial Institution Studies

15. Although not present at New Delhi CHOGM in November

1983, the Maldives is interested in decisions taken there. Heads of Government requested the Commonwealth Secretary General to undertake a study on the security of small states (on which the President addressed the Royal Commonwealth Society on 19 June), drawing as necessary on the resources and experiences of Commonwealth countries. We strongly support this initiative and have submitted an initial contribution to the study. There will also be a British representative in the Secretary General's advisory group. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons is also carrying out a study of the problems of small states, and the Department has submitted a memorandum, which will be published.

16. In his speech to the RCS meeting on 19 June, President Gayoom criticised the US invasion of Grenada and spoke in praise of the Prime Minister's attitude at that time. He spoke well on the link between economic and political security and praised the CHOGM initiatives. The economic system should be based on interdependence and mutuality. Small states should have an equal opportunity for development.

D. INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE

23. The Indian Ocean Zone of Peace (IOPZ) proposal dates from a resolution launched by Sri Lanka in 1971. We abstained in part because the exclusion of a Western military presence, especially in Gulf approaches, would harm UK interests. The US Naval Support Facility on Diego Garcia is a prime consideration for us and the US.

24. At last year's UN General Assembly the resolution on IOPZ inter alia called for the committee to make decisive efforts in 1984 to complete the preparatory work with a view to the opening of a conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in the first half of 1985. The United States have said they will only remain on the Committee if it proceeds on the basis of consensus. Their withdrawal would leave other Western participants, in particular the UK, more

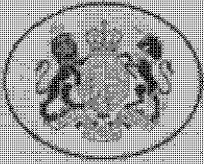
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CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

isolated in resisting progress towards a conference. However, this situation cannot last indefinitely and the Sri Lankan Chairman is actively trying to move matters forward.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 March, 1984

Dear John,

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f-a.

Letter from President of Maldives

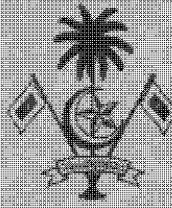
You will recall that President of the Maldives and Madame Gayoom passed through London briefly on Sunday 15 January on their way to the Islamic Summit Meeting in Casablanca. A short message from the Prime Minister was handed over to the President on arrival. The Maldivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have now asked us to forward the enclosed acknowledgement from President Gayoom to the Prime Minister. This does not call for a reply.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P. F. Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



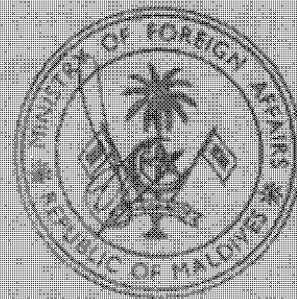
Reference: (D) WD-2-2/84/5

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives presents its compliments to the High Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Maldives and has the honour to forward herewith a closed cover from His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives addressed to Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Ministry would be grateful if the above mentioned cover is transmitted to its high destination.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the High Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Republic of Maldives.

MALE*, 20 FEBRUARY 1984

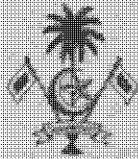


High Commission of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland
to the Republic of Maldives,

COLOMBO

nzm/aa.

SUBJECT *ce notes* *سنة القويم*
+
OM



PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Male',
16 February 1984

Her Excellency Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
United Kingdom.

PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T32A/84

My dear Prime Minister,

Your kind note which was passed to me during my all too brief visit to London on my way to Casablanca on January the 15th was very much appreciated; it was most kind of you to have written as you did and I am grateful for your good wishes.

It was a matter for my very real regret that it was not possible for us to meet on that occasion but I entertain a sincere hope that a further meeting between us will indeed take place in the not too distant future. I too recall with pleasure our meeting during my official visit to Great Britain in 1982.

With deep respects and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom



da

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 January 1984

Visit of President Gayoom of the Maldives

Thank you for your letter of 9 January.

I enclose a letter signed by the Prime Minister and should be grateful if you would arrange for its delivery to President Gayoom when he transits London on Sunday 15 January.

A.J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR

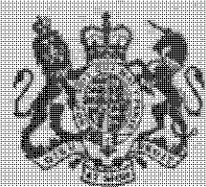
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10 DOWNING STREET

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THE PRIME MINISTER

11 January 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 7/84

Dear Mr. President,

I was pleased to hear of your brief visit to London on 15 January and sorry that it will not be possible for us to meet on this occasion. I recall with pleasure our meeting in May, 1982. I hope very much that you and your wife enjoy your short stay here and that we shall be able to meet again before too long.

Please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Staiter

His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom



10 DOWNING STREET

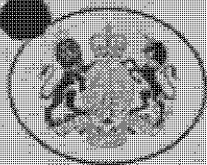
PRIME MINISTER

"Dear Mr. President"

The Accident of the Relatives
and his wife will pass through
London briefly on Sunday, 15
January. The Foreign Secretary will
send a special representative to
call on them. but it would be
nice if you could also sign the
letter.

A. J. C. 10/11.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 January 1984

Typ letter pl.

A-J.C. 9/11

Jan 10/84

Visit of President Gayoom of the Maldives

The Maldivian Government have informed us that President and Madame Gayoom will transit London on Sunday 15 January on their way to the fourth Islamic Summit Meeting in Morocco. We are arranging for a Special Representative of the Secretary of State to meet the party and bid farewell later that day and arrangements have been made for them to spend some hours at the Hyde Park Hotel in London.

President Gayoom is Head of State and Head of Government of the Maldives. He visited London as a Guest of HMG in May 1982 and had talks and lunch with Mrs Thatcher. The Prime Minister sent a message of congratulation to him in October 1983 on his re-election for a second 5-year term of office. The Maldives joined the Commonwealth in July 1982, but she did not attend the recent Delhi GHOCM.

The Maldivians have not asked for any official attention and, in view of Ministerial absences from London, it would in any case be difficult to arrange for a Minister to pay a courtesy call on him. President Gayoom would, however, greatly appreciate a short welcoming message. I enclose a suggested text, which - if the Prime Minister agrees - might be handed to the President on his arrival by the Special Representative.

Handwritten signature of R B Bone

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

Top Secret

His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
President of the Republic of Maldives

Secret

Copies to:

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

[Dear President Gayoom]

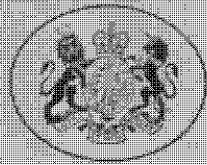
I was pleased to hear of your brief visit to London on 15 January and sorry that it will not be possible for us to meet on this occasion. I recall with ~~great~~ pleasure our meeting in May, 1982. I hope very much that you and your wife enjoy your short stay here and that we shall be able to meet again before too long.

Please accept my best wishes.

A.J.C. 1971

Enclosures—flag(s).....

A. J. C. 21/5



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 May 1982

MS

K.A.

AK 21/5

Dear John,

Visit to Britain by President Gayoom of the Republic of Maldives
10 - 15 May 1982

President Gayoom has asked our Acting High Commissioner in Colombo to convey the following message to the Prime Minister:

"For: The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, London.

18 May 1982

Your Excellency,

On returning home after my recent visit to the United Kingdom, I find it a pleasant duty to thank Your Excellency personally and Her Majesty's Government for all the courtesies extended to me and members of my delegation in Britain. The respect and cordiality shown to me by you, Madam Prime Minister, and other members of your Government is, no doubt, an expression of the goodwill and friendship felt by the people of the United Kingdom towards the people of my country.

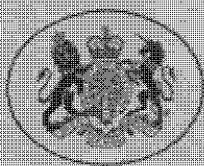
I must also thank you for the very keen interest you had shown in the welfare of my country and the considerable time you had spent with me to discuss matters of bilateral interest at a time of great difficulty for your Government.

I am sure that the talks we had will provide a sound basis for the further consolidation of the long-standing ties of friendship and co-operation between our two countries.

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives."

President Gayoom has also sent a message to the Queen.

/The Acting



The Acting High Commissioner has reported that when he called on the President and his party on their way through Colombo to Male he was impressed by the evident good-will generated by this visit. President Gayoom clearly regarded it as having been a great success.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER

UNCLASSIFIED
FM COLOMBO 190852Z MAY 1982
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 123 OF 19 MAY

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FSM 026/2	
RECEIVED BY REGISTRY NO. 31	
T1088/82	20 MAY 1982
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RIPT

1. TEXT OF MESSAGES READ AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

FOR: HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

18 MAY 1982

I WAS HIGHLY PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE HONOUR OF MEETING WITH YOUR MAJESTY IN BUCKINGHAM PALACE DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP SHOWN BY YOUR MAJESTY AND PRINCE PHILIP TO ME WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED WITH DEEP GRATITUDE. MAY I WISH YOUR MAJESTY GOOD HEALTH, A LONG LIFE AND PROSPERITY.

MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOOM, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES.

UNQUOTE

QUOTE

FOR: THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER, PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND LONDON.

18 MAY 1982

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

ON RETURNING HOME AFTER MY RECENT VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, I FIND IT A PLEASANT DUTY TO THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY PERSONALLY AND HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT FOR ALL THE COURTESIES EXTENDED TO ME AND MEMBERS OF MY DELEGATION IN BRITAIN. THE RESPECT AND CORDIALITY SHOWN TO ME BY YOU, MADAM PRIME MINISTER, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IS, NO DOUBT, AN EXPRESSION OF THE GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP FELT BY THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF MY COUNTRY.

I MUST ALSO THANK YOU FOR THE VERY KEEN INTEREST YOU HAD SHOWN IN THE WELFARE OF MY COUNTRY AND THE CONSIDERABLE TIME YOU HAD SPENT WITH ME TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF BILATERAL INTEREST AT A TIME OF GREAT DIFFICULTY FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT.

I AM SURE THAT THE TALKS WE HAD WILL PROVIDE A SOUND BASIS FOR THE FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF THE LONG STANDING TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOOM, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES.

UNQUOTE

THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED

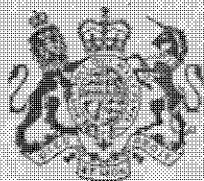
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COPIES TO:
MR V WATT GHP
SIR J NICHOLAS JOKONS
PCD

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CONFIDENTIAL



in folder
Maldives
file 16

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

10 May 1982

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALDIVES

President Gayoom called on the Prime Minister at noon today. He was accompanied by the Foreign Minister of the Maldives and by Miss Aneesa Ahmed. Sir John Nicholas was also present.

The conversation was relatively insubstantial. The main point of interest was the President's statement that the Maldives had decided that it wished to be affiliated to the Commonwealth. The matter had been considered very carefully and the conclusion had been reached that this move was in the country's best interests. They would be seeking special member status and he proposed to discuss the matter further with the Commonwealth Secretary General later today. The Prime Minister commented that this was a most welcome move. We had always hoped that the Maldives would take such a decision but had recognised that it was a matter for them. (Later, in his speech after the Prime Minister's luncheon, President Gayoom announced this decision).

There was also a brief discussion of the problem of the Falkland Islands during which President Gayoom stated that he supported our position. The Maldives supported UN Security Council Resolution 502 and hoped Argentine forces would withdraw so that peaceful negotiations could begin.

Otherwise, the bulk of the conversation was concerned with development prospects in the Maldives. President Gayoom described his ten-year master plan for tourist development. The Maldives had received about 50,000 tourists in 1981 and expected a 25 per cent increase this year. He also wanted to expand shipping activities - at present the Maldives shipping line had about 40 small ships, mainly operating from Singapore. Then, there were several projects in the field of fisheries development. In particular the IDA was financing a project for the installation of refrigeration plant and distribution of oil for mechanised vessels. The Asian Development Bank had studied a project to improve inter-island communications. The Bank had costed it at \$7 million but had then come up with only \$1 million in aid. The Maldives were now looking for help with the short-fall. The fishing industry had been much affected by a dramatic fall of nearly 50 per cent in the price of fish on the world market since last year. The Prime Minister enquired whether this was causing balance of payments problems. Mr. Jameel did not answer directly but said that the Maldives received some balance of payments assistance from OPEC - the IMF provided only minimal help.

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- 2 -

The President said he had received some assistance from Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi for airport development and that he also wished to develop agriculture and, in particular, to create a larger number of trained people for jobs throughout the economy.

Finally, President Gayoom estimated the current population at 160,000. The last census, in 1974, had produced a figure of 142,000. A further census would be held soon.

A. J. COLES

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John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

10 May 1981

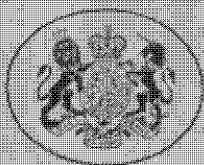
THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALDIVES

The Prime Minister gave the President of the Maldives a small Crown Derby bowl, value \$149.00 plus VAT.

CAROLINE STEWART

L.J. Attfield, Esq.,
Finance Officer, Management and Personnel Office,
Cabinet Office.

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 May 1982

Dear John,

Visit of President Gayoom of the Maldives: 10 - 15 May

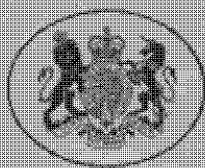
This is the first visit to the United Kingdom by a President of the Republic of Maldives. Our interest in the Maldives is to try to ensure that these strategically important islands, and notably the former RAF base at Gan, are not placed at the disposal of the Soviet Union or other potentially hostile countries. The visit is an exercise in public relations and our objective is to improve a relationship which has been cool since the disputes over compensation for the RAF's withdrawal from Gan in 1976. President Gayoom took the initiative to re-establish friendly relations and asked to visit UK. It is important to make him feel welcome, especially as arrangements for a visit last year had to be cancelled at short notice.

Apart from his talks and lunch with the Prime Minister on 10 May, President Gayoom's programme (attached) includes lunches given by The Queen and the Lord Mayor of London, a visit to Edinburgh, where he will meet Maldivian students of education, a visit to the ballet hosted by Mr Douglas Hurd and visits to the Royal Observatory at Herstmonceux and to Lords in furtherance of his personal interests in astronomy and cricket. Mr Pym will pay a courtesy call on the President on 11 May. Mr Marten will have talks with Foreign Minister Jameel on 11 May.

There is little of substance for discussion. We have tried to agree upon an agenda with the Maldivians. The Prime Minister will no doubt wish to explain our position on the Falklands crisis (which he will not have heard from us direct due to our lack of resident representation in the Maldives). She might then invite President Gayoom to explain his own concerns for his strategically-sited island state. This may lead to mention of Maldivian interest in the Commonwealth and to UK aid (on which detailed discussion can be left to talks between Foreign Minister Jameel and Mr Marten on 11 May). Finally, given President Gayoom's connections with Islamic countries, the Prime Minister might like to have an exchange on Arab/Israel and Afghanistan.

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/I enclose



I enclose briefing which reflects this structure. Since Maldives has no Embassy in London, Sir John Nicholas, our High Commissioner at Colombo and our Ambassador to Maldives will accompany the President throughout his visit. We suggest that he should attend the talks. I should be grateful for your confirmation that this is acceptable. Perhaps you would let me know whether the Prime Minister wishes other officials to attend. Mr Donald and/or the Head of South Asian Department would be free to do so. (Douglas Hurd, who visited the Maldives in January, will not be in London on 10 May.)

The President will be accompanied by his Foreign Minister, Mr Jameel, and possibly also Miss Ahmed.

President Gayoom's father, Sheik Abdul Gayoom Ibrahim, died on Friday 23 April aged 87, after a prolonged heart ailment, and was accorded a State Funeral the following day. It would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to make a suitable expression of condolence, possibly during the exchange of courtesies before the talks at No 10.

I also enclose some notes on which the Prime Minister may like to draw when proposing a toast to the President at the lunch.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

LUNCH FOR PRESIDENT GAYOOM OF THE MALDIVES
SPEECH NOTE

~~Mr. James~~ First visit by President of the Maldives -
sorry had to be postponed from last year.

Regret Mrs Gayoom could not in event accompany.

Welcome return of Mr Jameel (official visit in 1980)

→ ^{special} Britain's ~~long~~ association with the Maldives ended some
years ago. Hope visit will help strengthen ^{the} new relationship.

We recognise and support Maldives' non-alignment. ^{It is} On that
basis ^{we} wish to develop our friendship. [Pleased to help with
development programme. ^{We have recently agreed to certain new}
^{proposals covering electric power and harbor improvements.}

Glad that you are going to Edinburgh where you will meet the
Maldivian students there. Education is a special interest
of mine - and, I gather, yours.

~~Social and economic development has to be paid for. This is~~
~~a problem which, in different ways, is a preoccupation for~~
~~both of us. Am told that tourism is fast developing. Hope~~
Mr Elmes (association of British Travel Agents) and
Mr Davies (Thompson Holidays) will ensure that British
tourists are in the forefront.

You have a busy programme in week ahead. It will enable
you to see something of Britain and our way of life,
including our cricket. ↑

Toast to His Excellency the President of the Maldives and
to continuing friendship between Britain and the Maldives.

Britain has long
had a close
relationship with
the Maldives.
After the ending
of the protectorate
in 1965, we
continued to have
a close interest
through one of the
four airlines by
the Royal Air
Force. That
particular feature
of our relationship
also came to an
end in 1976.
But we want a
close friendship
with the modern
Republic of the
Maldives and
hope and believe
that the visit
will promote it.

VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES.
10 - 15 MAY 1982

A D M I N I S T R A T I O N P L A N

(to be read in conjunction with the programme attached)

MONDAY 10 MAY

ARRIVAL

When the aircraft has landed a representative of the British Airports Authority will escort the greeting party to the aircraft. The representative of the British Airports Authority will board the aircraft and accompany the President to the tarmac where he will present the following in order:-

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith
Special Representative of the Secretary of State

Sir John Nicholas
H M High Commissioner at Colombo

Lady Nicholas

Brigadier J A C Cowan
Secretary, Government Hospitality Fund

Group Captain R Thomson
Escort Officer, Government Hospitality Fund.

The party will proceed to the VIP suite.

Transport

Cars are provided throughout the period of the visit and plans are shown at Annex I.

Official Suites participation in the President's Programme

Talks with the Prime Minister

The following will be present:-

Maldives

Hon Fathulla Jameel
Miss Aneesa Ahmed

United Kingdom

Sir John Nicholas
Mr M St E Burton

Luncheon with the Prime Minister:

The following are also invited:-

Hon Fathulla Jameel
Miss Aneesa Ahmed

Visit to National Gallery

All members of the official suite will accompany the President.

Tuesday 11 May

Visit to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich and the old Royal Observatory Greenwich

All members of the official suite will accompany the President.

Luncheon with the Lord Mayor

The following are also invited:-

The Hon Fathulla Jameel
Miss Aneesa Ahmed

Sir John and Lady Nicholas
Group Captain Thomson

House of Commons - Prime Minister's Question Time

The following will accompany the President

Hon Fathulla Jameel
Mr Mohamed Hussain
Miss Aneesa Ahmed
Capt Abbas Ibrahim
Mr Abdul Muhaimin

Sir John and Lady Nicholas
Group Captain Thomson

Wreath-laying at Westminster Abbey

Mr Mohamed Hussain
Miss Aneesa Ahmed
Capt Abbas Ibrahim
Mr Abdul Muhaimin

Visit to the Cinema and Supper

All members of the official suite will accompany the President.

Wednesday 12 May

Luncheon with H M The Queen

The Hon Fathulla Jameel is also invited.

Visit to Edinburgh

All members of the official suite will accompany the President throughout the visit.

Thursday 13 May

Theatre/Supper

'The Sleeping Beauty'. The following are also invited:-

Hon Fathulla Jameel
Miss Aneesa Ahmed

Sir John Nicholas
Lady Nicholas
Group Captain Thomson

Friday 14 May

Visit to Tropical Products Institute and to the Royal Greenwich Observatory
Herstmonceaux Castle

All members of the official suite will accompany the President

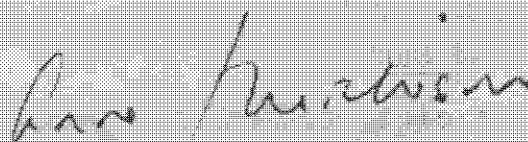
Saturday 15 May

Visit to the Marylebone Cricket Club and to the Luncheon

The following will accompany the President:-

Hon Fathulla Jameel
Mr Mohamed Hussain
Capt Abbas Ibrahim
Mr Abdul Muhaimin

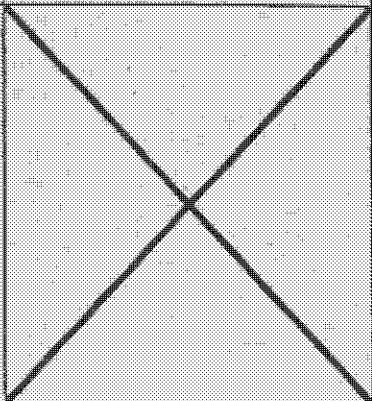
Sir John Nicholas
Group Captain R Thomson



6 May 1982

Miss Anne Hutchison
Visits Section
Protocol and Conference Department

A The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES <i>PRM 19</i> PIECE/ITEM <i>2771</i> (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details: <i>Attachment to Holmes to Coles dated 7 May 1982</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>4/11/2016 S. Gray</i>
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DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

Instructions for completion of Dummy Card

Use black or blue pen to complete form.

Use the card for one piece or for each extract removed from a different place within a piece.

Enter the department and series,
eg. HO 405, J 82.

Enter the piece and item references, .
eg. 28, 1079, 84/1, 107/3

Enter extract details if it is an extract rather than a whole piece.

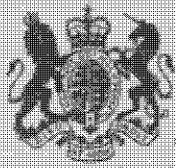
This should be an indication of what the extract is,
eg. Folio 28, Indictment 840079, E107, Letter dated 22/11/1995.
Do not enter details of why the extract is sensitive.

If closed under the FOI Act, enter the FOI exemption numbers applying to the closure, eg. 27(1), 40(2).

Sign and date next to the reason why the record is not available to the public ie. Closed under FOI exemption; Retained under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958; Temporarily retained; Missing at transfer or Number not used.

Noted
6/5

Miss Stephens



I understand that she is not now coming

10 DOWNING STREET

MISS PORTER

J.
6/5

Could you very kindly arrange to send some flowers to the wife of the President of the Maldives on Monday, 10 May. Ann Hutchison in Protocol at the FCO can supply you with any details.

es.

20 April, 1982

They are staying at Clarges; arriving 0645 on the 10th. She is called: -

Mrs Nasreena GAYOOM
NASREENA

Caroline

Let's do this

MR. COLES ✓

AM 12/4

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE MALDIVES:
MONDAY 10 MAY

1. He will be bringing a small present. Shall I have something available if necessary, such as six crystal tumblers?
2. The Foreign Office wondered whether we wanted to send flowers to his wife on arrival. I do not think we normally do this, except in special circumstances.

Agree that we should not send flowers?

ES.

19 April 1982

784

TOP COPY

32

CONFIDENTIAL

PM 026/1

35232 - 1

24

GRS 104

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO 041430Z NOVEMBER 1981

TO PRIORITY COLOMBO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 268 OF 4 NOVEMBER

YOUR TEL NO 368; VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF THE MALDIVES

1. WHEN YOU NEXT VISIT THE MALDIVES YOU SHOULD, UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION, CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT A FORMAL LETTER OF INVITATION ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

2. BEGINS

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INVITE YOUR EXCELLENCY AND MRS GAYOOM TO VISIT BRITAIN NEXT YEAR FROM 10 TO 14 MAY, 1982. THE PRIME MINISTER WISHES ME TO SAY THAT SHE GREATLY LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT AND TO MAKING YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

ENDS

CARRINGTON

NNNN

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NEWS DEPT

PS

PS/MR HURD

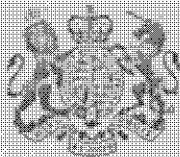
PS/PUS

SIR J GRAHAM

COPIES TO: / PRIVATE SECRETARY
MR WATT GHE/BUCKINGHAM
PALACE

1

CONFIDENTIAL



10 Downing Street

File

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

30 October 1981

MALDIVES: VISIT BY
PRESIDENT GAYOOM

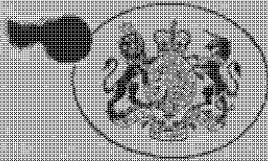
Thank you for your letter of 29 October. I can see no reason why the draft telegram which you enclosed should not be despatched.

M. O. A. ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

8

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 October 1981

Am Stephens:

*OK? yes cl.
And 29/10*

Dear Michael,

Maldives: Visit by President Gayoom

Your letter of 3 September to Michael Arthur in the Lord Privy Seal's Office conveyed the Prime Minister's agreement to an invitation to President Gayoom to visit Britain in 1982.

The High Commissioner in Colombo has approached the Government of the Maldives and has now reported that President and Mrs Gayoom accept the invitation and would like to visit Britain from 10 to 14 May 1982, which was the later of the two periods offered for the visit. You said in your letter of 3 September that the Prime Minister would be prepared to offer lunch on 10 May, preceded by a 45 minute talk.

We should like to instruct the High Commissioner to deliver a formal letter of invitation during his next visit to the Maldives on 8 November. If you see no objection we shall telegraph instructions on the lines of the enclosed draft. It would be helpful to have your reply by 5 November.

yours ever

Roderic Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

File No.

Department SAD

Drafted by
(Block Capitals) A. J. COLES

Tel. Extn 233 3191

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification CONFIDENTIAL
Precedence ROUTINE
DESKBY Z

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched

(Date)
(Time) Z

POSTBY Z

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.) CONFIDENTIAL (Caveat)

(Codeword) (Deskby) Z

TO ROUTINE (precedence) COLOMBO (post) Tel. No. of

AND TO (precedence/post)

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PS/Mr Hurd
PS/PUS
Sir John Graham

Copies to:-

Mr Watt GHF
Buckingham Palace

[TEXT]

YOUR TELNO 368: VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF THE MALDIVES

1. When you next visit the Maldives you should, unless you see objection, convey to the President a formal letter of invitation on the following lines:

2. BEGINS

On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to invite Your Excellency and Mrs Gayoom to visit Britain next year from 10 to 14 May, 1982. The Prime Minister wishes me to say that she greatly looks forward to your visit and to making your acquaintance.

ENDS

Carrington

CONFIDENTIAL

File

ds

Maldives

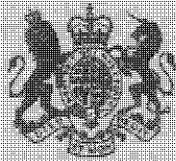
3 September 1981

Maldives : Visit by President Gayoom

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 10 August and has agreed that an invitation should be issued to President Gayoom to visit Britain next year as a guest of the Government. The Prime Minister would be prepared to offer President Gayoom lunch, preceded by a 45 minute talk on Wednesday 3 March. She would be prepared, as a fall-back, to make the same offer for Monday 10 May if the earlier date proves unacceptable to President Gayoom.

MODBA

Michael Arthur, Esq.,
Lord Privy Seal's Office,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



①

10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

This seems unlikely to be a very profitable use of your time.

You need offer him no more than lunch and 45 minutes talks. May I offer a choice of 3 March or 10 May, with a preference for the former since you already have a number of speeches in May?

yes *ms* *Paul*

1 September 1981

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Maldives

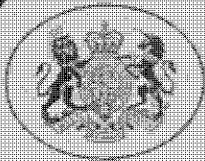
NOTE FOR THE FILE

VISIT OF PRESIDENT GAYOOM OF THE MALDIVES

I have got blocked out in the Prime Minister's diary, Wednesday, 3 March for talks and lunch or Monday 10 May for the same. The March date would suit the Prime Minister marginally better as May is going to be a terrible month for major speeches. Should the Prime Minister agree to receive the President it would be difficult for me to be flexible on these dates although he is going to be here for a day or two.

ep.

11 August 1981



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

TEMPORARILY RETAINED S. Lyng 1/11/2016

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 10 August 1981
 RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Dear Michael

MALDIVES : VISIT BY PRESIDENT GAYOOM

The President of the Maldives, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, has indicated to us, through his Foreign Minister, that he would like to visit Britain. After considering the foreign policy arguments, the Lord Privy Seal recommends that President Gayoom should be formally invited to visit Britain next year as a guest of the Government.

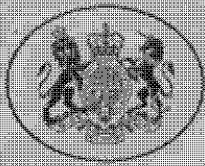
The Royal Visits Committee has recommended that he be invited in 1982.

Our principal interest in the Maldives is to ensure that they remain non-aligned and that an unfriendly power does not gain access to the former RAF facilities at Gan, in which there have been indications of Soviet interest. The President maintains that he has no intention of giving the Russians or any other great power facilities at Gan and plans to develop the area for tourism and as a trade zone. We believe he has resisted Soviet blandishments to a large extent, but the Maldivians did sign, in April 1980, an agreement with the Soviet Union providing for cooperation in communications, tourism and radio engineering.

Since coming to power in 1978, President Gayoom has shown interest in improving relations with Britain which had worsened following the decision to close the RAF base in March 1976. We have had no direct ministerial contact with him. The Maldivian Foreign Minister told Mr Hurd last autumn that the President would like to visit Britain. President Gayoom then proposed dates for a visit in May 1981 which were unfortunately inconvenient for HMG. No alternative dates could be found this year.

/Should

M O'D B Alexander Esq
 10 Downing Street



Should the Prime Minister agree to an invitation being sent to the Maldivian President, Sir I Gilmour would recommend that she hold a brief session of talks and give a lunch for him. I understand that this may be possible in the periods 1 to 5 March and 10 to 14 May when The Queen could also receive President Gayoom. Last year the President expressed a preference for a summer visit. It would therefore be helpful if we could offer the alternatives ie of March and May.

You will also wish to be aware, in considering this recommendation, that the Maldivians have shown some interest in joining the Commonwealth. They have had contacts with the Commonwealth Secretariat about the implications of membership. Our latest information is that no decision on whether to apply has been reached. Indeed, there is known to be opposition within the government of the Maldives. But it is not out of the question that a visit to Britain by the President would stimulate an application.

Yours ever

Michael Arthur

M A Arthur
Private Secretary to the
Lord Privy Seal

Grey Scale #13

C

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B

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Inches

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Centimetres

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Colour Chart #13

Blue

Cyan

Green

Yellow

