

OP 5

R. PREMADASA, M.P.  
Prime Minister



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 161 AA/82

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC  
OF  
SRI LANKA

Subjeewa  
Sutantha  
Pels May 79

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16th August, 1982.

Your Excellency,

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE HOMELESS.

I write to express my deep appreciation for the generous manner in which you personally and your country's delegation have responded to and supported the idea of the International Year. I am indeed grateful to you for the personal concern you have shown in the matter, and your own commitment to the cause of the homeless, will undoubtedly contribute to the eventual success of the International Year.

I am happy to inform you that further progress was made last month in July at the United Nations Economic and Social Council Meeting held in Geneva. The Economic and Social Council Meeting has very positively recommended to the forthcoming Session of the General Assembly that 1987 be declared as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

Both at the Geneva Meeting last month and at early discussions, it had been noted that certain country delegations had a misconception that the developed countries were being called upon to contribute large sums of money towards housing programmes and projects of a national character during the International Year. This is certainly not the intention as Your Excellency will doubtless appreciate. The primary purpose of the International Year is to focus the attention of the world community on the basic need for housing, and each country will undoubtedly finance housing for its people by mobilizing available resources at the national level. Also, wherever feasible resources available under bi-lateral and multi-lateral assistance will no doubt be made use of for programmes of housing in agreement with donor countries and multi-lateral agencies.

Under the programme for the International Year, certain expenditure will necessarily be required for such activities as secretarial services, preparation of information booklets, publicity material and provision of expert assistance by the UN Agencies for developing countries to mobilize national resources and initiate national programmes in keeping with

national needs and policies. It is expected that the provision of expert assistance would require a sum of US \$ 2.5 million. A further US \$ 3.5 million has been estimated for secretarial services, information and co-ordinative and allied expenses. The total requirement for the International Year in this regard is expected to be approximately US \$ 6 million.

As your Excellency would agree our objective for the realization of a successful International Year will be greatly enhanced if we could collectively at the time of the next Sessions of the General Assembly or before, announce on the basis of a pledge, the voluntary contribution that our countries intend to make towards meeting the estimated expenditure of approximately US \$ 6 million for the International Year.

I am confident that Your Excellency's Government will, in accordance with the enthusiastic support you have already given for the concept of the International Year, endorse that concern and commitment by an appropriate pledge for the above expenditure.

The Government of Sri Lanka and I personally would greatly appreciate your kind consideration of this request.

With the assurances of my highest consideration,

Yours sincerely,



Her Excellency The Rt. Hon Margaret Thatcher,  
Prime Minister,  
The United Kingdom of Gr. Britain & Northern Ireland.