

## பாராளுமன்ற விவாதங்கள்

(ஹன்சார்ட்)

அதிகார அறிக்கை

(பிழை திருத்தப்படாதது)

பிரதான உள்எடக்கம்

அரசு கழக இணையாள் உறுப்பினரும் பாராளுமன்ற அங்கத்தினரும்,  
பெரிய பிரித்தானியாவும் வட அயர்லாந்தும் இணைந்த ஐக்கிய  
இராச்சியத்தின் பிரதம அமைச்சருமான அதிகொளரவ மாகரட்  
தச்சர் அவர்களது உரை

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13th April 1985

## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

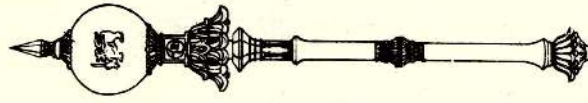
OFFICIAL REPORT

(Uncorrected)

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ADDRESS BY THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, FRs, MP,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND





# පාර්ලිමේන්තු විවාද

(හැන්සාඩ්)

## නිල වාර්තාව

(අශෝධිත පිටපත)

### අන්තර්ගත ප්‍රධාන කරුණු

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பார்க்லீமேன்ஷிப்  
பாராளுமன்றம்  
PARLIAMENT

1985 ஏப்ரல் 13 වන සෙනසුරාද

சனிக்கிழமை, 13 ஏப்ரல் 1985

Saturday, 13th April 1985

රාජකීය සංගමයේ අධිකාරී, පාර්ලිමේන්තු  
මන්ත්‍රී, මහා බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය හා උතුරු අයර්ලන්ත  
එක්සත් රාජධානියේ අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය, මහාමාත්‍ය මාගරට්  
තැවර් මැතිණියගේ දේශනය

அரசு கழக இணையாளர் உறுப்பினரும் பாராளுமன்ற  
அங்கத்தவரும் பெரிய பிரித்தானியாவும் வட அயர்லாந்தும்  
இணைந்த ஐக்கிய இராச்சியத்தின் பிரதம அமைச்சருமான  
அதிகௌரவ மாகரட் தச்சர் அவர்களது உரை

ADDRESS BY THE RT. HON. MARGARET  
THATCHER, FRs, MP, PRIME MINISTER OF  
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

ස. සා. 9.04 ට ගණපුරුණ සිතු කාද වී මන්ත්‍රීවරුන් පාර්ලිමේන්තු සභා ගෞරවය උසස්  
වූයෙන් -

மு. ப. 9 க்கு நிறைவேண்டி மணிகள் அடித்து அங்கத்தினர் பாராளுமன்றச்  
சபா மண்டபத்திற் கூடியதும் -

The Quorum Bells having been rung at 9. a.m., and Members  
having assembled in the Chamber of Parliament -

ස. සා. 9.04 ට කථානායකතුමා (ජ. එල්. ජෙනරායක මහතා) රාජකීය සංගමයේ  
අධිකාරී, පාර්ලිමේන්තු මන්ත්‍රී, මහා බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය හා උතුරු අයර්ලන්ත එක්සත්  
රාජධානියේ අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය, මහාමාත්‍ය මාගරට් තැවර් මැතිණිය සමඟ පාර්ලිමේන්තු සභා  
ගෞරවය ඇතුළු විය.

කථානායකතුමා මුලාසනාදායී විය.

මහාමාත්‍ය මාගරට් තැවර් මැතිණිය කථානායකතුමා අසලින් වූ අසුනෙහි  
වැඩි වුවා ය.

மு. ப. 9.04 க்கு, சபாநாயகர் அவர்கள் [திரு. எ. எல். ஜெனராயக்க] அரசு கழக  
இணையாளர் உறுப்பினரும் பாராளுமன்ற அங்கத்தவரும் பெரிய பிரித்தானியாவும் வட  
அயர்லாந்தும் இணைந்த ஐக்கிய இராச்சியத்தின் பிரதம அமைச்சருமான அதிகௌரவ  
மாகரட் தச்சர் அவர்களுடன் பாராளுமன்றச் சபா மண்டபத்துட் பிரவேசித்தார்கள்.

சபாநாயகர் அவர்கள் அக்கிராசனத்தயர்ந்தார்கள்.

அதிகௌரவ மாகரட் தச்சர் சபாநாயகர் மருங்கிலிருந்து ஆசனத்தயர்ந்தார்.

Mr. Speaker Mr. E. L. Senanayake with the Rt. Hon. Margaret  
Thatcher, FRs, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern Ireland, entered the Chamber  
at 9.04 a.m.

Mr Speaker took the Chair.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher took her seat beside Mr.  
Speaker.

කථානායකතුමා  
(சபாநாயகர் அவர்கள்)  
(Mr. Speaker)

Hon. Ministers, hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon.  
Members of Parliament, today it is my happy privilege  
to welcome to our House of Parliament the present  
ruling mother of the Mother of Parliaments, the Rt,  
Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the first lady Prime

Minister of the United Kingdom. Madam Prime  
Minister, in the long history of your country you have a  
long list of very distinguished Prime Ministers. Those of  
us who studied English History can remember reading  
about many of those great statesmen who guided the  
destinies of your great country. You, Madam Thatcher,  
have been elected for a second term of office as Prime  
Minister, the highest post to which one can be elected in  
your country. We greatly appreciate your visit and we  
are honoured by your presence here.

For the past several centuries your country has  
strived to preserve the democratic rights of the people.  
As far back as 1215, when you had a difficult king,  
King John, your barons and commoners cornered him in  
the battlefield of Runnymede and extracted from him  
the Magna Carta or Great Charter, the freedom of the  
people. Your Parliament did not hesitate to execute a  
king. That was in early 17th century when King Charles  
I tried to force his way into Parliament. He was tried  
and executed. Again, in mid 17th Century your  
Government and your people did not hesitate to depose  
the Catholic king, King James II. Therefore you have  
been a source of inspiration to all democracy-loving  
countries that have known the history of the great  
British Empire.

Madam Prime Minister, yesterday, at the  
inauguration of the great Victoria Project, our beloved  
President thanked you and through you your people and  
your Government for the great gift the greatest gift, of  
water that this country has ever received up to date. He  
also added that water is the most essential resource for  
the cultivation of food. Without food no nation can  
survive. There was an Army General in the past who  
said that an army cannot march on an empty stomach.  
So cannot a nation. Madam Prime Minister, today we  
see what is hapening in Africa - millions of children,  
women and men dying of starvation.

Looking back at the history of our country, you will  
note that our ancient kings from the 5th Century BC set  
as their main goal the feeding of the nation. Therefore,  
from about 300 BC all the great tanks that were built in  
Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa were built with this  
one main objective, to feed the people, which they did,  
Madam Prime Minister throughout nearly 2,300 years.

Then, with the invasions from the West, these  
irrigation systems fell into ruin. But in the early 1930s,  
when Mr. D. S. Senanayake of revered memory became  
Minister of Agriculture in this land, he started the  
restoration of these great tanks that had sustained the  
nation. Not only did he start it, he also started a new  
scheme which is known as the Gal Oya Scheme.

Continuing in the footsteps of our ancient ancestors  
and of previous governments, the present Government,  
under the leadership of His Excellency J. R.  
Jayewardene ably supported by the young Hon.  
Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli

[සමාකාශකතාව]

Development Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, launched a very ambitious scheme which culminated yesterday with the opening of the Victoria Dam. Madam Prime Minister, as was mentioned by the Hon. Minister of Mahaweli Development and His Excellency the President, the Victoria Dam will serve and sustain several hundreds of generations in the coming years.

In conclusion, may I say that according to the teachings of the Lord Buddha the greatest merit that a human being can acquire is by feeding the people so that their lives are sustained. Therefore, you and your Government become shareholders in this great meritorious act which culminated yesterday with your blessings.

I have great pleasure in calling upon you, Madam Prime Minister, to address this House.

මහමාන මාගරට තුටුපුරු මැතිණිය, රාජකීය සංගමයේ අධිකාරිය, සර්ලීමේතු මන්ත්‍රී, මහ මුනාන හා උතුරු අගර්ලන්ත එක්සත් රාජධානියේ අග්‍රමාන තුමිය

අතිශයෝග්‍ය මානව තේජ්‍ය අයුරු, අර්ථ කෘත ඉඩිනොයාණ්ඩු උනුටුපිනු, පාරාලුමණ්ණ උනුටුපිනු පෙරිය පිරිත්තානියාවුම වැඩ අයුරුමාත්තම ඉඩිනොත්ත ඉරාජියත්තිණ් පිරතම අමාමජ්ජරුම.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, FRS, MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, there are few privileges for a British Prime Minister to rival that of being invited to address the legislature of a fellow Commonwealth country. I thank you for the honour which you do me and, through me, the people and Parliament of the United Kingdom.

Over the years I have enjoyed many contacts with Members both of the Government and the Opposition in Sri Lanka. Last year we had the particular pleasure of receiving your President on a visit to London. I was pleased also to welcome your Prime Minister, Mr. Premadasa, whom I first met in 1975, and Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, the leader of the Opposition, when I see here today. It is for me a crowning of those contacts, stretching back over 30 years, and a fulfilment of a dream to be able to visit your country and speak to you in this Chamber.

Over 300 years ago, a sturdy British traveller, Peter Munday, wrote that Sri Lanka was "the fruitfulest, the most pleasant, and the most delicious island, that is in all these parts of the world." Even my brief visit has shown me enough to know how well this verdict still stands.

You are representatives of a country and a people with a long and proud history. The remains of an ancient civilisation are visible in many parts of your Island. Two thousand years ago your irrigation system far exceeded in scale and sophistication anything existing in Europe. That great chronicle, the

Mahavamsa, has passed down to us the story of you Island's development. Your history brought you into contact with Portugal, with the Netherlands and, finally, with Britain. It is a source of pride to us that today so many of your institutions and so much of your legal system are fashioned on those of the United Kingdom.

You were the first of the Asian countries associated with Britain to acquire a legislative council with non-official members. Thus, some 150 years ago, in 1833 began the tradition of representative, democratic government which continues today and which this splendid building symbolises. Thirty years later you were the first country in Asia to select those who were to govern your chief towns. And in 1931 you were the first country with British Administration to obtain universal adult suffrage. Democracy has deep roots here and I know you are committed to preserving them.

I welcome also your recognition of the universality of these principles. That was made explicit in your support for the Falkland Islanders after the Argentine invasion in 1982. Your support has made a deep and marked impression in Britain and we thank you for it.

Mr. Speaker, there is no more satisfying experience than to travel round the world breathing the air of freedom in different climates. My visits over these past few days to the flourishing and vibrant states of South East Asia and now to Sri Lanka have given me that experience. They have proved, too—if proof were needed—that democracy and economic freedom go hand in hand. There can be no more convincing demonstration of the success of that partnership than the amazing examples of economic growth which I have witnessed during my travels of the past week.

Democracy is the foundation on which enterprise can build and innovation flourish. I admire the bold policies to sustain an open economy which you are pursuing and which enjoy wide support. I recall the speech by your Prime Minister in which he said :

"We believe in the enterprise of free men and our economic policies are fashioned on this premise that the state should provide the opportunity and the framework through which man can earn his due reward through his own toil and labour."

We welcome your readiness to open your markets to productive investment. We respect the courage and resolve with which you have undertaken responsible policies of economic adjustment.

In 1977 you took the difficult decision to float the rupee. You relaxed trade restrictions. And you established the Greater Colombo Economic Commission to Develop Investment Protection Zones offering substantial attractions to foreign investors.

Like you, we in Britain are seeking growth through relaxation of Government controls, through the stimulation provided by market forces, by reducing the role of the State in the lives of individuals.

We admire too the ambitious development objectives which you have set yourselves: the harnessing of the Mahaweli Ganga for the development of new agricultural lands and hydroelectric power; the imaginative programmes, with which I know your Prime Minister is particularly associated, to improve urban and rural housing, in particular through self help and direct popular participation.

We in Britain also recognise our duty to help. First we accept that we must keep our markets open to your trade despite the difficulties in which this can often place some sectors of our economy. I believe our record is a good one. The British market is open to the world. 80 per cent of our imported goods enter duty free. Less than 7 per cent are subject the non-tariff restraints.

During my recent visit to the United States, I urged the Congress of that great country to resist pressures for protectionist measures and recalled that we could not preach economic adjustment for the developing countries while refusing to practise it at home. That is why we support moves for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations in the GATT: the momentum of trade liberalisation must be sustained and extended into new fields.

I have heard it said that the developing countries do not want a new Round because there would be nothing in it for them. Mr. Speaker, I profoundly disagree. A new Round must address the major preoccupations of all the members of the GATT. I hope the developing countries will say clearly which items they want to pursue. Like the previous Rounds of negotiations which have done so much to free world trade and spread prosperity, a new Round must be a process of give and take. We are ready for some "giving" as well as some "taking" as part of a balanced outcome.

Secondly, it is our duty to help. We in Britain are particularly proud of our AID programme. Since 1977 it has helped Sri Lanka to the tune of over £150 million. As you mentioned, Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was at the inauguration of the Victoria Dam which lies at the heart of the great Mahaweli Scheme. Seven centuries ago, a Sri Lankan king, Parakramabahu, said no drop of water should be allowed to reach the ocean without profiting man. The Victoria Dam is the expression in concrete and steel of that idea. Not only is it a construction which will bring vast benefits to your farmers, it is also a monument to our people's concern for the future well-being of Sri Lanka and to the ability of British Firms to contribute to the development of your economy. Our contribution of over £100 million is clear proof of our belief in the potential of your

economy. It is particularly rewarding that Britons and Sri Lankans have worked side by side to achieve this bold and enduring development.

I am delighted to announce today that my government has decided to offer Sri Lanka further aid of £20 million. This grant will be used over the coming years to strengthen Sri Lanka's economy for the benefit of all your people. I am also happy to say that Britain will provide special aid to the Save the Children Fund to help those who have suffered from your recent troubles.

Sri Lanka has long been a warm and sincere friend of Britain. There is much that unites us. Our common commitment to an equitable and just system of law helps underpin the democracy our peoples enjoy. These traditions must be maintained, whatever the difficulties and stresses that sometimes confront our societies.

We, like you, enjoy the cut and thrust of debate whether in the law courts or in Parliament. This shared tradition of peaceful rivalry extends to cricket. We have paid dearly on the pitch for your new-won Test Match status, but it was as welcome to me as I am sure it was to Mr. Dissanayake.

The English Language itself provides another bond. Your President has suggested that English should be given the status of an official language in Sri Lanka. The British Council, which is celebrating its fifth year in your Island, is delighted to help by expanding its English teaching programme at your President's express request.

We are linked, too, through the Commonwealth and what Harold MacMillan called, during his visit here in 1958, "The Golden Thread of Tradition binding its Members". Central to that tradition is our shared commitment to democracy. Mr. Speaker, Democratic values cannot be taken for granted.

Both our countries have been the victims of terrorist violence, the virulent disease which afflicts so many countries today. So I can sympathise with your efforts to combat terrorism here in Sri Lanka. A firm response to those who use violence, who try to achieve with the bullet what they cannot do through the ballot, is vital.

Freedom, Mr. Speaker, means more than freedom just to argue and disagree. If it were only that, we should have neither stability, nor nationhood, nor justice, nor progress. Freedom carries with it a responsibility to assert and champion those great values that are the sinews of parliamentary democracy and which enable us to live in harmony with one another.

But Governments must stand ready to work with those in minority communities who are willing to argue their cause peacefully and democratically.

I followed the All-Party Conference last year with close attention. I shared the widespread regret in your country that it was unable to reach agreement on the basis of the proposals made by your President.

[ මහමාන මාගරට තැවර මැතිණිය ]

I firmly believe that the complex problems that arise between communities can only be settled through consultation and reconciliation. Democracy depends on the resolution of issues. However difficult, through debate and recognition of the interests of all those involved. In democracy all have a right to be heard, but then fair decisions have to be made and upheld.

I am glad to have been given an opportunity during my brief visit to meet representatives of all the parties and of your many communities. I believe I now understand more clearly the problems which confront you and those whom you represent.

Mr. Speaker, co-operation between neighbours through regional organisations and associations has an ever greater contribution to make to stability and to economic progress. That has been our experience in Europe despite many difficulties. I admire the imaginative effort which has brought together your country and the six other members of the South Asian Regional Co-operation Forum, which I understand is to meet at Heads of Government level later this year. We wish you well.

Mr. Speaker, that same spirit of good neighbourliness is needed in greater measure than ever if we are to secure a more stable world in which individual countries can concentrate on their development free from the fear of conflict.

You here in Sri Lanka, no less than we in Britain, have an interest in efforts to reduce tension between East and West. In today's world no country can insulate itself entirely from the consequences of the competition between East and West, between tyranny and democracy. It is up to every democratic country to decide how it can effectively contribute to the defence of freedom and justice and to helping those who know neither to achieve them. For some, like Britain, it is by joining an alliance of like-minded nations. For others it can be through speaking up at the United Nations and other international organisations for those principles. This Sri Lanka does in ample measure and we, your friends, are grateful for it. Your President yesterday said that he wanted peace. So do I. But not peace at any price, not peace by sacrificing freedom and justice and everything which contributes to the dignity of man.

In the past few months before coming to speak to you, I have held two long meetings, with Britain's great friend and ally, President Reagan, and another meeting with the new leader of the Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev. The United States and the Soviet Union are now meeting in Geneva in an effort to reach agreement on the reduction of nuclear weapons and the consequent reduction of the burden of expenditure on arms, thus freeing more resources for the well-being of their people. It will be a long process and a difficult one.

We should not expect any early results. I know from my talks that both leaders are convinced that another world war, nuclear or conventional, must never take place. I believe, too, that a basis could be found to assure the security of both sides at a lower level of armaments.

But we must guard against facile assumptions that nuclear weapons are uniquely evil and threatening. Deterrence based upon them *has* worked for the last forty years and they have played an important part in maintaining peace in Europe. Nor must we assume that a world without nuclear weapons would be more peaceful. After all, conventional wars have killed 10 million people throughout the world since 1949.

Mr. Speaker, here in your Parliament much is familiar to a visitor from Westminster. It is this sense of familiarity and of ready understanding which is fundamental to the trust and friendship between us. It therefore gives me great pleasure, as one Parliamentarian to another, to bring you the greetings of the British Parliament at Westminster, so distant yet so close in spirit. We salute you as one democracy to another. We look forward with you to a future in which a united Sri Lanka grows steadily in peace and prosperity, with your many peoples living together in harmony.

President Jayewardene during his visit to London last year quoted movingly from Shakespeare's Hamlet: "Those friends thou hast and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel". Those present will never forget the way he said it; he struck a chord in our hearts, for emotions are always deeper than thoughts. It is my earnest hope that my visit has placed another hoop of steel around the special friendship between Britain and Sri Lanka.

May I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the privilege of addressing the Parliament of Sri Lanka, the Parliament of a free people.

කථනායකතුමා

(சபாநாயகர் அவர்கள்)

(Mr. Speaker)

Hon. Leader of the House.

මොන්ටේගු ජයවික්‍රම මහතා (රාජ්‍ය පරිපාලන ඇමතිතුමා, වැවිලි කර්මාන්ත ඇමතිතුමා සහ වැඩබලන පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ සභානායකතුමා)

(திரு. மொண்டேகு ஜயவிக்ரம—பொது நிர்வாக அமைச்சரும் பெருந் தோட்டத்தொழில் அமைச்சரும் பதில் சபை முதல்வரும்)

(Mr. Montague Jayawickrema—Minister of Public Administration, Minister of Plantation Industries and acting leader of the House of Parliament)

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to make a speech thanking the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for coming here and addressing this august Assembly.

Madam Prime Minister, I think I can quite safely say that you have overwhelmed us with your charm and grace. You have just announced that you have decided to endow this country with a further sum of



£ 20 million. I have not the slightest doubt that my Colleague the Hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, and my Colleague the Hon. Minister of Lands and Land Development and Minister of Mahaweli Development, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, must be very happy on this occasion. Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, your speech, has been most rewarding and we listened to it with great attention, and as the first lady Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. It was indeed a privilege to listen to you.

Madam Prime Minister, I have been asked by the Hon. R. Premadasa, Prime Minister of this country and Leader of this House, to tell you how sorry he was at not being able to be here today to welcome you and to listen to you. He tried his utmost to change his itinerary, but as you are aware, Madam Prime Minister, he was unable to do so because of the varied engagements he had on particular days during his visit abroad. He particularly told me before he left, "Please do not forget to tell the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher how sorry I am for not being able to greet her in this august Assembly."

Madam Prime Minister, it has been a great source of satisfaction to us that you have been able to accept the invitation of the Hon. Speaker, and as he himself said in his speech, we are happy that you are with us today.

Hon. R. Premadasa also told me of the opportunity he had of meeting you on his way to Lusaka and how happy and grateful he was when you sent him a note that you were confirming the grant of £ 100 million. This is a great gesture on your part. Sri Lanka and Great Britain have been friends for over 200 years, but may I tell you, Madam, that our friendship and attachment increased twofold after we gained Independence. We became equal partners with you and we became members of the Commonwealth, and this great attachment and equal partnership sealed the friendship and fraternity between your great country and ours.

We cannot forget the pioneers of our country. In my political life when I meet your people in this country I am fully aware of the great interest they take in helping our country in its evolution of progress. And we have not the slightest doubt that if we progress in this manner, maybe in another 15 years we shall be a developed country. We hope that it would be so, and we have no doubt that our people are patriotic and dedicated enough to do all they can to help us follow this path of progress.

Madam Prime Minister, I need not tell you about the political background of our country. Britain has a very long tradition of Parliamentary Government, and in this

respect it has been a model to us as well as to many other nations in the world. It has in fact been a guiding light to the democracies. In Parliament we have an institution common to both countries which is sovereign, deriving its strength from the will of the people. You have inherited this system, refined and improved over the years as a result of the efforts of a large number of great leaders of your country. Your history records the many struggles of the people to establish such an institution of Government which enjoys freedom of speech and expression reflecting the same freedom which our people enjoy.

The Government of our President, His Excellency J. R. Jayewardene, himself a staunch upholder of the democratic way of life, follows the same noble traditions and accords supremacy of position to the will of the people which has reposed confidence in him in no uncertain measure.

We have in Sri Lanka a literacy rate of nearly 90 per cent and an alert and intelligent electorate, every person in Sri Lanka above the age of 18 years, male or female, has the right to vote, and we consider it a matter of pride that over 80 per cent of the voters exercise their franchise and cast their votes at the polls. It is on such a stable foundation that our democracy rests under the enlightened leadership of a great statesman, His Excellency J. R. Jayewardene.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely happy that I have had the opportunity of making this speech of thanks on the occasion of the Address to our Parliament by one of the most distinguished and outstanding Prime Ministers of modern times.

I have not the slightest doubt, Madam Prime Minister, that with your ability, your charm and the interest you take in democracy itself and the people of your country, you are heading for another term. I hope that you will go from strength to strength in helping to bring to your countrymen an era of prosperity and happiness.

Madam Prime Minister, each one of us seated here, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, we ourselves and other hon. Members, is the mirror of the electorate. Each one of us is also the mirror of the country. Therefore, let me quote in conclusion the sonnet of Robert Burns :

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us  
To see oursels as ithers see us !"

කථනායකතුමා  
(சபாநாயகர் அவர்கள்)  
(Mr. Speaker)

Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

අනුර බණ්ඩාරනායක මහතා (විරුද්ධ පාර්ශ්වයේ නායකයා)

(திரு. அனூர் பண்டாரநாயக்க — எதிர்க்கட்சி முதலவர்)

(Mr. Anura Bandaranaike—(Leader of the Opposition)

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that we on this side of the House share the sentiments of President Jayewardene's Government. Today, however, I rise to endorse the sentiments expressed by the Acting Leader of the House in appreciation of the Address by the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The Address by Madam Prime Minister reminds us of the value of many traditions which illumine the political landscape of her great nation. Many of these traditions of value are liberties which the British people have developed for themselves and protected over long periods of time, through the passage of several centuries—the democratic framework of political intercourse, the freedom of expression, the right to dissent with confidence and without penalty, the multi-party structure of the state, and the process of impartial judicial review. We, in Sri Lanka, share these aspirations many of which are lodged in our own past. We should never allow them to perish.

One of your distinguished predecessors, Benjamin Disraeli, observed that power is a trust and that those who exercise it are accountable to the people. The British Nation informs history that liberties abridged are liberties denied. The heritage of your great nation illustrates that democracy is not a commodity which can be manipulated or adjusted to suit the interests of a single political party. This is a message for all peoples, a message to which we must harken.

Madam Prime Minister has mentioned the long association between Britain and Sri Lanka. It is a linkage both controversial and collaborative. Our ties were born from the infamy of colonialism and we are uncomfortable participants in that sad heritage. Yet, the bondage of the past has been closely yoked to an enduring friendship. Our own traditions sustained by the philosophy of Gautama Buddha enjoin us to resist without hatred and to live by the ethic of *Mettha* and *Karuna*. The British sense of fairplay and elemental justice has transcended the imperial experience and engendered a commitment to firm friendship between our two nations. Britain's goodwill has been underwritten by contributions to our development. We have moved from reluctant affiliation in empire into partnership in the Commonwealth of Nations and the global community. This is a progression which dignifies both our nations.

Mr. Speaker, we often dissent with the policies of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and her Government. I recall that fourteen years ago, as an undergraduate reading history at the University of London, I demonstrated vigorously against the programme of the then Minister of Education, the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. This does not in any

way preclude me or my party from extending a warm welcome to the twice freely elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the holder of an office which embraces traditions of almost three centuries.

Madam Prime Minister, another reason why we welcome you is that your nation has evolved over several centuries a generous and balanced system of democracy where governments are elected and rejected by the full and free choice of the people. Unfortunately, amongst some who currently oppose your visit to Sri Lanka are those whose instructions received from foreign lands do not permit them to believe that governments must be freely elected by the people. For our part, we remain committed to the egalitarian ideas and the ideologies of S. W. R. D. and Sirimavo Bandaranaike, precepts which have guided our nation for 15 of our 37 years of independence and are founded on the notion that human compassion must be the well spring from which public policy flows. We believe that human considerations must always precede economic criteria as the measurement of national progress. Yet, because we are affirmed in democracy, we recognise and understand the motivations that inspire those of other philosophies. And ultimately we join the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in her belief that political legitimacy can only derive from regular exercise of the people's choice.

Mr. Speaker, today it is not enough to talk about policy. We must also recognise personality. In her long march from Grantham to Whitehall, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom has amply demonstrated that talent and capability can prevail against the tyranny of tradition. Her ascent from professional life to political life, through a pioneering trail as the first woman leader of the Conservative Party and the first woman Leader of the Opposition, prepared her to be the first woman Prime Minister of a major Western power, although we in Sri Lanka were two decades ahead in this process. Mrs. Thatcher's experience asserts the principle for which all enlightened persons stand: that opportunity in public life must be available to anyone of ability and endeavour. Today we are a nation beset with daunting problems. As we try to contend with our difficulties, there is some inspiration we can extract from the British experience. Among those is courage, which you, Madam Prime Minister, demonstrated in the face of senseless terrorism only some months ago. The peace-loving people of Sri Lanka have become victims of similar acts of meaningless violence and terror. Britain's resolution in conflict and their magnanimity in the resolution of conflict are lessons which our people have observed and appreciated. Perhaps, Sir, the fact that we address you in the English language illustrates that the better legacies of Britain touch the hearts and minds of people everywhere.

At the dawn of our nationhood thirty seven years ago, our first Parliament met in its second session to receive a message from another Government of the United Kingdom. On that occasion the then Leader of the House, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, commended the high sense of realism which induced the British people to part with power voluntarily. In doing so he proclaimed a charter to make freedom meaningful. I quote :

"We cannot allow our newly regained freedom to run the risk of remaining merely a theoretical concept . . . . We must see that it quickens into a life of greater happiness and prosperity for us all. Political freedom comes alive only when it is utilized to achieve other freedoms : freedom from poverty, freedom from disease, freedom from oppression and freedom from fear."

We have tried to be true to this promise. Sometimes we have progressed. Sometimes we have failed. But at all times we are conscious that Britain has been a steadfast ally and a helpful friend. Today, Mr. Speaker, the presence and the words of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom remind us of both affinities that we share and the cordiality with which we can differ. Such congeniality, consistent through many administrations, is rare in the history of relations between two nations.

This, Mr. Speaker, is why I now formally endorse the speech of thanks of the Leader of the House and express our appreciation to the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher for her presence.

கட்டுவீடு

ஒத்திவைப்பு

ADJOURNMENT

மொன்டேகு சயவிக்ரெம்  
(திரு. மொன்டேகு ஜயவிக்ரம்)  
(Mr. Montague Jayawickrema)

I move,

"That the Parliament do now adjourn."

புத்தக விவாத டிஜி. டி. கமிட்டி வி.  
வினா விடுக்கப்பெற்று ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளப்பட்டது.  
Question put, and agreed to.

தாபீர்தீர்த்துவிட்டு 9.53 மணிக்கு 25  
வது மார்ச்சு 1985 ஏப்ரல் 25

அதன்படி, மு. ப. 9.53 க்கு பாராளுமன்றம், 1985 ஏப்ரல் 25  
வியாழக்கிழமை மு. ப. 10 மணிவரை ஒத்திவைக்கப்பட்டது.

Adjourned accordingly at 9.53 a.m. until 10 a.m.  
on Thursday, 25th April 1985.



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மேலே வரிசை அமைந்திருக்கின்ற சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர் களின் கருத்துக்கள் கீழ்க்கண்டவாறு  
புதுச்சேரி மன்றம் உறுப்பினர் களின் கருத்துக்கள்

1985 ஏப்ரல் 29 வது நாள்

சென்னை மன்றம் உறுப்பினர் களின் கருத்துக்கள்

குறிப்பு

அங்கத்தினர் கள் இறுதிப் பதிப்பிற் செய்யவிரும்பும் பிழை திருத்தங்களை அறிக்கையிற்றொளிவாகக் குறித்து  
பிழை திருத்தங்களைக் கொண்ட பிரதியை ஹன்சார்ட் பதிப்பாளியருக்கு

1985 ஏப்ரல் 29, திங்கட்கிழமைக்குப் பிந்தாமற்

கிடைக்கக்கூடியதாக அனுப்புதல் வேண்டும்.

NOTE

Corrections which Members suggest for the Final Print should be clearly marked in this Report and the *copy containing the corrections must reach* the Editor of HANSARD

not later than

Monday, 29th April 1985

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on 13.04.1985

Final set of manuscripts  
received from Parliament : 5.40 p.m. on 16.04.1985

Printed copies despatched : 17.04.1985 morning

**දයක මුදල් :** පාර්ලිමේන්තු විවාද වාර්තාවල වාර්ෂික දයක මිල රු. 200/- කි. (අශෝඛිත පිටපත් සඳහා නම් රු. 175/- කි). පිටපතක් ගෙන්වා ගැනීම අවශ්‍ය නම් ගාස්තුව රු. 2.50 කි. තැපැල් ගාස්තුව ශත 90 කි. කොළඹ 1, තැ. පෙ. 500, රජයේ ප්‍රකාශන කාර්යාංශයේ අධිකාරී වෙත සෑම වර්ෂයකම නොවැම්බර් 30 දින ප්‍රථම දයක මුදල් ගෙවා ඉදිරි වර්ෂයේ දයකත්වය ලබාගෙන විවාද වාර්තා ලබාගත හැකිය. නියමිත දිනෙන් පසුව එවනු ලබන දයක ඉල්ලුම්පත් භාරගනු නොලැබේ.

සந்தා : ඉන්සාඩ් අතිකාර අභිකෘතියின் வருடாந்த சந்தா ரூபா 200/- (கிருத்தப்படாத பிரதிகள் ரூபா 175/-) ஹன்சாட் தனிப்பிரதி ரூபா 2.50. தபாற் செலவு 90 சதம். வருடாந்த சந்தா முற்பணமாக அத்தியட்சர், அரசாங்க வெளியிட்டலுவலகம். த. பெ. இல. 500, கொழும்பு 1 என்ற விலாசத்திற்கு அனுப்பி பிரதிகளைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளலாம். ஒவ்வோராண்டும் நவம்பர் 30 ன் தேதிக்குமுன் சந்தாப் பணம் அனுப்பப்படவேண்டும். பிந்திக் கிடைக்கும் சந்தா விண்ணப்பங்கள் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்படமாட்டா.

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