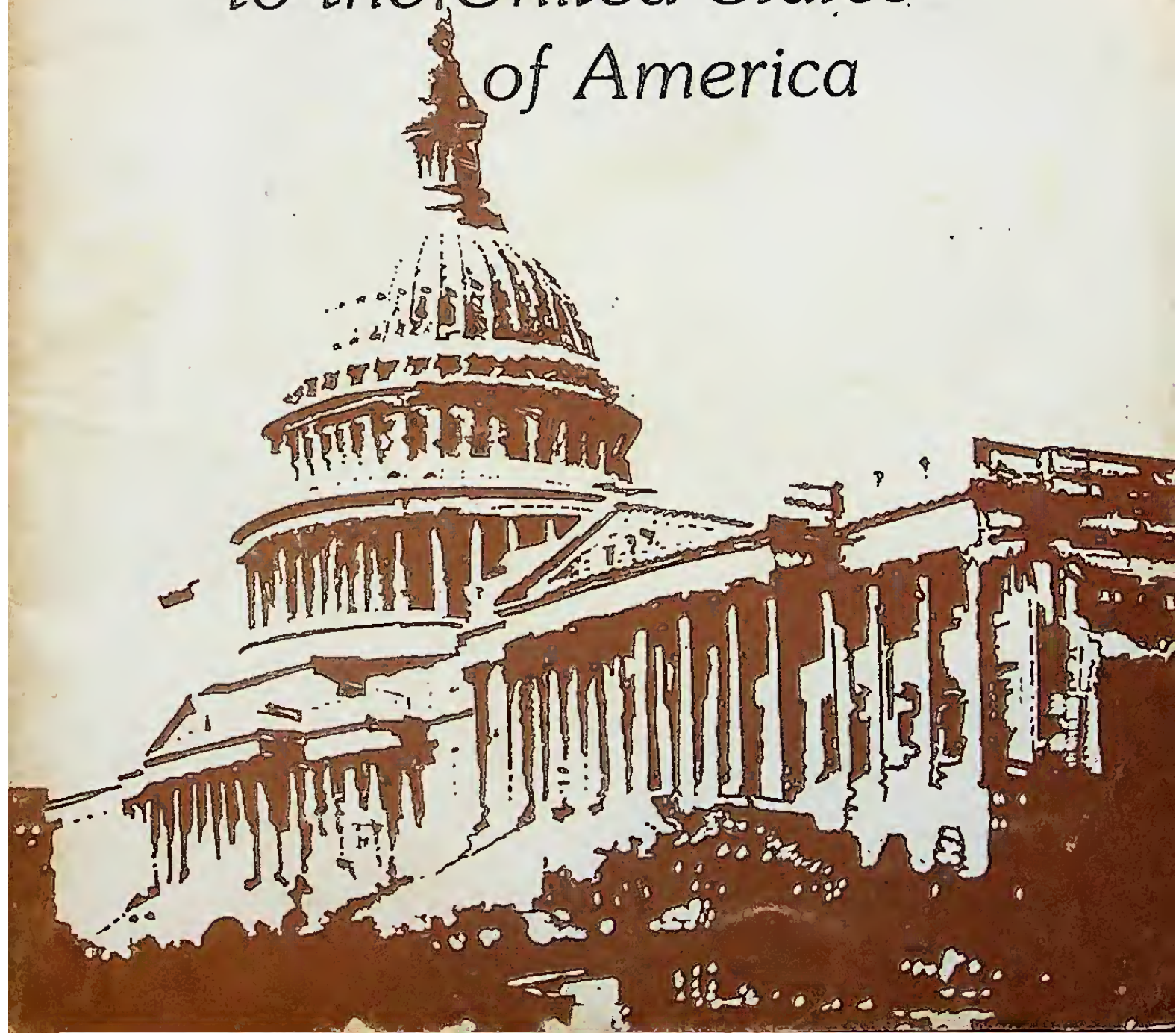


*Speeches made by
His Excellency
J. R. Jayewardene
President of Sri Lanka,
on his recent visit
to the United States
of America*



Ministry of State Publication

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President Jayewardene with President Reagan at the
White House Ceremony

**HIS EXCELLENCY J. R. JAYEWARDENE,
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, AT THE WELCOMING
CEREMONY, THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON
D.C. ON 18th JUNE, 1984**

I am glad that Mrs. Jayewardene and I were able to accept the invitation extended by Mrs. Reagan and you to visit your great country. We have come a very long way from home, yet already we feel we are among friends who believe in and try to follow common ideals for the welfare of humanity.

This is not our first visit. We came in September 1951 to your West Coast to attend the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference held at San Francisco. I came as my country's representative. I received then a full measure of praise and gratitude from members of the United States Government of the day ; Dean Acheson, John Foster Dullas, and others who attended the Conference, for helping to secure the acceptance by the Conference of the Peace Treaty with Japan. The Japanese leaders, Prime Minister Yoshida and others were equally grateful. Those alive are still so. I mentioned that because the thinking of the people of my country which was expressed by me on that occasion was that we should not ask for reparations from a fallen foe who had harmed our land and people also ; that we should forgive those who were our enemies ; quoting the words of the Buddha, that, "HATRED CEASES NOT BY HATRED BUT BY LOVE". I pleaded that we should restore to Japan the freedoms of democracy. Those were the ideals which inspired us then, and inspire us now.

Our History and Civilization have survived in an unbroken sequence from the 5th century BC for 2500 years. There were glimpses of modern democracy even then as in the appointment of Mayors to our ancient cities. The ruins of state buildings still contain carvings in stone where the Cabinets of the Kings and their Ministers sat. We were the first in Asia in 1865 to elect members to the Municipalities that governed our major cities ; and in 1931 under universal franchise to exercise our right to elect the Government of our choice.

We also have in our country an unbroken historical record extending over the same long period of a line of Heads of State ; Monarchies of different Dynasties, from Sri Lanka and abroad, including India and the United Kingdom ; of two Presidents, one selected and one, myself elected by the whole country. I happen to be the 193rd in the line of Heads of State from 483 BC to date.

In our modern history we cannot forget the contribution made by an American, Colonel Olcott, when he helped the Buddhist leaders of Sri Lanka, 100 years ago, to establish a movement for the revival of education through schools owned and managed by the Buddhists themselves and thus laid the foundation for the revival of Buddhism and the movement for freedom. The United States of America since it was born out of a revolution which freed it from foreign rule has not been known to be hankering after territory or supporting imperialism.

Sri Lanka has been for 53 years a practising democracy ; where the freedoms of speech and writing ; of electing governments by universal franchise at regular intervals ; and the independence of the Judiciary and of the Opposition are safeguarded. Fundamental rights which are justiciable are guaranteed under the Constitution. Though there are occasions when emergency powers have had to be exercised fundamental freedoms remained intact.

Democracy cannot however survive on a diet of words. The people require food for their stomachs, clothing for their bodies and roofs over their heads. In the Non-aligned world of developing nations which covers the whole of Central and South America ; the whole of Africa ; the whole of Asia ; from the Mediterranean Sea to the Seas of China and Japan, there are very few countries which could be called a Democracy such as is your country. Ours is one. That is why the assistance that developing nations of the world receive from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund is appreciated though there are many matters on which we feel there should be changes to help them to exist as free countries. We in the developing world have problems similar to those who live in the developed world ; deficit budgets, high interest rates, over-valued currencies and unstable exchange rates. These are the classical examples of the symptoms that affect both the developed and developing nations. Those who speak so eloquently on behalf of the developing nations have been pressing for the opening of commodity markets of the developed world for their manufactures without protective laws : stable prices for raw products, and rescheduling of debts borrowed for development. Consider these requests, Mr. President, with sympathy and generosity.

In our own case with the aid received we have been able to commence and have almost completed, the largest development programme which in our long history has ever been attempted by King or President. A programme possibly unequalled in magnitude by any development programme in any country in the contemporary world. This was possible due to the efforts of my Government which was elected to office in 1977 in an election conducted by our opponents, the previous Government. We obtained 51% of the votes and won 5/6th of the seats in the legislature and subsequently since then we

have won five elections including the Presidential election, By-elections, District Council elections, Local elections and a Referendum.

We have however our problems. Some of them are unique to our country. Excessive rains ; sometimes floods ; landslides ; cyclones ; common to all countries, but still difficult for us to bear.

Another and a modern problem and one of universal occurrence today, is terrorism. This happens in the extreme North of our country where a group of misguided people of Tamil birth who were favoured by the American people in the latter half of the 19th century by the erection of schools and hospitals, seek separation from a united Sri Lanka. There are more Tamils living in the East and among the Sinhalese than in the regions that seek separation, who do not support them. My Party holds 10 out of 12 seats in the Eastern Province which separatists seek to join to the North. The terrorists are a small group who seek by force including murder, robberies and other misdeeds to support the cause of separation, including the creation of a Marxist State in the whole of Sri Lanka and in India, beginning with Tamil Nadu in the South.

Since we assumed office in 1977, members of the Armed Services and Police, politicians who leave the ranks of the separatists and join us and others, and innocent citizens numbering 147 have been murdered in cold blood. I am glad, Mr. President, that your country is taking a lead in creating an international movement to oppose terrorism. If I may suggest it may be called the United Nations Anti-Terrorism Organisation. It is vital and essential that as the developed world helps us with finances, that we help each other in this sphere and that all nations co-operate to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the civilized world.

I was very happy when I read your address to the Irish Parliament on June 4th. You made an appeal to nations to reaffirm the principle not to use force in their dealings with each other. You said the democracies could inaugurate a programme to promote the growth of democratic institutions throughout the world. You spoke on behalf of hundreds of millions who live on the borderline of starvation while nations will spend next year a trillion dollars on the manufacture of armaments for destruction of human beings and their products.

At meetings of members of the Commonwealth in Sydney and in New Delhi ; at meetings of Non-Aligned Nations in Havana and in Goa, India, I have never failed to express similar ideas. Non-violence is "*Maithri*" Compassion, and the Great Teacher whom I follow, Gauthama the Buddha, and the Great Teacher you follow, Jesus Christ, and India's great son, Mahathma Gandhi, preached and practised the doctrine of non-violence successfully.

Let your great and powerful nation take the lead in implementing these ideals and the world will remember that the President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan, preached the laying down of arms, not through fear but by the strength of his conviction that to follow right for right is right, without fear of consequence, is the way for civilized man to follow. The Voice of America will then become the Voice of Righteousness.

**THE REPLY OF HIS EXCELLENCY J. R.
JAYEWARDENE, PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA
AT THE BANQUET IN HIS HONOUR OF
PRESIDENT REAGAN ON 18th JUNE 1984**

*Mr. President,
Madam Reagan,
Ladies and Gentlemen :*

I don't mind President Reagan telling the public that the gift of the elephant was accidental. But privately I know it's something else. The elephant led my party to victory in 1977. I received 51 per cent of the votes. Any party that gets 51 per cent of the votes must win an election, and I hope you will have the same luck in the months to come.

I came here as a stranger, but I find already I feel I am among friends. I've heard that the American people are a very friendly people. Hospitable people. Both qualities have been proved in the last few days. I am surrounded, I understand, by film stars. Those whom I saw in my youth were rather different. They were Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, and Mary Pickford. I remember a story about Laurel and Hardy. They joined the French Legion. They were waiting in the inspecting line. A Sergeant came and said : "What are you doing here ? Why did you join the French Legion ?" They said : "We joined the French Legion to forget." "To forget what ? " " We've forgotten."

I haven't forgotten about the help your country has given us during the last few years. But I did not come here to ask for help. That's not my way. I am waiting to hear Mr. Frank Sinatra

sing one of my favourite songs, but I understand he doesn't like it. I used it as part of my election campaign, and asked the people to vote for My Way.— which they did.

Your country is, as far as the Americans go, young. Our country is old. Very old. We go back to the Fifth Century Before Christ. We had ambassadors at the Court of Claudius Caesar. We find it recorded in Pliny's letters. It even mentions the names of the Ambassadors. We had sent delegations to China, in 47 A.D. and I understand that the gift sent by our King to the Emperor of China were water buffaloes and humped cattle. The great Chinese pilgrim Song San and Fahsien came to our country in the Fourth Century A.D. and in the Sixth Century A.D. So did Sinbad the Sailor, Marco Polo and Ibn Batuta.

For the first time Westerners came in the Sixteenth Century. The Portuguese came as tourists but stayed for 150 years. After that came the Dutch and then came the English and we are now once again a free country. We wish to be friendly with all and the enemy of none. That is my policy and the policy of our people. We would like the people of America to understand that. In the long history of Sri Lanka there has been difficulties. There have been murders, there have been assassinations. There have been riots, there have been good deeds and bad deeds.

Last July we had one of those bad periods. But in time to come it will be forgotten. I see in one of your newspapers there is an advertisement in which some people are trying to make us remember that day. On that fatal day, several people were killed. This was not done by the Government but done by a gang of hooligans, about which we are very, very sorry. I am trying to forget it. I am trying to make our people not commit such incidents again. I hope we will succeed.

I remember when one of your representatives came to see me and had lunch with me, I told her (she is your representative in the United Nations Organisation) a Leader must know only two words. She said : "What's that ?" I said : "Yes and No". And I think President Reagan knows those two words very well. Once you say "Yes" or once you say "No" stick by it. Whatever happens never change it. That has been my policy and it has succeeded. Mr. President, I've been very happy for the last few days. I have a few more days to spend. I hope to spend some time in the Indian Settlement at Santa Fe. Not for any other reason, but because those are the stories I read in my youth. Of Buffalo Bill and various tribes. I was fascinated by the fact that they were the oldest human settlements, as far as I know, in the Continent of America. They are a great people and we must give them a helping hand as we must give every race, every tribe, every human being, whatever his caste, religion or race. We are all human beings. We extend our affection not only to human beings but even to animals – to the little elephant that we gifted to you. That is the philosophy that we have learnt in our country. That is the philosophy which if I can I will spread throughout the world. And I find in you, Mr. President, and Madam Reagan, two very good disciples.

Thank you very much for entertaining us. May your country prosper. May, in the morning and in the evening, and at night-fall, may the name of President Reagan and Madam Reagan never be forgotten. Thank you.

**HIS EXCELLENCY J. R. JAYEWARDENE,
PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, RESPONDING TO THE
TOAST PROPOSED BY SECRETARY OF STATE,
GEORGE P. SHULTZ ON 18th JUNE 1984.**

*Mr. Secretary,
Mrs. Shultz,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Thank you for your kind words, and for your gracious hospitality. We will all take back happy recollections of this event to Sri Lanka.

In our continuing dealings with your colleagues in Colombo and Washington and particularly in the planning of this State Visit, we have at all times experienced courtesy and efficiency. We appreciate that.

This is a unique occasion ; the first State Visit to your country by a Sri Lankan Head of State. At the same time, it is part of a continuity which has lasted over many years. Our views on world political situations do not always coincide, yet we have been united in many common endeavours down the years.

Our strongest bond is our mutual commitment to democracy. Modern democracy in Sri Lanka is over 50 years old, but the practice of government with the consent of the governed is fully in keeping with the long-established philosophical traditions guiding our people. Democratic institutions flourished at the grassroots level in Sri Lanka

hundreds of years ago. Today, our Constitution enshrines the sovereignty of the people ; preserves human rights and guarantees fundamental freedoms to all citizens. These rights are justiciable before an Independent Judiciary.

Today's world, faces the new and repugnant threat of terrorism. Civilized human beings cannot accept the argument of force as a substitute for the force of argument. We must all be united and unflinching, therefore, in resisting the vicious threat of terrorism, whatever mask or disguise it sometimes wears.

Sri Lanka faces this threat, from separatists who want to divide our country. The extent to which they will go was recently demonstrated when they kidnapped an American couple working in Sri Lanka. We are all relieved that it was possible to secure the safe release of these two young people. This criminal act however could have had a very different ending because terrorists do not respect human life and moral values.

The Government of Sri Lanka is pledged to safeguard the rights of all communities. We will not be diverted from the responsibility of seeking a negotiated settlement of any issues that divide our communities. We will never agree to the division of our country. We will never submit to terrorism. We have never been conquered nor ever will be.

Our own approach to world affairs is to extend to our dealings with the world around us, those principles of our religion (the Dhamma) that guide us in our daily life and in domestic affairs. We seek to eliminate greed, hatred and delusion from our lives. If we could reach that goal individually and collectively both at home and abroad, we would be well on the way to creating a perfect world.

We are a democracy, and just as we have enshrined the sovereignty of man in our Constitution, we want the sovereignty of man to be protected universally. Men and women who are threatened by guns and bombs are not sovereign ; nor are men and women sovereign who are unable to secure their basic needs from day to day.

We look to you, Mr. Secretary, and to your great country to help maintain peace and stability in as many regions of the world as you are able to do. Disparities within and among societies contribute significantly to domestic, regional, and international instability. All of us in the human family owe it to ourselves to be resolute about ending such disparities. We are confident that America in its role of leadership, will continue to strengthen those institutions which contribute to international stability and development.

Mr. Secretary,

Our two countries enjoy a long-standing history of co-operation. Our discussions in Washington have paved the way to closer and more detailed co-operation in the years ahead. The agreements to be signed by representatives of our two countries later today will lead to new areas of co-operation. You have become a closer partner in our progress. May that partnership endure.

May your influence on the world for the good of all humanity increase. May you be guided in these efforts by principles, and not prejudice (Samma Vayama) ; endowed with right intention (Samma Ditthi) ; and moved by compassion (Maithriya).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join me in drinking a toast to Secretary and Mrs. Shultz ; to all men and women who strive within this building and beyond it to keep the peace of the world.

REFERENCE



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