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CONFIDENTIAL

# 10 DOWNING STREET

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FILE TITLE: <i>RELATIONS</i>		SERIES <i>MALDIVES</i>
		PART: <i>1</i>
PART BEGINS: <i>13 June 1997</i> <del>██████████</del>	PART ENDS: <i>23 November 1998</i> <del>██████████</del>	CAB ONE:

# PREM 49/2114

Labour Administration

*Band closed*

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PART

CLOSED

DATE CLOSED	7 JUNE 2001
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Series : MALDIVES

File Title : Relations

Part : 1

Date	From	To	Subject	Class	Secret
13/06/97	FA/APS	FCO	Call by President of Maldives	C	0
18/07/97	FA/APS	FCO	Request for draft - President of Maldives	C	0
18/07/97		FA/APS	(H) - Letter to PM from the President of the Maldives	C	0
25/07/98	DID	FA/APS	Draft letter from PM to the President of Maldives - The recent UN Ge	U	0
02/11/98	MALI/President	PM	(H) Thanks for kind courtesies extended during visit to London/enviro	U	0
23/11/98	PM	MALI/President	(H) Thanks for letter of 2.11.98 and copy of "The Maldives: A Nation i	U	0



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

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SUBJECT  
MASTER

Filed on:

23 November 1998

Dear President Gayoom,

Thank you for your letter of 2 November enclosing a copy of "The Maldives: A Nation in Peril", with the texts of your speeches on environmental issues.

As you know, I attach great importance to the protection of the world's environment and in particular to the issue of climate change. Together with our partners in the European Union, we are working hard to maintain the momentum of Kyoto. I therefore welcome the leading role you have played in focusing world attention on the dangers of global warming, particularly for small island states such as the Maldives.

Yours sincerely,  
Tony Blair

His Excellency Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom

19-NOV-1998 17:34 FROM PRIVATE OFFICE

TO

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*Handwritten signature/initials*

SUBJECT  
MASTER

PRESIDENT  
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Filed on:

London  
2 November 1998

The Right Honourable Tony Blair,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland,  
London

My dear Prime Minister,

On my way home from Frankfurt, after addressing the annual convention of the DRV (the German Travel Agents and Tour Operators Association) I am currently in London visiting my son who is studying at King's College. I wish to thank you and the British Government for the kind courtesies extended to me during this visit.

As you will recall, you had kindly given me the opportunity at the last CHOGM at Edinburgh to begin the discussion on environmental matters as the lead speaker on the subject. On that occasion, I tried to highlight the pressing concerns of small states in general, and the Maldives in particular, over the very serious environmental threats that we will have to face in the decades ahead as a result of greenhouse effect leading to global warming and sea-level rise.

Given the leadership role you, Mr. Prime Minister, have personally played in encouraging the world community to move towards safer environmental policies and practices, I feel it appropriate to present you with a copy of *The Maldives: A Nation in Peril*. This book is a collection of the speeches I have made during the past twelve years on the issue in an attempt to draw the world's attention to the plight that my country, and indeed many others, would be in if no immediate and effective international action is taken to deal with the problem.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Handwritten signature of Aumoon Abdul Gayoom*  
Aumoon Abdul Gayoom

Rec'd Notes 7689	To: Emma, Private Office	→ Telefax
	Fax: 270 2144	
	From: Lisa Jenkins	
	Date: 19/11/98	Pages:

TOTAL P.01

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C: JEH.  
Department for  
International Development  
94 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5JL

Telephone: 0171-917 0419

R 30/7.  
P/S

Phillip Barton Esq  
No 10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

25 July 1997

GR ⊕

Dear Philip

Thank you for our copy of your letter of 18 July to Fiona Mylchreest enclosing one to the Prime Minister from President Gayoom. We have agreed with Fiona that DFID should handle this.

... I enclose a draft reply which has been agreed with the FCO and DETR. The regular bilateral Development Programme to the Maldives ended in March 1996. However, DFID is supporting the establishment of a regional node - covering India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives - of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network; and there is still an FCO-administered British Partnership Scheme (£250,000) used for UK training awards.

I am copying this letter to Fiona Mylchreest (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Seamus Gillen (Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions).

Yours ever

Richard

Richard Calvert  
Private Secretary

H E Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom  
President  
Republic of Maldives

Thank you for your kind letter of 3 July about the recent UN General Assembly Special Session on the environment and development.

Your comments are heartening. The new British government would very much like faster progress on sustainable development. We believe that genuine partnerships are needed to overcome the environmental and developmental problems that we face. The marine environment is clearly of particular interest to your country. I am glad that Britain is able to continue its support for the South Asia region's element of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

I was disappointed that the Special Session was not able to agree a stronger commitment on reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. <sup>Nevertheless, it</sup> However, it was clear that together the European Union and the Association of Small Island States were able to exert pressure on others and communicate the strength of our feeling on climate change. ~~It is imperative that we and others~~ <sup>we need to</sup> continue to work closely together so that developed countries can agree at Kyoto to substantial reductions in emissions below 1990 levels.

The pledge that I made in New York to reverse the decline in Britain's development assistance, and our determination to work towards the target of halving the proportion of people in abject poverty by 2015, reflected our wish to reinvigorate the spirit of partnership established at Rio. Tackling environmental problems is a part of this and all countries have shared responsibilities. I very much look forward to working with you on these crucial issues in the future.

TONY BLAIR



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

18 July 1997

Dear Fiona,

**LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF THE MALDIVES**

I enclose a copy of a letter from President Guyoom to the Prime Minister forwarded by our High Commission in Colombo. I would be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply, agreed with DfID and DETR, as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to Katrina Johnson (Department for International Development) and Seamus Gillen (Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions).

Yours ever,

Philip

**PHILIP BARTON**

Mrs Fiona Mylchreest  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

eu



Philip Barton

CC ✓ JEH

RMR 18/7

From: Ron Rimmer  
Date: 18 July 1997

PS

**MALDIVES: LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER**

- /
1. I enclose a copy of a letter from HE President Gayoom to the Prime Minister which focuses on remarks on the environment made by the Prime Minister at the recent UNGA special session. We expect to receive the original of the letter via our High Commission in Colombo shortly.
  2. I would be grateful if you could arrange for the letter to be forwarded.

Ron Rimmer

Ron Rimmer  
SAD WH 209

0171 270 3035



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to action pl  
vllld  
14/7*

Reference: (E1) WE-2-B/97/ 34

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives presents its compliments to the British High Commission to the Republic of Maldives and has the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a letter from H.E. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Maldives addressed to The Right Honourable Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Ministry would appreciate it if the enclosed letter is forwarded to its high destination at the earliest.

The Ministry would like to inform the High Commission that the original of the letter is being forwarded to the High Commission via the Maldivian High Commission in Colombo.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the British High Commission to the Republic of Maldives the assurances of its highest consideration.

Malé, 13 July 1997

British High Commission  
**COLOMBO**





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

PRESIDENT  
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Malé  
3 July 1997

SUBJECT  
MASTER

Filed on:

The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair,  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,  
London,  
United Kingdom.

My dear Prime Minister,

Please accept my congratulations on the very important statement you made at the recently concluded Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to Appraise the Implementation of Agenda 21. The environment policy outlined in your speech and, in particular, Britain's commitment to raising the quality and the quantity of development assistance demonstrates your Government's resolve to protect the global environment and promote sustainable development.

Increased assistance from industrialised nations is of primary importance for developing countries to address the numerous environmental problems confronting them. Indeed, there is very little that small and developing nations can do, unless financial and technological resources from more advanced countries were forthcoming. Therefore, your pledge to expand Britain's development assistance has given us much hope for the future. I am also greatly reassured by the targets set by the European Union for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. What is of even greater significance to small island states like the Maldives is the higher and more challenging target which the British Government has set in the interest of saving the Earth for future generations.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my Government's deep appreciation for the generous assistance provided by Britain to

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various development projects in the Maldives, specially those relating to environmental protection, such as the research on the potential impacts of climate change on coral reefs, studies to address problems in the management of coastal marine environment and constructing artificial reef areas for rehabilitating a degraded reef. Britain's contribution to our developmental efforts is indeed a genuine reflection of the historic bonds of close friendship and cooperation that exist between our two countries.

Please accept, Prime Minister, my personal best wishes for your good health and well-being and for further progress and prosperity of the people of the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*File - mem  
cc JEL*

From the Private Secretary

13 June 1997

*Dear Fiona,*

**CALL BY PRESIDENT OF MALDIVES**

Thank you for your letter of 11 June about the possibility of Gayoom calling on the Prime Minister later this month. Unfortunately, given the other pressures on the Prime Minister's time in this period, a meeting will not be possible.

*Yours ever,*

*Philip*

**PHILIP BARTON**

Mrs Fiona Mylchreest  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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