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## THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 14,543 — 1965 ඔක්තෝබර් 26 වැනි අඟහරුවාදා — 1965.10.26

No. 14,543 — TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1965

(Published by Authority)

### PART I: SECTION (I)—GENERAL

(Separate paging is given to each language of every Part in order that it may be filed separately)

#### Government Notifications

##### NOTIFICATION

##### Unlawful Interceptions of Telephone Messages

I, Walter Geoffrey Montague Jayawickrema, Minister of Public Works, Posts and Telecommunications, do by this notification appoint you, G. P. Tambayah, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Public Works, Posts and Telecommunications,—

- (1) to inquire into and report on whether or not, during the period commencing on 1st January, 1960, and ending on 30th September, 1965, messages sent or transmitted by or through the service established, maintained and operated by the Government for telephonic communications in Ceylon (hereafter referred to as "telephone messages" and the "Government telephone service", respectively), were subject to unlawful interception, and if so,—
  - (a) the methods or means by which such unlawful interception was achieved, and in particular, the extent to which the equipment or premises used for the provision of the Government telephone service was or were tampered with or used for the purpose of achieving such unlawful interception;
  - (b) the extent to which such unlawful interception was achieved with the aid, connivance or co-operation extended or rendered by telecommunication officers or other public officers or members of the public, whether by making available their personal services or in any other manner whatsoever, and the names of such officers or members; and
  - (c) the extent to which the contents of telephone messages which were subject to such unlawful interception by any persons were divulged by them to other persons, and the names of the persons by whom, and to whom, such contents were so divulged; and
- (2) to make such recommendations as you may deem necessary as a result of the inquiry to prevent such unlawful interception of telephone messages in the future having regard to the desirability in the public interest of the preservation of secrecy regarding the contents of such messages, and in particular, with regard to the law, practice and procedure applicable to the Government telephone service (including the provision of more deterrent penalties for offences committed by telecommunication officers or other public officers or members of the public involving the unlawful interception of telephone messages and the divulgence of the contents of such messages).

And I do hereby direct you the said G. P. Tambayah to recommend to me the action that should be taken against telecommunication officers or other public officers or members of the public whom you have found to be guilty of unlawful interception of telephone messages, or of extending or rendering aid or connivance or co-operation in effecting such unlawful interception, or of divulging the contents of telephone messages so unlawfully intercepted.

And I do hereby authorise you the said G. P. Tambayah to hold all such inquiries and make all such investigations into the aforesaid and other like matters as may appear to you to be necessary, and require you to transmit to me, with as little delay as possible, a report thereon under your hand.

And I do hereby—

- (a) require and direct all public officers; and
- (b) request all persons, other than public officers;

to whom you the said G. P. Tambayah may apply for assistance or information for the purposes of your inquiries and investigations to render all such assistance and furnish all such information as may be properly rendered and furnished in that behalf.

For the purposes of this notification—

- (a) the expression "unlawful interception", in relation to a telephone message, means any interception of such message by means of any act or thing—
  - (a) done otherwise than under the authority conferred by or under any written law; or
  - (b) purporting to have been done under the authority so conferred; and
- (b) the expression "telecommunication officer" means any telecommunication officer within the meaning of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Chapter 192), and includes a former telecommunication officer.

W. G. MONTAGUE JAYAWICKREMA,  
Minister of Public Works,  
Posts and Telecommunications.

October 25, 1965.

10-1184