

No. 18648

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
SRI LANKA**

**Exchange of letters constituting an arrangement relating to
a visa system for textile exports. Colombo, 12 and
23 March 1979**

Authentic text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 18 April 1980.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
SRI LANKA**

**Échange de lettres constituant un arrangement relatif à
l'instauration d'un système de visas pour les exporta-
tions de textiles. Colombo, 12 et 23 mars 1979**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 18 avril 1980.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN ARRANGEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND SRI LANKA RELATING TO A VISA SYSTEM FOR TEXTILE EXPORTS

I

Colombo, Sri Lanka, March 12, 1979

Dear Mr. Minister:

You will recall that, during the recent visit of the U.S. Textile Delegation to Sri Lanka, Ambassador Michael B. Smith suggested a method to help eliminate the possible misuse of "Made in Sri Lanka" labels by garment manufacturers in other countries. Consequently, I wish to propose on behalf of my Government that the following visa system be established for exports to the United States of America of cotton, wool and man-made fiber apparel manufactured in Sri Lanka:

1. Each shipment shall be accompanied by an export visa issued by the Government of Sri Lanka. The export visa will be signed by an authorized official of the Government of Sri Lanka and will appear as a stamped marking in blue ink on the front of the Special Customs Invoice Form 5515, successor document or commercial invoice when such form is used.

2. The names and facsimile signatures of the officials authorized to issue export visas will be supplied by the Government of Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka will notify the Government of the United States of America of any changes of authorized officials, and will provide facsimiles of newly authorized officials' signatures. A minimum number of officials will be authorized to issue visas and certifications.

3. Shipments not accompanied by a valid visa in accordance with this letter, after the effective date of this requirement, shall be denied entry by the Government of the United States of America except upon specific request of the Government of Sri Lanka.

4. The United States Government shall publish in the Federal Register this visa system upon receipt of the authorized visa stamp and signatures from the Government of Sri Lanka. The visa stamp will be similar to the sample attached to this letter. The visa system will become effective 30 days after the date of publication for shipments exported from Sri Lanka on and after that date and 90 days after the date of publication for shipments exported from Sri Lanka before that date.

5. Either Government may terminate, in whole or in part, this administrative arrangement by giving 90 days written notice thereof to the other.

¹ Came into force on 23 March 1979 by the exchange of the said letters.

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to your Government, this letter and your letter of acceptance on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka shall constitute an administrative arrangement between our two Governments.

With best personal regards,
Sincerely,

[Signed]

W. HOWARD WRIGGINS
American Ambassador

Attachment:
As noted above.

cc: Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali
Minister of Trade

Mr. N. Balasubramaniam
Director of West Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. T. Wijayapala Mendis
Minister of Textile Industries
Colombo



II

MINISTRY OF TEXTILE INDUSTRIES
COLOMBO

Date: 23rd March, 1979

My No.: 1/PA/3/1

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I refer to your letter dated 12th March 1979 proposing the visa system which should be adopted regarding exports to the U.S.A. of cotton, wool and man-made fibre apparel manufactured in Sri Lanka. Your proposal is acceptable to me subject to the proposed visa stamp carrying the words "Ministry of Textile Industries" in the bottom half of the circle of the stamp corresponding to the words "Government of Sri Lanka" on top.

I shall convey to you within the next few days the names and facsimile signatures of the officials who will be authorised to issue these export visas along with a revised version of the visa stamp incorporating the amendment I have suggested. Once this is received, you could convey it to your government, so that this could be published in the Federal Register and this system could thereafter come into operation in terms of item 4 of your letter under reference.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Signed]

WIJAYAPALA MENDIS
Minister of Textile Industries

His Excellency W. Howard Wriggins
American Ambassador
American Embassy
Colombo
