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EMBASSY OF INDIA TO THE
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES
MALE"

NO. MAL/406/2/76

March 11, 1979

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the discussions held from time to time between our two Governments on measures to facilitate travel between the two countries and to set out below the understanding aimed at between our two Governments in this regard:

(i) It is agreed that citizens of India and citizens of the Maldives holding valid national passports shall be free to enter Maldives and India respectively at any border crossing place authorised for international passenger traffic for the purpose of temporary stay for a period of upto 90 days or for transit, without being required to obtain a visa. This period of 90 days shall include the period of stay if any during the proceeding six months.

(ii) It is further understood that the waiver of visa requirements does not exempt citizens of India and citizens of Maldives coming to maldives and India respectively from the obligation to comply with the laws and regulations in force in Maldives and in India respectively concerning the entry into, movement within and residence-temporary or permanent-in that country. Nor are they allowed to take up employment, set up any business, or exercise any profession, paid or unpaid, in either country, without the consent of the government and in conformity with the laws and regulations of the respective country. This requirement, however, shall not apply to businessmen or business delegations from either country going to the other to conclude business agreements, contracts or other business transactions and to conduct negotiations with their counterparts.

(iii) The authorities of either country reserve the right to refuse entry or stay in their country to persons considered undesirable.

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(iv) Either Government may temporarily suspend the foregoing provisions in whole or in part for reasons of public order or public health. such suspension shall, as far as possible, be resorted to after prior consultations with the other Government but shall, in any case, be notified to the other Government immediately through diplomatic channel.

(v) The present understanding may be terminated by either Government by notifying the other Government in writing of its intention to that effect and shall stand terminated at the expiry of ninety days from the date of receipt by the other Government of such notification.

2. If the understanding as set out above is acceptable to the Government of Maldives, I have the honour to request you to kindly confirm such acceptance and to suggest that this letter and your reply to that effect shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments, which shall enter into force on the date of your letter of reply.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

(Thomas Abraham)

H.E. Mr. Fathulla Jameel,
Minister of External Affairs,
Republic of Maldives,
Mslr'