

Extra

26. 12. 83.

To : His Excellency J.R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka.

From : Dr. Mohan Munasinghe, Chairman, National Computer Policy Committee. MA

Subject: Functions of the Computer and Information Technology Council (CINTEC) of Sri Lanka.

With reference to the recent query by Your Excellency on the above topic, I confirm that the primary functions of CINTEC will be of an advisory nature.

As indicated in section 5 of the attached draft CINTEC Act recently approved by the Cabinet, the principal functions and duties of the Council shall be to advise the Minister on various aspects of national computer and information technology policy. The only non-advisory activities mentioned in section 5 relate to (i) research; (ii) monitoring the latest (worldwide) developments; and (iii) collecting and disseminating information; on computer and information technology. I would like to point out that the three latter activities have been included because they will help to ensure that the Council advises the Hon. Minister on the basis of the most up to date and comprehensive data available on the subject. No other major executive functions are envisaged.

The role and activities of CINTEC are summarized in the attached diagram. The Council will be the only national level policy advisory body in this field, functioning directly under Your Excellency. Meanwhile, since many computer related activities are already underway nationwide, it is critical to initiate CINTEC activities as early as possible, to ensure the co-ordination, formulation and systematic development of national computer policy.

Other Computer Institutions in the country, including centres of excellence like the Arthur C. Clarke Centre, NIBM, and computer centres on the various University campuses, as well as other government and private sector computer agencies, will be operating entities that will carry out and implement various aspects of national policy, on a decentralized basis.

It is therefore strongly recommended that CINTEC begins to function as soon as Parliament approves the Bill.

Encl.

*Joe*  
*27/12/83*

