

14 August 1986

To :H.E. J.R. Jayewardene, President of Sri Lanka
From:Prof. Mohan Munasinghe, Chairman-Emeritus, Computer and
Information Technology Council (CINTEC) mu

Subject: STATUS OF CINTEC

As requested by Y.E. during our recent discussion, I summarize below, my understanding concerning the status of CINTEC.

The origins of CINTEC and systematic computer development in Sri Lanka may be traced to the setting up of the Computer Policy Committee (COMPOL) by Y.E. in late 1982. On the recommendation of this Committee, CINTEC was created by Act of Parliament in March 1984.

As one who has been closely involved in every stage of this process from 1982 onwards, including preparation of the original COMPOL Committee report, drafting of the CINTEC Act, and implementation of national computer policy (as Chairman, CINTEC) it is my recollection that one of the principal cornerstones that ensured the success of this entire initiative was the functioning of CINTEC directly under Y.E. Thus all policy decisions were made by Y.E. in your capacity as the Hon. Minister in Charge of CINTEC, and administrative matters including the request for budgetary funds from the Treasury and annual report to Parliament were handled through the Presidential Secretariat (by Mr. S.M.L. Marikar), from the very inception of CINTEC.

Unfortunately, due to a clerical error, the gazette notification regarding the creation of CINTEC mentioned Y.E.'s name in your capacity as the Hon. Minister of Power and Energy. Attention has been drawn to this minor slip, by the Auditor-General.

In view of the significant advantages of CINTEC falling directly under Y.E. (like NARESA), through the Presidential Secretariat, it is recommended that this view be conveyed to the Auditor-General and other relevant government departments, and so re-gazetted (if necessary). I believe that such a clarification will permit CINTEC to function most effectively in the long-term, as originally envisaged. Furthermore, I have discussed the matter with the senior government officials concerned, including Mr. Menikdiwela, Prof. K.K.Y.W. Perera, Mr. S.M.L. Marikar, Mr. Gunasingham and the Board of CINTEC, and find that there is clear consensus of opinion, along the lines indicated above.