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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 28, 2013

REF # 13-424

Ms. Sara Benjamin Bardin
Director
Office of Zoning
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Ste 200/210-South
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: BZA Application No. 18564
Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Square 2147, Lot 0046
3025 Whitehaven Street, NW

Dear Ms. Bardin:

The Department of State hereby provides its comments concerning the application submitted to the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) by the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka regarding its desire to use the property located at 3025 Whitehaven Street, NW, as its Chancery. The application was submitted pursuant to D.C. Code 5-1206 and Section 206 of the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. §4306.) This case is scheduled to be heard June 4, 2013.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, and pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act, 22 U.S.C. §4301, *et seq.*, particularly sections 4303 and 4306, we hereby convey to the BZA the following comments and determinations concerning the subject application. These comments and determinations relate to the statutory criteria governing BZA determinations that lie within the purview of the Federal Government, namely 22 U.S.C. §4306(d) (1), (4), and (6), as well as the pertinent portion of (d) (3).

First, with respect to the criterion set forth in 22 U.S.C. §4306(d) (1), we have determined that favorable BZA action on the present application would fulfill the international obligation of the United States to facilitate the acquisition of adequate and secure premises by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for its diplomatic mission in Washington.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO.

EXHIBIT NO.

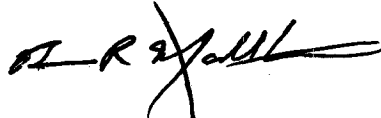
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.18564
EXHIBIT NO.32

Second, after consultation with Federal agencies authorized to perform protective services, we have determined, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d) (6), that there exist no special security requirements relating to parking in this case. We have also, after similar consultation, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(4), determined that the subject site and area can be adequately protected.

Finally, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d) (6), there is a Federal interest in this project. The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka recently assisted in the acquisition of land needed for the construction of a new U.S. Embassy compound in Colombo. Such cooperation is essential for successfully achieving the Federal Government's mission for providing safe, secure, and functional facilities for the conduct of U.S. diplomacy and the promotion of U.S. interests worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. R. Matthews", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce R. Matthews
Deputy Assistant Secretary (Acting)

cc: Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka