

TABLE IX

IMPLICATIONS OF TOURISM GROWTH IN MALDIVES  
UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS EXPRESSED IN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE

Yearly Arrivals of Foreign Visitors	Estimates of Hotel Construction Cost (1)			
	Phased Investment		Cumulated Investment	
	Rps	US\$ (2)	Rps	US\$ (2)
1,000	600,000	100,000	600,000	100,000
2,000	"	"	1,200,000	200,000
3,000	"	"	1,800,000	300,000
4,000	"	"	2,400,000	400,000
5,000	"	"	3,000,000	500,000
6,000	"	"	3,600,000	600,000
7,000	"	"	4,200,000	700,000
8,000	"	"	4,800,000	800,000
9,000	"	"	5,400,000	900,000
10,000	"	"	6,000,000	1,000,000
15,000	3,000,000	500,000	9,000,000	1,500,000
20,000	3,000,000	500,000	12,000,000	2,000,000
30,000	6,000,000	1,000,000	18,000,000	3,000,000
40,000	"	"	24,000,000	4,000,000
50,000	"	"	30,000,000	5,000,000
60,000	"	"	36,000,000	6,000,000
70,000	"	"	42,000,000	7,000,000
80,000	"	"	48,000,000	8,000,000
90,000	"	"	54,000,000	9,000,000
100,000	"	"	60,000,000	10,000,000
Column 1	Column 15	Column 16	Column 17	Column 18

- (1) Based on an average cost per room of Rps 30,000, all inclusive  
(2) Conversion Rate: 6 Rps = US\$ 1.00



A tentative breakdown of room and board rates is presented on Table XXIII. This would require streamlining in hotel construction costs to the maximum level of Rps. 30,000 per room (US\$ 5,000) all inclusive (launches, electric generators, etc.) and of management and operational costs. To fulfill these conditions may require a certain amount of pre-investment studies in a search of the most economical solutions.

It is worthwhile to mention that when Kurumba Village has received all the small improvements it still needs, such as electric fans in the bedrooms, its overall cost per room will not exceed this suggested ceiling.

The construction concepts, the site selection and the lay out of the premises are important factors of success. It should be borne in mind that visitors from Europe look for comfort, of course, but attach special importance to the matter of environment. They live in polluted cities and concrete buildings and, as a result, they wish to go back to nature. They will appreciate simple things and a certain amount of casualness. The setting of a fishing village will appeal to them more than an elaborate glass and concrete building. They live under pressure and will enjoy the outdoor company of the Maldivians in a relaxed way more than any social gatherings, among themselves indoors. They will look for efficiency in the services they need and kindness on the part of the hotel staff more than any fanciful and costly amenities.

Due consideration should also be paid to the prevailing local conditions in the site selection as a way of cutting down operating costs of ventilation. In Malé Atoll, hotel rooms should be built to provide sea view and to face the north east from where the fresh breeze of the North East monsoon blows. This orientation has the added advantage to put the hotel in a protected zone of the island when the gusts of winds burst up during the South West monsoon.



TABLE XXIII

TENTATIVE ROOM AND BOARD RATE BREAKDOWN AND ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS

<u>TOURIST EXPENDITURES</u> <u>COMPONENTS</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER ROOM NIGHT</u> <u>US \$</u>	<u>FOREIGN EXCHANGE</u> <u>EARNINGS</u>	
A. <u>ROOM and BOARD</u>		<u>% of Component</u>	<u>US \$</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 12.00</u>	<u>14% (+)</u>	<u>1.74</u>
-- Advertising and Promotion 5%	0.60	Nil	0.00
-- Commission on room rate and rebate on board to tour operator 10%	1.20	Nil	0.00
-- Tourist Development contribution 5%	0.60	Nil	0.00
-- Wages of employees 10%	1.20	100%	1.20
-- Management and Operation- al Expenses 30%	3.60	10%	0.36
-- Amortization and Replace- ment 15%	1.80	10%	0.18
-- Profit Margin 25%	3.00	Undetermined	
B. <u>OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES</u>			
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 5.00</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>0.50</u>
A.B. <u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>\$ 17.00</u>	<u>13%</u>	<u>2.24</u>

(1) This amount served as a basis for the calculations of Table IX, column 9.

(2) This amount served as a basis for the calculations of Table IX, column 10.



### FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS

In view of Maldives present economy, one may expect that the import component of the hotel cost will amount to 90% of the total cost. The same ratio of import component can also be expected in the management and operational expenses and replacement costs which make up for the suggested hotel rate as well as for out-of-pocket expenses by the tourists. When they rent a launch, the maintenance costs, including spare parts, swallow foreign exchange earnings. When they buy a coca cola or a scotch whiskey, the import component also reduces the net foreign exchange earnings. Duty free shops, which may produce large turn overs, operate on duty free imports of foreign goods.

Table IX, Column 19 shows the foreign exchange earnings which the country could derive from the tourist expenditures. According to Table XXIII, these expenditures amount to an average \$ 17.00 per room night and the foreign exchange earnings from these \$ 17.00 amounts to \$ 2.24.

According to the present programme of construction it could be estimated that Maldives should earn the following foreign exchange.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Rooms Available</u>	<u>Room (1) Nights</u>	<u>Foreign Exchange Earnings US\$</u>
Nov 73/Oct 74	101	35,350	79,184
Nov 74/Oct 75	148	51,800	116,032
Nov 75/Oct 76	190	66,500	148,960
Total			344,176

(1) As discussed on page 8 - Targets.

It is interesting to note that, should the construction programme in 1974 and 1975 be carried out at the recommended maximum cost of US\$ 5,000 per room with an import component of 90%, the total export of foreign exchange for this programme will amount to a total of US\$ 364,500 (90% of US\$ 500 multiplied by 81 additional rooms from 101 in 1973 to 190 in 1975). It means that the export of



TABLE IX  
IMPLICATIONS OF TOURISM GROWTH IN MALDIVES  
UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS EXPRESSED IN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE

Yearly Arrivals of Foreign Visitors	Estimated Yearly Foreign Exchange Earnings	
	US\$	Rps
1,000	15,680	94,080
2,000	31,360	188,160
3,000	47,040	282,240
4,000	62,720	376,320
5,000	78,400	470,400
6,000	94,080	564,480
7,000	109,760	658,560
8,000	125,440	752,640
9,000	141,120	846,720
10,000	156,800	940,800
15,000	235,200	1,411,200
20,000	313,600	1,881,600
30,000	470,400	2,822,400
40,000	627,200	3,763,200
50,000	784,000	4,704,000
60,000	940,800	5,644,800
70,000	1,097,600	6,585,600
80,000	1,254,400	7,526,400
90,000	1,411,200	8,467,200
100,000	1,568,000	9,408,000
Column 1	Column 19	Column 20

Conversion Rate: 1 Rps = US\$ 1.00



foreign exchange will almost be compensated by the earnings of foreign exchange from the construction programme shown above as equal to \$ 344,176.

This arithmetic should be pursued with accuracy in the future in order to ascertain that tourism expansion does not mean foreign exchange losses.

Eventually, the largest foreign exchange earnings would seem to come, (i) from the hotel wages and relatively small earnings of the local people involved in tourism activities; and (ii) from the business profits derived from the room and board rates and the out-of-pocket expenses of the tourists, inasmuch as these profits are re-invested in the country. Maldives has no central bank and no commercial bank to re-channel these profits into the country's economy for the time being. Furthermore, investments made in the construction of more hotels and tourist facilities will continue to rely on imports of foreign building materials, foreign equipments, and foreign goods. Some efforts could be made, of course, to improve the situation.

As an illustration, a thatch roof will keep foreign exchange in the country by using the local manpower and local material, while a corrugated roof will require export of foreign exchange and use of little local manpower. Such considerations are worth being borne in mind along with other considerations on overall costs of construction, maintenance, replacement and operation with a view to substituting local manpower and local products to imports. It may not be the easiest solution but it may benefit the country more in the end. This approach would also apply to the local production of food products, launches, handicrafts, etc. through the promotion of agriculture and small industries for the local supply of the tourism industry.



Even though the foreign exchange earnings are small in the beginning, they may grow with the new investment opportunities created in the country as a result of this orientation. In the meantime, it should be pointed out that the Government will earn both foreign exchange and income out of the duties charged on certain imported items which make up for the import component of the hotel construction costs and the tourist expenditures. Table XXIV shows the customs duty rates which are applied on imports and exports in Maldives.

Table IX, Columns 21 to 26 shows the rough estimate of the Government earnings from customs duties resulting from the construction of tourist resorts (Columns 21-22 and 24-25) and the operation of the tourist resorts at maximum capacity (Columns 23-26).

The calculations of Columns 21-24 are based on the following assumptions:

- The import component of construction costs (Table IX, Columns 15 to 18) amounts to 90%
- The average duty rate is 25% of the cost of imports

The calculations of Columns 23-26 are based on the data shown in Table XXIII, whereby the average tourist expenditure per room night amounts to \$ 12.00, of which 86% (100% minus 14%) represents the import component. The average duty rate used is 20% of this import component.

More accurate figures could be secured by thorough cost analyses of the construction and operation of the tourist resorts in order to determine the exact import components and establish their classification for the purpose of applying exact duty rates.

For the discussion, it did not appear necessary to compile the out-of-pocket expenses of the tourists (Table XXIII) along this line in view of the fact that a good portion of the import component may be constituted by items sold duty free.

TABLE XXIV

MALDIVES IMPORT AND EXPORT DUTIES

IMPORT DUTY RATES

<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>RATES</u>
Rice	15%
Sugar	15%
Flour	15%
Kerosene oil	15%
Milk products	15%
Drugs	15%
Children's food	15%
All other food items	20%
Tobacco products	20%
Textiles	25%
All other items	30%

(1) Since 1965

(2) Rates applied on the invoice at current official exchange rates

EXPORT DUTY RATES

<u>ITEMS</u>		<u>RATES</u>
Maldivian Fish	Cwt	20 Rps.
Ball Copra	"	2 Rps.
Cut Copra	"	1.50 Rps.
Coir Ropes	"	2.50 Rps.
Cowries	"	5.00 Rps.
Fish Shells	"	0.70 Rps.
Tortoise Shell	(Per Pound)	1.50 Rps.
Shark Fins	"	0.25 Rps.
Red Stone	(Per Cwt)	1.50 Rps.
Coconuts (per thousand nuts)		20.00 Rps.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Maldives



TABLE IX

IMPLICATIONS OF TOURISM GROWTH IN MALDIVES  
UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS EXPRESSED IN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE

Yearly Arrivals of Foreign Visitors	Estimated Income from Import Duty US\$		
	On Hotel Construction Cost (As per Construction Prog.)		On Hotel Operation (Yearly)
	Phased Investments	Cummulated Investments	
1,000	25,000	25,000	14,420
2,000	"	50,000	28,840
3,000	"	75,000	43,260
4,000	"	100,000	57,680
5,000	"	125,000	72,100
6,000	"	150,000	86,520
7,000	"	175,000	100,000
8,000	"	200,000	115,360
9,000	"	225,000	129,780
10,000	"	250,000	144,420
15,000	125,000	375,000	216,520
20,000	125,000	500,000	288,400
30,000	250,000	750,000	432,600
40,000	"	1,000,000	576,800
50,000	"	1,250,000	721,000
60,000	"	1,500,000	865,200
70,000	"	1,750,000	1,009,400
80,000	"	2,000,000	1,153,600
90,000	"	2,250,000	1,297,800
100,000	"	2,500,000	1,444,200
Column 1	Column 21	Column 22	Column 23



TABLE IX

IMPLICATIONS OF TOURISM GROWTH IN MALDIVES  
UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS EXPRESSED IN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE

Yearly Arrivals of Foreign Visitors	Estimated Income from Import Duty. Rps		
	On Hotel Construction Cost (As per Construction Prog.)		On Hotel Operation (Yearly)
	Phased Investments	Cumulated Investments	
1,000	150,000	150,000	86,520
2,000	"	300,000	173,040
3,000	"	450,000	259,560
4,000	"	600,000	346,080
5,000	"	750,000	432,600
6,000	"	900,000	519,020
7,000	"	1,050,000	606,640
8,000	"	1,200,000	792,160
9,000	"	1,350,000	778,680
10,000	"	1,500,000	865,200
15,000	750,000	2,250,000	1,297,800
20,000	750,000	3,000,000	1,730,400
30,000	1,500,000	4,000,000	2,595,600
40,000	"	6,000,000	3,460,800
50,000	"	7,500,000	4,326,000
60,000	"	9,000,000	5,190,200
70,000	"	10,500,000	6,066,400
80,000	"	12,000,000	7,921,600
90,000	"	13,500,000	7,786,800
100,000	"	15,000,000	8,652,000
Column 1	Column 24	Column 25	Column 26

Conversion Rate of 6 Rps = US\$ 1.00 was applied to figures shown in Columns 19, 20 and 21, respectively



Tourism growth also has other benefits for the Maldivians, such as improved living conditions brought about by the development of facilities which would not have been feasible without the inflow of visitors with a higher spending power than the Maldivians' to sustain the cost of these facilities or earn the foreign exchange required to pay for these facilities. This would also justify the efforts required to develop tourism in Maldives.

#### CONCLUSIONS

##### Part II of

As it appears in this report, the recent progress made by Maldives in the field of tourism could be followed up with impressive results and should therefore be pursued. There is however no leading thread now, except the legitimate desire of the tourist entrepreneurs to make money. The tentative projections and discussions presented in this report shed light on some of the many topics Maldives must explore in order to develop tourism on the right footing. Yet, the implications of tourism growth in Maldives cannot be measured accurately in view of the little information available for analysis.

In summary, Maldives needs a national tourism development plan, based on an exhaustive study of her human, natural and man-made resources in the context of her present economy and a market study, in order to ascertain (i) that her assets are mobilized efficiently according to the actual needs of the visitors and (ii) that tourism activities benefit economic expansion and social progress in the country in harmony with other profitable activities and local traditions, in addition to allowing the private entrepreneurs to make financial gains.

Any official policy of encouraging tourism development in Maldives could be based on the premise that use by foreigners of certain facilities, even minimally, contributes to Maldives' ability to provide these facilities for her own citizens. In other words, any investment made to support the tourism industry must be viewed in the light of its likely contribution to the improvement of the quality of life available to the Maldivians. This applies with equal force not only to the Male Atoll but also to all the atolls and the smaller communities in remote areas.



SAMPLE FACT SHEET ON MALDIVES  
PREPARED BY A TRAVEL AGENT  
IN SRI LANKA

---

M A L D I V E S

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND INHABITANTS

" The coral archipelago forming Maldives, extend in the Indian Ocean from Long.  $72^{\circ} 32\frac{1}{2}'E$  and Long.  $73^{\circ} 48'E$ . and Lat.  $7^{\circ} 9\frac{1}{2}'N$ . and  $0^{\circ} 45\frac{1}{4}'S$ . covering some 475 miles in length North to South, and some 80 miles in width at the widest. These islands and atolls are to the greater extent surrounded by naturally formed reefs which act as breakwaters.

" There are about twenty atolls in all and by far a very small number of islands are inhabited.

" At the extreme northern end of Maldives lie Ihavandiffolu. That is since the claim over Maliku or Minicoy some centuries ago by the Rajah of Kannanur. This Northern most atoll, Ihavendiffolu, is some 370 miles from the Indian sub-continent, and Male the capital and the seat of the government is some 400 miles south-west of Ceylon.

" All the islands rise like so many platforms from one plateau of sea which in the deepest region is some 200 fathoms. These platform like islands are but just a few feet above sea level, very seldom more than 8 feet.

" The southern most tip of the archipelago is Addu Atoll, which is one of the rarest naturally protected atolls of the entire archipelago. One line of reef surrounds the islands which string themselves out in a wide circle with a deep lagoon within. There are two or three entrances only into the atoll.



"Barrier reefs" encircle this and other atolls which afford the inhabitants of the islands considerable protection against violence of the waves of the deep sea and severe storms which lash onto Maldives frequently. They are common during the south-west monsoon.

"To the visitors, Maldives present one of the most beautiful pictures of blue tropical sea studded with islands with white sandy beaches with green coconut palm trees forming the most common variety of plantations throughout the archipelago.

"As a general rule currents run eastward from June to September. In the north-east monsoon they strike abruptly along the west side of the islands till the end of December. After that they flow with strong force through the channels as far as the equator and thus remain till April. Thereafter the currents variable until south-west monsoon sets in again.

"Regular tides occur throughout the atolls almost evenly. The maximum tide is very seldom beyond five feet and the speed of the ebb and the flood vary very slightly during the different monsoonal winds.

"The southern group of atolls are more subject to monsoonal weather and, experiences the violence of tropical storms. By November each year the north-east monsoon is fairly well established. It continues steadily until March. Winds and weather during April and May are very irregular with intermittent squalls but a gradual pattern becomes evident at the beginning of June and continues mostly up to August. Fairly strong gales accompanied by heavy rains are a frequent recurrence during this time. In the period between distinct monsoonal weathers light winds prevail and it veers off to almost any direction.

"The general climate of Maldives is more or less the same as that experienced in the south-western coastal region of Ceylon. The rain falls in greater quantities in the central and southern atolls with less violent winds and more humidity.



" During the day the temperature in the shade ranges from 80°F to 85°F falling to 78°F at night. During March and April the day temperature even in the shade may reach 90°F but usually fall to 85°F sometimes to 80°F at night.

#### SOIL

"The islands consist of surface covering which is more a mixture of sand and organic matter forming a dark coloured soil light in texture covering two or three feet of pure sand. Below this is soft sandstone about two feet deep, which softens again to sand in which fresh water is found. The islands are subject to erosion. This is common in some of the islands lying about 4 to 5 miles away from the wind-ward ponds. Most islands have fresh water at a little depth, easily obtained by sinking shallow wells.

#### VEGETATION

"The northern atolls are more fertile than the central. In all the atolls in general the eastern rather than western islands are more fertile. There are no forests as such, and there are no hills or mountains. The only wild vegetation consist of low tropical style plants and other growth which form thickets. A limited variety of fruits such as mangoes, papaws, plantains and pomegranets are grown. One or two islands are well-known for pineapples and oranges. Breadfruit and coconut are in abundance and the growth is extraordinarily luxuriant. Root crops and some fine grains are grown, but not in substantial quantities. Rice which is the staple food of the Maldivians, has to be imported.

#### HABITATION

"Today there is no doubt that the whole archipelago - including Maliku (Minicoy) now grouped with the Lakadives, and no longer owing allegiance to Maldives - was occupied by some of the Aryan Stock who migrated to Ceylon from northern India about the same time as the B.C. Migrations to the various parts of the region. Evidence is obvious in the customs, the general tendencies, temperament, and the language in use. There is also evidence that some Arab



tradesmen from Morocco and other African and Middle East ports did reach Maldivian shores either purposely or in the course of their travels.

"Due to limited intercourse with the outside world till the beginning of the 20th century the original characteristics of the people have not changed much though they have been considerably modified. Very markedly this is the case in the northern atolls which have been necessarily more exposed to foreign influence than those lying south. There is evidence that Buddhism did prevail in Maldives but it had been over-thrown by Islam in mid-twelfth century. Since that period, twice the Maldivian throne had been usurped by foreigners, otherwise the islands have been governed by a succession of Muslim Kings and Queens.

"For obvious reasons Maldivians are peace loving by nature and comparatively civilized. Those living in the atolls north of Male the capital resemble in some of their characteristics the Moors in Ceylon and Muslims of South India. Those in the South are more similar to the Sinhalese, where their physical features are concerned.

#### POPULATION

"The last census (1969) gives the total population throughout the archipelago as 110770. This consist of 58897 males and 51873 females.

"In Male the capital which is hardly a mile in length by half a mile at the widest, the total population is 12912.

#### SOME IMPORTANT DATES

1153 AD:	.. Maldives embraced Islam
1558 AD:	.. Portuguese seizure of the administration
1573 AD:	.. Defeat of the Portuguese by Maldivians led by Utheemu Bodu Thakurufanu
1887 AD: (16th December)	.. Understanding with Britian establishing Maldives as a protectorate



1932 AD: (22nd December)	.. Proclamation of the first Democratic Constitution
1948 AD: (24th April)	.. Revision of the protection agreement with Britain following a change of status of Ceylon from a colonial territory to an independent one
1953 AD: (1st January)	.. Proclamation of the Republic in Maldives
1953 AD: (21st August)	.. Restoration of the Sultanate
1964 AD: (4th June)	.. Proclamation of the amended Constitution
1965 AD: (26th July)	.. Attainment of full political independence by Maldives and hence revision of treaty with Britain
1965 AD: (22nd September)	.. Admission of Maldives to the United Nations Organization
1968 AD: (11th November)	.. Establishment of the Republic of Maldives

#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1. 1st day of the lunar month of Muharram - Muslim New Year
2. 12th day of the lunar month Rabee-ul-Avval - Prophet Mohamed's B'day
3. 26th July - National Day
4. 11th November - Republic Day
5. 1st day of lunar month of Shavval - Id-ul-Fitru
6. 10th day of lunar month of Zul-Haj - Id-ul-Asha

#### GOVERNMENT HOLIDAYS

1. 1st January - New Year Day
2. 25th January - Opening of Parliament
3. 12th November - On the occasion of Republic Day
4. 1st day of the lunar month of Ramzan - Beginning of Ramzan
5. 2nd day of the lunar month of Shavval - Celebration of Id-ul-Fitru
6. 3rd day of the lunar month of Shavval - Celebration of Id-ul-Fitru
7. 9th day of the lunar month of Zul-Haj - Commemorating the day of Pilgrimage to Mecca
8. 1th day of the lunar month of Zul-Haj - Celebration of Id-ul-Azha
9. 12th day of the lunar month of Zul-Haj - Celebration of Id-ul-Azha
10. Fridays



#### TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

"Any visitor to Maldives must be in possession of a valid passport, temporary certificate or identity document which establishes the essential details about the visitor. According to the present practice, there is no visa required for a visit to Maldives.

"However the customary vaccination documents are essential. If the visitor is from a country where there is an epidemic or if he or she has stopped over in such an area enroute, the visitor must produce the necessary immunization documents on arrival in Maldives.

"(Any further or additional details could be had from - the Embassy of the Republic of Maldives which is situated at No. 25, Melbourne Avenue, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka (Ceylon).)

#### TRANSPORT

"At present visitors to Maldives have a choice out of two methods to travel to Male.

"The starting point for all journeys to Maldives is Colombo, in the Republic of Sri Lanka (Formerly - Ceylon).

"There are the coastal cargo boats which operate once a month. But the element of regularity is rather lacking. And the accommodation is not very comfortable except for the very limited first-class passengers.

"The other method is by the Air-Ceylon fortnightly service, operating every other Tuesday from the Bandaranaike Airport in Sri Lanka (Ceylon) to Hulule Airport in Maldives, about a mile and half from the Capital island "male".

"A sea-journey takes any time from 40-60 hours and an airtrip takes 13/4 to 2 2/3 hours.



"The agents for the Maldivian Ships are Messrs. The Maldivian Nationals Trading Corporation (Ceylon) Ltd., 78, Reclamation Road, Colombo 11, Sri Lanka. Bookings both for sea and air passages could be arranged through the above agents. In the case of Air Ceylon flights, detailed information could be had from Air Ceylon agents anywhere.

"The Sri Lanka Air Force has made available 12 seater air-crafts on charter. A round trip charter costs \$780. They now operate a service every other Friday from Colombo returning on Saturday.

"Male is a free port so no revenue is collected. There are prohibitions, namely, liquor, pig products, dogs, dangerous animals, porno and religious images. One may not bring into Male any form of liquor but the tourist resorts are plentifully stocked with choice wines, spirits, beers and liquors at extremely low prices. In the tourist areas there are no restrictions on the purchase of consumption of liquor and pig products are also available. Movement of other articles in and out of the country is permitted free of charge so long as the items are not meant for purposes of trade.

#### CURRENCY

"Visitors are free to bring into or take out of the country any amount of foreign currency in cash or by other methods. A Bank is about to be established, namely, the Hatton National Bank.

#### ACCOMMODATION

"There are currently two tourist resorts. One, the Bandos Tourist Resort, on the island of Bandos in the Male atoll, and the other, Kurumba Village on Kurumba island. There are also residential quarters with modern conveniences to be let or leased on the capital Male. Visitors are advised to make prior reservations for their stay with the Maldivian Nationals Trading Corporation, generally referred to as M.N.T.C. The M.N.T.C. will confirm rooms in Bandos and Silver Sands Hotels in Male and in other private residential quarters. Reservations for Kurumba Village should be made with Mr. R.H. Omar, 199, Second Cross Street, Colombo 11. Telephone 92746. This outfit runs a



Tourist Agency called Muman Tourist Agency at Marine Drive, Male the capital of the Maldives. The Bandos Resort is managed by Crescent Tourist Agency also at Marine Drive, Male. The Crescent Tourist Agency is referred to as C.T.A.

#### MALDIVIAN LANGUAGE

"The language of the Maldivians is known as "Divehi". Any visitor could get about the country if he converses in English. Most of the people cannot speak good English, especially in the Atolls. In Male, the situation is much better.

"The attitude of Maldivians towards foreigners is friendly and sincere.

#### THE WEATHER

"Though there are two main monsoons the difference is rather small where the temperature is concerned. The North East Monsoon (lasting from November 15 up to about March 31) provides little rain, and calm seas. The opposite may be said of the South West Monsoon when there is rain and heavy seas.

"The variation in temperature is rather small. The maximum temperature reached in the afternoon on an average day is about 88° Fahrenheit, in the night the minimum temperature is about 82° Fahrenheit.

"During the hottest seasons temperatures of over 90° Fahrenheit have been reached. On very cold rainy days there have been temperatures under 76° Fahrenheit.

"Rainfall records have been maintained regularly during the last 5 years, and it is seen that the average rainfall per annum for this period is between 5.80 inches and 7.55 inches.



#### MEDICAL FACILITIES

"In the capital Male, there is a hospital with up-to-date facilities to meet the normal needs of the people. The necessary medical care and essential drugs are also available. The accommodation in the wards is, at present, restricted to 40 beds.

"The medical facilities available in the rest of Maldives is confined to the basic health services from the health centres manned by health assistants, in the atolls of the country. There are 19 atolls comprising Maldives.

#### TRANSPORT INTER-ISLAND

"All transport is by boat and the two Tourist Agencies between them operate 35 assorted imported power boats in Bandos and 8 power boats in Kurumba Island. Apart from these the Maldivian "dhonis" which are the typical Maldivian sailing boats are always available for hire.

#### THE CAPITAL MALE

"Male has a museum, the tomb of the patron saint, the indigenous lacquer work creations and a highly successful co-operative store which goes under the label of Maldivian Government Bodu Stores. The main organisation is called M.G.B.S. and the distributing points are M.G.B.S. shops with numbers attached to them starting with one. You can virtually buy anything from a motor scooter right down to a safety pin, pharmaceuticals, confectionary, textiles, jams and biscuits. In fact almost all that you can buy in Europe except ham, bacon and the like.

#### RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

"The capital Male has a broadcasting station which has an internal service and an external service. All Atoll chiefs are connected to the capital by wireless transmitter receivers for communication and on the islands Government Officials have walkie-talkie radios which they use almost every day at the same



time. Power boats which carry tourists are equipped with walkie-talkie radios so that they are always in touch with the base stations according to the channels on which they operate.

#### INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS

"The main occupation is fishing and there is also a thriving boat building industry set up by Maldivian Companies who use the coconut tree and other timber grown in the island. A small amount of coconut is converted into copra. Now there are also coir yarn weaving centres, mat weaving, lacquer works, cadjan weaving and a new money spinner shell collecting.

#### HEALTH

"The population of approximately 118,818 persons (a count in 1972) now have the benefit of aid from the World Health Organization. There are qualified doctors, public health workers, nurses and midwives with an ambulance launch and a 40 bed hospital which takes care of the health of the nation. Several communicable diseases are now under control so the visitor will be rather surprised when his blood is taken for a test on arrival at the airport and this test is to ensure that outsiders are not bringing in communicable diseases into the island.

#### ADMINISTRATION

"The administration on the island which became a republic has a President as the Chief Executive and Head of the State. The next in line is the Prime Minister and various Ministers. The atolls have their chiefs who are under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Government is composed of the Ministers of Justice, Education, Health, Finance, Public Service, Agriculture, Fisheries, Home Affairs, Trade and Development and the Attorney General. Also the Speaker, while the Prime Minister holds portfolio for Minister for External Affairs, and the President maintains his position as the Chief Executive and Head of the State.



BANDOS TOURIST RESORT

" Current Bed Strength - There are at present 16 beds facing the sea front made up of 8 rooms and another block made up of 3 rooms with 6 beds. There are also 20 doubles which do not face the sea, giving a total of 62 beds. Extension programmes will produce 32 additional beds facing the sea by 30th April 1973, a further 32 by 30th June, 1973, and 16 more beds by 30th August, 1973, all facing the sea. The final tally therefore as at 1st September, 1973, should read 102 beds facing the sea and 40 beds non-sea front. This is saturation point for Bandos. The present Tourist Agency which runs Bandos will develop one of the other islands under their control. A map showing the islands for tourist development is attached.

KURUMBA VILLAGE

" Kurumba Village which is run by Muman Tourist Agency has 60 beds at present. They have an extension programme but no authoritative statement was made regarding this. Their bookings, however, reach up to 120 persons and 160 persons in the high seasons of August and December."



UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR

A/c  
Res left  
advised

TO: Miss C. Reid, PMO  
A: Section for Asia and the Far East, CIC

THROUGH: Mr. Zdenek Lastovka, Chief  
S/C DE: Transport Section, RTD

FROM: Jacques Seletti, Transport Section  
DE: Resources and Transport Division

SUBJECT: REPUBLIC OF THE MALDIVES: Tourism  
OBJET:

RECORDS CONTROL  
FEB 7 - 1973

DATE: 2 February 1973

REFERENCE: TE 311/1 MALDIVES

1. This is to confirm our conversation of 31 January 1973 regarding travel to the Republic of the Maldives. I am due to arrive in Colombo on flight BOAC 910A on Thursday, 22 February at 23.20 (11:20 PM).

2. I would appreciate it if you would send a cable to the Resident Representative of the UNDP in Colombo in order:

- (i) to inform him of my ETA;
- (ii) to request that I am met at the airport;
- (iii) to request reservation at the Galle Face Hotel;
- (iv) to make arrangements for my transportation to the Republic of the Maldives on or about 24-25 February and back to Colombo on or about 24-25 March;
- (v) to facilitate the obtainment of an official visa for the Republic of the Maldives which can only be secured in Colombo;
- (vi) to request payment of my per diem for my stay in Sri Lanka and the Republic of the Maldives; and
- (vii) to suggest that the Sri Lanka Tourist Board be informed of my stop over in Sri Lanka on 23 February 1973.

3. Thank you for your prompt attention.



TE 341 ~~Maldives~~  
MALDI



1 February 1973

Dear Mr. Schaaf,

Subject: Maldives Islands 72/004 - Adviser in the  
Development of Tourism

We are pleased to confirm that Mr. Jacques Seletti will be undertaking his mission in the Maldives Islands.

Mr. Seletti is scheduled to arrive in Colombo on Thursday, 22 February, by BOAC 910A at 2320 hours. We would appreciate your making arrangements for him to be met at the airport. Mr. Seletti has also requested reservations at the Galle Face Hotel.

We would also appreciate your making reservations for Mr. Seletti's travel from Colombo to the Maldives on or about 24 or 25 February and for his return to Colombo on or about 24 or 25 March 1973.

Finally, we would appreciate your obtaining in Colombo the official visa for Mr. Seletti's travel to the Maldives.

Yours sincerely,

Igor D. Radović  
Officer-in-Charge  
Section for Asia and the Far East  
Office of Technical Co-operation

Mr. C. Hart Schaaf  
Resident Representative  
United Nations Development Programme  
P.O. Box 1505, Colombo  
Sri Lanka



cleared on draft: Mr. Mortensen  
Mr. Lastovka  
Mr. Radovic

cc: C. Reid  
K. Mortensen  
J. Seletti  
Mr. Lastovka  
Mr. Barnea

Mr. Kofsky  
Mr. Roslyakov (OPI)

ORIGINAL DIRECT

Mr. William Goodkind, Director  
Office for Departmental Finance and Administration, ESA  
Attn. Mr. Seymour Gold

RECORDS CONTROL

25-1-1973

TE 311/1 MAIS

reg: TE 322/1 TOGO

JAN 31 1973

cleared: J. Schoellkopf  
Executive Office, ESA

Charles La Munière, Deputy Director  
Office of Technical Cooperation

Sheila M. Albuquerque, Chief  
Section for Africa, OTC  
Igor Radovic, Chief  
Asia and Far East Section

Request for Official Travel for Mr. Seletti

- 1) It would be appreciated if a travel authorization would be issued for the below-mentioned traveller:

Name: Mr. Jacques Seletti (France)

Title: Economic Affairs Officer  
Transport Section/Resources and Transport Division/ESA

Grade: P4

Room Nr. 2353

Itinerary:

Departure	New York	16 February 1973
Arrival	Lomé	17 February 1973
Arrival	Colombo	1 March 1973
Arrival	Maldives Islands	4 March 1973
Arrival	Colombo	21 March 1973
Arrival	New York	27 March 1973

Estimated Cost:

Air Fare	\$ 1,550.00
Per Diem (41 x \$25.00)	\$ 1,025.00
Misc. (excess baggage, terminal expenses)	\$ 250.00
	<u>\$ 2,825.00</u>

Purpose of Travel:

TOGO: In July 1971, Mr. Seletti undertook a mission to Togo to assist the Government in defining a project in the field of tourism to be executed by the United Nations. As a direct consequence of this mission, a project in tourism was included in the Country Programme for Togo and an official Government request was submitted. The purpose of the project is to carry out a comprehensive study of existing tourism in connection with short and long-range social and economic planning. The U.K. firm, Transport Development Unit,



was chosen to carry out the project under sub-contract and began its work in late September 1972. Their studies will be carried out in two phases.

Mr. Seletti went on mission to Togo from 31 October 1972 to 8 November 1972 to consult with the Resident Representative and the Government about the project. On his return trip he stopped over in London from 22 to 24 November 1972 to consult with the personnel of the Transport Development Unit the results of the first phase studies.

While Mr. Seletti was in Togo, the Government and Resident Representative requested that he return to Lomé in February 1973 in order to confer with the team leader who will be in the field during this period. Mr. Seletti would review with the team leader, the Government, and the Resident Representative the draft report of Phase I of the project prepared by the Transport Development Unit and advise on the preparations and programme of work for Phase II.

MALDIVES ISLANDS: The Government of Maldives Islands, in a request submitted through the Resident Representative for Sri Lanka and the Maldives Islands, has requested the services of Mr. Seletti for a period of one month to advise the Government regarding the strategy and methods to be applied to develop Tourism. Following the Government request, provision was made for such a project in the Islands' country programme. It is proposed that Mr. Seletti stop over in Colombo both en route to and on his return from the Maldives Islands for a few days for the purpose of consulting with the Resident Representative in Colombo, who represents the UNDP in Sri Lanka as well as in the Maldives.

Mr. Seletti will prepare a comprehensive report on conclusion of his mission. In addition, he will prepare an interim draft report before leaving Togo and leave two copies of this report with the Resident Representative and pouch three copies to OTC.

The Resources and Transport Division fully concurs with the proposed travel and has confirmed that a competent technical adviser will be available to handle Headquarter's technical backstopping functions related to tourism during Mr. Seletti's absence.

... Documents attached: Memo from Mr. Seletti to Miss Albuquerque of 27/11/1972  
... Memo from Mr. Lastovka to Miss Albuquerque of 29/11/1972  
... Letter from Resident Representative of the Maldives Islands  
of 10/10/1972  
... Cable from Resident Representative in Togo dated 20/1/1973