



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

*86 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007*

August 30, 2023

BY ECF

The Honorable Denise L. Cote
United States District Judge
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Courthouse
500 Pearl St.
New York, NY 10007-1312

Re: *Hamilton Reserve Bank, Ltd. v. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka*, 22-cv-5199 (DLC)

Dear Judge Cote:

I write to inform the Court of the United States of America's potential participation in the above-captioned case. This case has been brought by Hamilton Reserve Bank, Ltd. against the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka ("Sri Lanka") seeking payment on \$250,190,000 of defaulted sovereign bonds. ECF No. 23. Sri Lanka has filed a motion to stay the litigation for a period of six months while it conducts sovereign debt restructuring negotiations with sovereign and commercial creditors. ECF Nos. 53-55. Sri Lanka's reply brief in support of its motion is currently due August 31, 2023. ECF No. 40.

The United States is actively considering whether to file a Statement of Interest with respect to the pending motion to stay.¹ Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 517, the Attorney General of the United States is authorized to send any officer of the Department of Justice to "attend to the interests of the United States in a suit pending in a court of the United States, or in a court of a State, or to attend to any other interest of the United States." The process for deciding whether to file a Statement of Interest involves coordination among interested government agencies and the approval of the U.S. Department of Justice through the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division. The United States expects that it will be in a position to inform the Court of its potential participation in this matter, and to file its Statement of Interest should it be authorized to do so, no later than October 2, 2023.

¹ The United States understands that other official creditors may separately submit a filing reflecting their views. In the event that any such filing also reflects the views of the United States, the United States would so notify the Court. Any submission by the United States would address the interests of the United States.

The Government respectfully requests that the Court reserve decision on the pending motion to stay until the United States has had an opportunity to submit any such statement of interest.

I thank the Court for its consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

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