**Speech by Sidney Rose-Neil to the Acupuncture Congress in Sri Lanka, 1978**

PRIME MINISTER, Distinguished Ministers, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a great privilege to be here. It is the first occasion that my wife and I have visited your country and we feel part of a wonderful community.

We have never met greater hospitality and more kindness anywhere - ever.

It is an honour therefore, to me to be able to make any contribution however small, towards the health of the people of Sri Lanka.

I came here as the Chairman of the B. A.A.to help promote international Acupuncture, for to me Acupuncture is the most important thing in my life. In the short time I have been here it has become more evident how much Sri Lanka needs Acupuncture.

It is the birthright in a humane society for every man, woman and child to be able to have medical treatment when sick, however poor they may be.

It is our duty and our responsibility and our privilege as medical men and government officials to see that treatment is available to all people.

So often the sick cannot help themselves and the poor are frightened. It is the duty for those with power and influence to help look after those who are less fortunate and to help them recover their health and strength.

There is no work more worth while, there is no effort or sacrifice too great to achieve these aims. We must use our efforts to produce the greatest effect, in the least time to the largest numbers of people and at the minimum of cost.

As far as I am concerned this must mean Acupuncture for Acupuncture will produce the greatest beneficial effect, in the least time and at a minimum of cost.

The Chinese people who were the originators of Acupuncture know this and have trained hundreds of Acupuncture doctors and barefoot doctors.

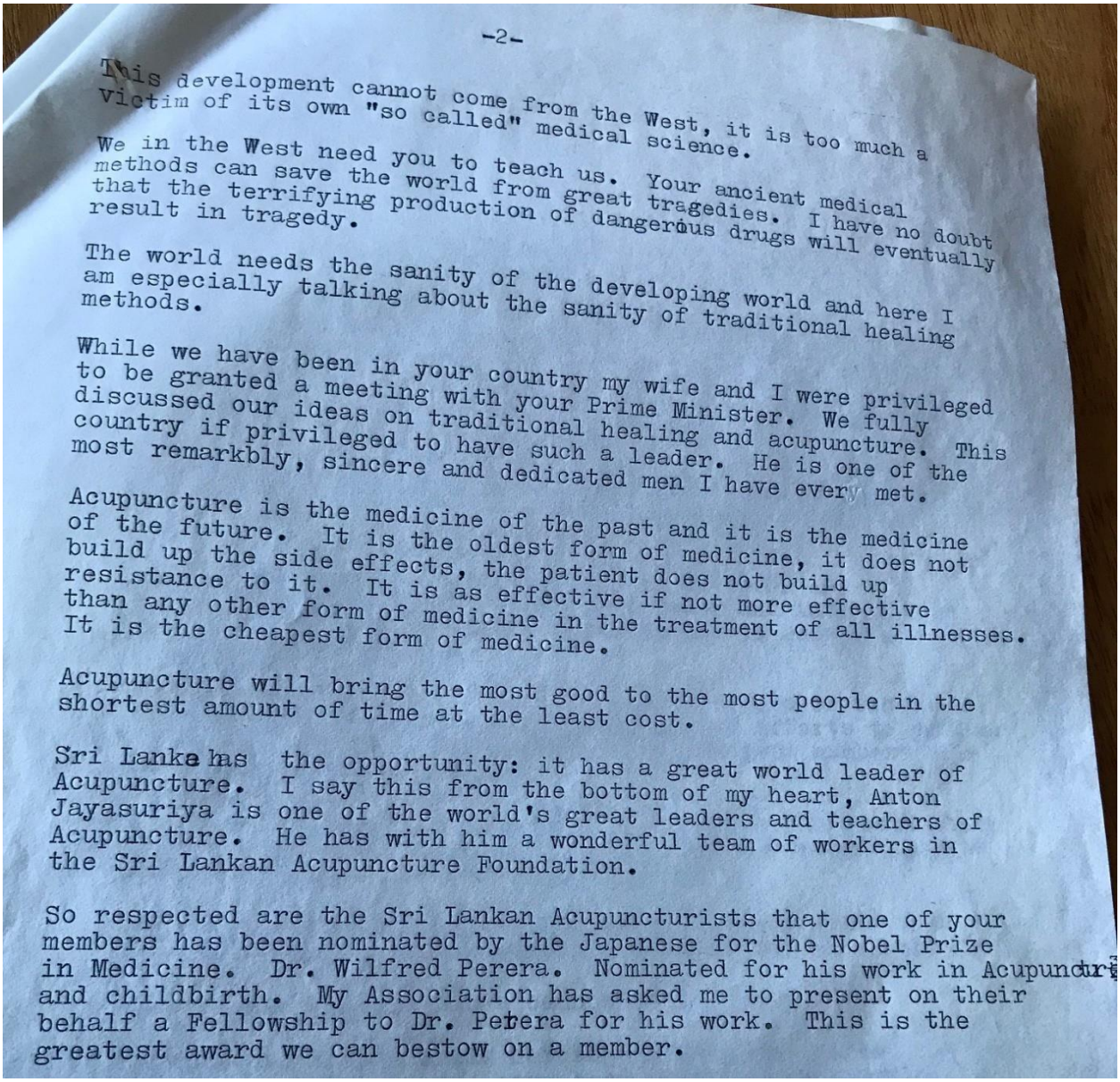
Is there any reason why Sri Lanka cannot do the same.

In this country you have a great heritage of ancient herbal medicine Agrevetic medicine and also you have been using Acupuncture since ancient times. There is no doubt that western drug medicine is important and necessary. But do not be deceived or overestimate its importance. Hundreds of thousands ofmillions rupees profits are made every year by western Drug Houses. They will do their best to sell their drugs here, as much as possible and they will happily take as much money out of this country as they can.

In the west there is great disquiet about drugs. There have been many trajedie. There are many side effects. There are great problems. Today in the west the largest disease is Iatrogenic disease, diseases caused by drugs. It is estimated that in England one person in three goes to see his doctor because of a disease caused by a drug and one person in five goes into hsopital with iatrogenic illness.

Here in the east there are great and wonderful heritages and especially in medicine - develop them. Instead of the East turning to the West, it is time the West turned to the East. It is not to say that western medicine is not useful, but it should be delegated to its rightful place.

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This development cannot come from the West, it is too much a victim of its own "so called" medical science.

We in the West need you to teach us. Your ancient medical methods can save the world from great tragedies. I have no doubt that the terrifying production of dangerous drugs will eventually result in tragedy.

The world needs the sanity of the developing world and here I am especially talking about the sanity of traditional healing methods.

While we have been in your country my wife and I were privileged to be granted a meeting with your Prime Minister. We fully discussed our ideas on traditional healing and acupuncture. This country if privileged to have such a leader. He is one of the most remarkbly, sincere and dedicated men I have ever met.

Acupuncture is the medicine of the past and it is the medicine of the future. It is the oldest form of medicine, it does not build up the side effects, the patient does not build up resistance to it. It is as effective if not more effective than any other form of medicine in the treatment of all illnesses. It is the cheapest form of medicine.

Acupuncture will bring the most good to the most people in the shortest amount of time at the least cost.

Sri Lanka has the opportunity: it has a great world leader of Acupuncture. I say this from the bottom of my heart, Anton Jayasuriya is one of the world's great leaders and teachers of Acupuncture. He has with him a wonderful team of workers in the Sri Lankan Acupuncture Foundation.

So respected are the Sri Lankan Acupuncturists that one of your members has been nominated by the Japanese for the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Dr. Wilfred Perera. Nominated for his work in Acupuncture and childbirth. My Association has asked me to present on their behalf a Fellowship to Dr. Perera for his work. This is the greatest award we can bestow on a member.