

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW (CIL)

Tribute by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Prof S Jayakumar to the late Mr S. Tiwari.

I was very saddened to hear the news of Mr Tiwari's death.

I had known Tiwari for many years. I first knew him when he was my student when I taught law at the Law Faculty, NUS.

Later, when I was Minister for Law and he was in the AG's Chambers, we worked closely on many issues, especially those concerning international law and international agreements. He was amongst the pioneer group of legal officers specialising in international law when the AGC's International Affairs Division was formed.

He was a key member of our legal teams in the Reclamation Case heard by the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the Pedra Branca case heard by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). He was also a member of the Singapore delegation which negotiated the free trade agreement with the US. He was the legal adviser to the delegation which negotiated the agreement to establish diplomatic relations between Singapore and the People's Republic of China.

He was much respected not just by his colleagues in the Singapore public service, but in ASEAN and internationally. Whether negotiating bilateral agreements or at international conferences, he achieved the reputation among other delegations as a tough, fair-minded and skilful negotiator.

His legal skills were internationally recognised when WTO appointed him in 2008 as a panelist for the sensitive and complex dispute between China and the USA, which was the first ever international adjudication of enforcement provisions in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

He had served his country with distinction. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the President of Singapore in 2008. I conveyed my condolences to his wife and family when I visited them today. I also conveyed to them the condolences of PM Lee Hsien Loong, SM Goh Chok Tong and Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew. The late Tiwari had worked closely with all three Prime Ministers.

Prof S Jayakumar
Senior Minister
Patron of CIL