

Message from the expatriate Sri Lankans in Canada. (1995, August 20). *The Sunday times*.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE EXPATRIATE SRI LANKANS IN CANADA**

We extend our wholehearted support to the Government and people of Sri Lanka in the armed conflict thrust upon them by terrorists belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), fighting to carve out an ethnically cleansed mono ethnic state exclusively for the Tamil minority community. WE CALL ON THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES TO CO-OPERATE IN THE NATION'S INTEREST TO TOTALLY DEFEAT THE LTTE AND RESTORE LAW AND ORDER IN THE LAND.

We salute the brave men and women in the security forces who continue to defend Sri Lanka's Constitution and her territorial integrity, risking their lives and even paying the supreme price in the nation's hour of need. We shall never forget their services in safeguarding the nation as we pledge to repay our debt of gratitude.

THE PROPOSED "UNION OF REGIONS" AIMED AT SATISFYING A SMALL MINORITY OF EXTREMISTS IN THE NORTH IS DOOMED TO FAILURE, AS IT WILL NOT WIN MAJORITY SUPPORT ELSEWHERE IN THE ISLAND. SRI LANKANS SEEK AND HONOURABLE AND JUST PEACE - NOT FEDERALISM. WE ARE OPPOSED TO ANY MERGER OF THE NORTH AND EAST, OR ANY BREAK-UP AND RE-DISTRIBUTION OF TERRITORY OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE.

We believe that the powers already devolved under the Thirteenth Amendment to Sri Lanka's Provincial Councils, based on the Constitution of India, drawn up to meet the numerous disparities and vast terrain existing in the sub-continent are excessive to our needs, and should be reviewed. Matters relating to police and public order, land and state lands, acquisition and requisition of property, irrigation, agrarian services, higher education, ancient/historical monuments, and the newly proposed powers of international borrowing and foreign investment should be firmly vested in the Central Government.

A FEDERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH COULD BE A STEPPING STONE TO SECESSION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY THAT GUARANTEES THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, ONE THAT SECURES THE TENURE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SETTLERS OF THE HISTORICAL PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, AND ENSURES THE EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL PEOPLE BY THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY WITHIN A STRONG UNITARY SYSTEM ALONE IS ACCEPTABLE.

Sri Lanka - Undivided, One-Country "A Homeland" For All.

SRI LANKA UNITED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.