

Lankan adventure. (1988, August 24). *The Ottawa Citizen*.

OTTAWA CITIZEN • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1988

Lankan adventure.

"Gandhi falters as India's problems multiply" (Aug. 10), you said. But one glaring omission of Rajiv Gandhi's "problems" in Ben

Tierney's article was not to mention Gandhi's ploy in Sri Lanka of June 1987.

According to the "accord" signed by Gandhi and President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka on July 29, 1987, Indian troops, around 2,000 of them, were expected to depart within 72 hours after disarming the nearly 2,000 Tamil terrorists that India fed, trained, armed and paid to fight India's dirty war to destabilize Sri Lanka. But with 100,000 soldiers and 8,760 hours later, this fourth-largest army in the world hasn't been able to bring this ragged band of bare-footed youths to their knees.

This has gone beyond the wildest imaginings of the schemers. The 100,000 Indian troops occupying Sri Lanka's north and east are draining \$3 million per day from India, a country characterized by the gaunt faces of the starving.

This expensive adventure by Gandhi, too, is being questioned by the Indians.

Asoka Weerasinghe
Vanier