

The War in Sri Lanka

The bitter fighting between Indian troops and Tamil Tigers [INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, Oct. 23] means India now has to face the problem that she created. For over a decade, the guerillas used India as a haven — for training, for arms stockpiling, for headquartering, and for the dispatching of “operational missions” to Sri Lanka. Whenever the Sri Lankan forces responded as the Indian Army is now responding, India intervened — for “humanitarian” reasons. When the Sri Lankan Army succeeded in retaking the Jaffna peninsula, India air-dropped supplies and food to the Tamil guerillas. That was a direct threat to the sovereignty of Sri Lanka, which thus had to accept the Indian peace formula.

India smiled warmly at the Tamil guerillas and depicted them as noble crusaders, though violence was their stock in trade. South India gave them \$2.5 million as “aid.” After the pact, the guerillas continued their violence and brutality — first against rival Tamil groups, to gain political supremacy, then against the Sinhalese on the eastern coast, and finally against the Indian peacekeeping force.

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