

'Dangerous to let loose ruthless Tigers in a Parliamentary democracy'. (1993, July 03). *The Island*.

'Dangerous to let loose ruthless Tigers in a Parliamentary democracy'

From Sisira Wijesinghe in Oslo

The ferocity of Tamil Tigers was once again proved at a Magisterial Court in India recently where a member of a People's War Group (PWG) confessed that their organisation was benefited by the military training given by Tigers in India. "So their military expertise became saleable in the very land they were nurtured" observed a senior consultant on Warfare and Defence Strategies H. G. Ridings in a exclusive interview with "The Island", to me in Oslo.

Speaking to "The Island" as an observer to the ongoing guerrilla warfare he said the time has now come for the Sri Lankan Army to forge ahead as 'Kamikazes' as this uncompromising brutal fanaticism of a ruthless group should not be let loose in a Parliamentary democracy.

At the same time he claimed the Tamil civilians in the North and Eastern part of Sri Lanka are now inured to the atrocities of their so called 'Liberation Fighters' and long for a speedy annihilation of this dangerous trend because they have now come to a point of seeing Tigers as a fanatic brainwashed group.

"Your former Defence Minister was determined to win it in the military way and launched

some impressive methods to minimise the civilian casualties but those plans were dropped half-way due to reasons not known. Now the world sympathy for Tigers has considerably ceased and the international community wants this menace wiped out".

H. G. Ridings, a senior Consultant on Warfare and Defence strategies who claims to have served a number of European nations and their security establishments including NATO was in Norway recently on a holiday tour before he left for Canada.

Ridings now a permanent resident in the US admitted that he had served in Sri Lanka under British during the second world war before his retirement. He has also been on a consultative assignment during the recent Gulf War.

Mr. Ridings further stated:

"As far as I learn, in Sri Lanka at least 5-10 Army men are decimated almost every month during the past two years by the opposing Tiger fanatics. This could be the highest death toll of senior army members and other security members of a state army by an illegal army. This could also constitute a question of bad precedence if this trend is not nabbed."

With the new administration now in place, Ridings remarked, "The theory is that the war should end. But how and at what cost? As I learn from Colombo-based diplomatic and other sources, nothing very much has still been accomplished to arrest a lot of uncertainties prevailing in the battle ground in Sri Lanka," he pointed out.

"At the same time I feel, a sense of relief prevails now among the hierarchy of Army and other forces with a very optimistic assessment. Sri Lankan army, of course, must be able to take on the foe", Ridings added.

Admitting his inability to access precisely the nature of attacks being carried out by the Sri Lankan forces, he called upon the security authorities to concentrate on new strategies to overcome this threat. "Let it not be another legacy, and a precedence as Sri Lanka cannot afford to lose so many security officers. In a situation like this you cannot both have the cake and eat it," Ridings remarked.

"I had the rare distinction of meeting your slain Army leader Denzil Kobbekaduwa when I was at the Sandhurst Military academy. Not

only that, I met him some three years ago in Colombo when I had a brief stop over the way home from Australia," he said recently.

Asked why then British authorities have so far failed to curb the threat of IRA, he smiled, "The IRA at least for the time being has committed isolated incidents where casualties among the forces are very minor. Above all, it has not captured an area as keeping a whole nation under that threat yours."

"In a military situation, the nation will rise to the occasion, and gear all resources towards achieving the final goal. After all the political will that goes alongside such a situation", he observed.

The mood of the western arms sellers that bad for Sri Lanka as before as they too realized the gravity of your problem and the problem as well in relation to those arising from the fear of Tigers.

"During my assignments I noted that the lot of westbound countries now tend to repeat the lot of Sri Lankan Tamils who ran in fear of the army and government soldiers", he concluded.