

'Truth suppressed', says Indian sleuth. (1993, December 19). *The Sunday Times*.

# 'Truth suppressed', says Indian sleuth

By Raushen Akbar

Tamil Nadu's former Police Chief, K. Mohandas who has been described as the 'man who knew too much,' after the disclosures made in his recent books, is in Sri Lanka to promote his books and renew old contacts.

Asked at a news conference this week in Colombo whether renewing old contacts would also mean contacts with LTTE Chief Velupillai Prabhakaran whom he had known for a long time, the controversial sleuth gave an evasive answer about his hands being tied at one time.

Mr. Mohanadas said he had met President Wijetunga, Minister Festus Perera and others.

Excerpts from the press conference.

**Q:** What is the purpose of your visit to Sri Lanka?

**A:** I have two or three objectives. I came to know that Rohan Gunaratne's book 'The Indian Intervention in Sri Lanka' was not well distributed in India and that my books, 'M.G.R.: the Man and the Myth' and 'The Assassination' which is a political thriller, were not well distributed in Sri Lanka.

The publishers have now come to an understanding as to how to promote Mr. Gunaratne's books in India and mine in Sri Lanka.

Another reason for my visit, is that many people have approached me for film and TV rights. As to the filming of 'The Assassination' BBC London is also thinking of producing a TV serial on it.

My third objective was to visit my old friends in Sri Lanka. I have been to Sri Lanka many times, especially because I was Superintendent of Police in the coastal districts of India, very close to North-East Sri Lanka. From Tanjavur it is only half an hour by speedboat to Point Pedro.

**Q:** What prompted you to write your first book, 'M.G.R.: the Man and the Myth'?

**A:** I retired from the C.I.D. in 1990 and I took to writing which was an old passion. I used to write poems and articles and was a regular columnist for various newspapers and journals in India.

Some journalists suggested that I write a book and my first book was published in 1992. I was very closely associated with M.G.R. as his Chief of Intelligence for 12 years and had direct access to him every day.

The book threw light on his political years as distinct from his earlier film days and I was surprised when it became the third in the All India Bestseller List for 1992.

The book has a camouflage title; though it deals essentially with M.G.R. one third of the book is on the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

**Q:** Is your latest book 'The Assassination' meant to be on the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi?

**A:** It is a fictitious story set in an imaginary location, but it may relate to facts. That is for the reader to find out as he is free to draw his own conclusions. If I tell you, you will not buy the book (laughs).

**Q:** What is the subject of your next book?

**A:** I believe that in democracies or supposed democracies at least, there should be more freedom for people to know what is happening around them. It is a fact that even in democracies, people believe, that whatever the government says, the opposite is the truth. The credibility of governments has come to zero level. This is because they have been dishing out half-truths and untruths.

However, I do not blame the political leaders alone. I blame the intelligence agencies, security agencies and the investigative agencies for keeping the truth from the people. Intelligence agencies have too much power on their hands and unlimited money and un-audited accounts for them. They can do what they like. Therefore my next book is tentatively titled 'The Right to Know', as I feel that the truth is being suppressed in many places, not only in India but also in Yugoslavia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**Q:** Why is it that you recommended that the Indian government encourage the growth of the LTTE?

**A:** I made no recommendations. This policy was directly dictated, enunciated and worked out by Sri Lanka and the Central Government of India. Tamil Nadu had no say in the matter. As I did not wish to carry out the orders I was given, I resigned from service in 1990.

**Q:** What was M.G. Ramachandran's policy towards Sri Lanka?

**A:** He had no policy. He did whatever the Indian Central Government wanted him to do. I was opposed to the Indian intervention and I have very clearly stated in my book that India had no business to interfere in the affairs of Sri Lanka. The sovereignty of a nation whether small or big must be maintained and protected.

**Q:** Do you have a personal rapport with the militant leaders in Tamil Nadu?

**A:** We keep a tab on them. Intelligence work requires us to be innovative and discuss various matters with everyone. I know all these people and I have met LTTE Chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran.

**Q:** In terms of the current political situation in Sri Lanka will you be meeting the militant leaders or the Army in Jaffna or in Colombo.

**A:** When I was in the Indian Police Service my hands were tied. So why should I try now?

**Q:** Did you hold talks with any government officials in Sri Lanka? If so what advice did you give them?

**A:** I have many friends in this country. I called on President Wijetunga and Minister Festus Perera. We discussed my books. Nothing about politics.

**Q:** What is the mood of the people in Tamil Nadu towards Sri Lanka?

**A:** I do not have access to classified information. As a layman I believe that after the Rajiv Gandhi assassination, there was a sea of change which is why the banning of the LTTE was accepted. Earlier however there was some sympathy.

**Q:** Why do you think the Indian Journal 'Aside' called you the man who knew too much?

**A:** I do not know. I am called many things. Earlier I was referred to as a man who called a spade a spade. Now I am known as a man who calls a spade a bloody spade (with due pardon!)