

especially in a political culture that is still heavily dependent on patronage all around the world. It certainly happens in Canada. A limited number of appointees made to the higher echelons of the diplomatic service, and selected on the basis of evident need, or special competence, would not normally undermine the development of professionalism. Indeed, infusions from outside the Ministry could be stimulating if done not for merely patronage purposes but for the interest of the country.

By being excessively pompous in saying that only career diplomats are "articulate and intellectually sophisticated" to deal with the powerful propaganda machine of the Eelamists abroad with a soft-assertion that non-career appointees are not, one misses the basic elements in the trade of communications. What should be looked at is whether the person appointed has been given the tools to work with. Has the Government provided monetary recompense for the Communications Officer in every Mission to become a member of the Press Club in the host country and an entertainment allowance to meet the person's counterparts in a civilized manner? One must establish a rapport and exchange issue-based views and seek support from players in this theater of activity. To fail in this basic labour code of - 'give the man the tools and he will get on with the job', violates the interest of the country when represented abroad.

As for Hussain's comment that "They (Mission employees) took to abandoning their posts after a couple of years so and demanding Canadian citizenship", 'Project Peace' has always denounced that unpardonable 'trickery' by those who are sent abroad by the Government and stay back in Canada as refugees, embarrassing Sri Lanka's peoples and their Government. This is contrary to what we have stood for. 'Sri Lanka is not in the business of producing refugees', as shown by the fact that almost all the Convention refugees in Canada return to Sri Lanka, for whatever reason, the country that "they ran away from because of being persecuted." Canadians are aware of it as they read these scams in the newspapers. And 'Project Peace' has never been convinced why the Canadian Immigration authorities are impotent to have these Mission employees sent back either to Sri Lanka or over the border, and come through the rightful channels. This would relieve the pressure on the Sri Lankan Mission in Ottawa, to obtain visas, to staff its vacancies with employees seconded from the Departments in Sri Lanka.