

Eelam war more fierce outside Sri Lanka. (1993, November 11) The Island.

11th November, 1993

THE ISLAND

T

# Eelam war more fierce outside Sri Lanka

While the LTTE terrorists have decided to intensify its terror campaign in Sri Lanka, the Eelam lobby outside Sri Lanka is engaged in a fierce war of words against the Sinhala people and their perceived values. The aim of this war is not to conquer lands but to win over Western supporters for the Eelam cause.

The commanders of this war do not carry the usual lethal weapons. Instead they are equipped with distorted versions of Sri Lankan history and other documents put out for the specific purpose of ridiculing the Sinhalese and Sinhala Buddhist values.

This highly articulate and organized expatriate Sri Lankan Tamil Lobby has its tentacles spread virtually to all major universities in the United States, Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom. Major sources of its funding are expatriate Tamil professionals and international organizations.

The authors of these publications are Tamils themselves but there are also many publications by foreign authors who have obviously obtained their materials from biased sources.

Occasionally, there are some expatriate Sinhala 'scholars' who help the Eelam cause purely for the purpose of creating an impression among the foreign

notables that they (the Sinhala scholars) are very objective in their writings.

They seem to think that the scholarly merit of their works is enhanced to the extent that they are willing to collaborate with their foreign sponsors to distort facts and figures. They have also realized the fact that they will cease to be useful to their foreign collaborators if they refuse to do so, for they are well aware that they do not possess other outstanding scholarly merit to stand on their own feet.

The latest publication put out at the behest of the Eelam lobby is S. J. Thambiah's 'Buddhism Betrayed'. Thambiah, a professor of Anthropology at Harvard University has risked his own position at such a prestigious university for the sake of Eelam cause. Buddhism Betrayed with its many inaccuracies, contradictions, factual errors and plain falsehoods is not the kind of publication an academic worth his salt, much less a professor at Harvard, will want to put his name to. When some day the chroniclers write of how the Eelamists won the West, Thambiah's name will outshine most others.