

Srimani calls for national government. (1995, September 17). *The Island*.

SRIMANI CALLS FOR NATIONAL GOVT.

The leader of the Democratic United National (Lalith) Front and Minister of Transport and Women's Affairs Srimani Athulathmudali in a statement issued yesterday on her return from China after attending the world women's conference has urged the formation of a National Government pointing out that Sri Lanka was today in the middle of the greatest crisis in its history.

"The main political parties that have been at the helm of affairs since independence should get together, think together and work together until the inhuman and brutal hands of terrorism are crushed once and for all," she says.

The full text of her statement is as follows —

We are today in the middle of what is perhaps the greatest crisis in the history of our beloved country. In these circumstances, it behoves every-

time to play politics and think of cashing in on the sins of omission or commission of those in the seats of power.

There has never been a time more opportune than the present for the formation of a National Government. The main political parties that have been at the helm of affairs since Independence should get together, think together and work together until the inhuman and brutal hands of terrorism are crushed once and for all. There should be no question of aligning with dubious friends, just to be in the seats of power because what matters today is not power or position, but the entire future of the present generation and the generations still to be born. I am reminded of a few beautiful lines of verse from Lord Macaulay's poem Horatius which reads thus —

Srimani...

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"For Romans in Rome's quarrel Spared neither land nor gold Nor son nor wife, nor limb nor life In the brave days of old.	Then the great man helped the poor, And the poor man loved the great; Then lands were fairly portioned; Then spoils were fairly sold; The Romans were like brothers In the brave days of old."
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Let us then resolve to act as one, fight as one and win as one. This is what a National Government can achieve meaningfully and quickly without all this bloodshed and destruction. 'Awake, Arise and Act for now is the hour.'

Political sources pointed out that present security and economic situation had prompted the DUNF (L) to renew its call for a national government.

The talk in political circles in the past few weeks was that the DUNF (L) and its leader Mrs. Srimani Athulathmudali were keeping in touch with UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe and the possibility of the DUNF developing a link with the UNP.

The SLEP with a razor-thin majority of one vote, by itself has to depend on many minority parties including the DUNF with six seats to maintain its parliamentary majority. However, any possibility of the DUNF joining the UNP is ruled out because the DUNF contested the general election on the People's Alliance ticket and could lose their seats in parliament if moves are made by the People's Alliance.

Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe was not available

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