

Govt. should go down on knees to LTTE. (1995, September 24). *The Island.*

## Govt. should go down on knees to LTTE

by Wijitha Nakkawita

The devolution proposals presented by the government should be viewed with disdain as the government has not been candid to the people about its intentions. These proposals will be useless unless the government can get the LTTE to accept them. "I don't know how the government is going to get the LTTE to agree to these proposals but even by going down on bended knees, the LTTE should be persuaded to accept the proposals." Leader of the Tamil Congress Kumar (GG) Ponnambalam said.

Mr. Ponnambalam made these remarks in response to questions from participants at a discussion organized by the Lalith Athulathmudali Foundation at the BMICH on Thursday.

He said it was imperative to come to terms with the LTTE as it will not be possible for a political settlement in the absence of the LTTE.

Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Indika Gunawardena said that governments in the past had alienated the Tamil people, passed

a constitution and legislation in parliament without the representatives of the Tamil people and the representatives of the Tamil people were chased out of parliament when the 6th amendment of the constitution was passed. While pointing out that devolution proposals of the government were not final, he explained that the government was making an attempt to resolve the problems of the Tamil people by resorting to a political solution.

Former member of parliament S. L. Gunasekera said that the devolution proposals or any other political solution cannot be implemented unless the LTTE was defeated militarily. The government he stressed should concentrate on defeating the LTTE which was a possibility.

"All political parties of the Tamil people were communal political parties, not only the LTTE and each of these parties proposed a theory that the Tamils alone were entitled to a "Separate Homeland" but more than half the Tamil people lived outside the North and East which taken together

constituted the so-called homeland", Mr.

Gunasekera said. Former member of Parliament (TULF) M. Sivasithamparam said that Tamils are a nation and not a minority. He explained that the presence of the LTTE in the North was akin to

— Kumar

the presence of Pakistan in the Indian Sub-Continent so that the Muslims living in India had security by the presence of Pakistan. He also said that the merger of the North and East has been a defacto position for the last many years.

- > Buddhists March In Sri Lanka
- > AP 24 Sep 95 17:30 EDT V0453

> Buddhists March In Sri Lanka

- > KANDY, Sri Lanka (AP) -- Hundreds of monks marched in silence through the streets of this city protesting a plan to end a devastating 12-year war by breaking up the central government's powers into eight regions.
- > The monks carried a banner saying: "Save Sri Lanka a unitary country." At a meeting later, they said the plan would divide this Indian Ocean island nation into eight regions.
- > Nearly 30 supporters of the plan heckled the monks, who were kept at a distance by nearly 100 police. The monks rode in cars and trucks from throughout Sri Lanka to the central city 60 miles east of the capital, Colombo.
- > The government, hoping to meet the demand for an end to fighting for independence, has offered to turn the island into a federation of eight regions, including a Tamil region, each with wide powers.
- > The monks oppose the appointment of regional police chiefs and the power to remove them, which would be appointed by the president.
- > The Tamil Tiger rebels have rejected the plan, saying the government is using it as a pretext to launch a military offensive.
- > But the plan has won support from political