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Asoka Weerasinghe

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Comments and suggestions to : Web Editor

From: "Malinda Seneviratne" <msenevira@gmail.com>
To: "Malinda Seneviratne" <malinsene@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2011 10:54 PM
Subject: India is cute!

India says that it doesn't want to thrust policy down Sri Lanka's throat. Instead, India tells the Government of Sri Lanka, 'talk with the Tamil National Alliance (TNA); sort it out with them'. 'How very understanding and good neighborly of India!' one might think. Dig deeper and the bonhomie doesn't really look inviting.

For years, the TNA was the mouthpiece of the LTTE and this is something that the likes of Sumanthiran are not comfortable to talk about. For years, the LTTE was Delhi's creature, armed, fed, funded and trained. The LTTE was used by Rajiv Gandhi in his determined plan to 'Bhutanize' Sri Lanka. The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) tasked with Bhutalization later found that Delhi's terrorist baby had grown to be an incorrigible pest. Spanking Prabhakaran was not as easy as was first believed. Slaps were exchanged. The Bhutanists packed bags and went home. Bhutanism did not die, of course. Prabhakaran did. India helped, but not in a 'friendly way' but in a pound-of-flesh manner.

Today, Delhi feels fit to conduct tuition classes to Sri Lanka. Not all students listen and learn. Not all charges end up being pawns or teachers' pets. Some, like the TNA, have no choice perhaps, but what is clear is that the TNA is taking orders directly from Delhi. Perhaps there's a mouthpiece-need that has grown into party psyche and this is why the end of the LTTE left R. Sampanthan and his pals looking for another 'big brother'. Delhi, still in Bhutanization Mode, could not have been happier. So when Delhi says 'talk to the TNA', Manmohan Singh is essentially saying 'do as we say'.

It is against this context that one has to assess the analysis offered by Dayan Jayatilaka in the Daily Mirror of September 29, 2011 ('Defending and protecting Sri Lanka').

READ MORE: <http://malindawords.blogspot.com/2011/10/india-is-cute.html>

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- Business
- Features
- Political
- Security
- Sport
- World
- Letters
- Obituaries

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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

On keeping things in the neighbourhood in South Asia



The Morning Inspection

Nirupama Rao, India's soon-to-retire Foreign Secretary, when asked about the Channel 4 video purporting to comment on the last days of the LTTE's military, is reported to have said that Sri Lanka should look at the video carefully. Well, that's already been done. Channel 4's mal-intent, unprofessionalism and scandalous lack of integrity have been adequately exposed. The good lady probably knows this.

On the other hand, she adds a comment: 'As per the video, there were human right violations during the last few days of the war they were fighting. It cannot be justified any way. But it was a war zone. It should also be taken into consideration that there were tragedies in Sri Lanka.'

Long-standing grievances

Rao doesn't mention (dare we say 'she doesn't dare mention?') that the only established violation so far are those perpetrated by the LTTE and include hostage taking, shooting dead fleeing civilians and sending children with bombs trapped to their persons to the centres established to receive Tamils entering the government-controlled areas and blowing them up to deter would-be escapees. Rao doesn't mention either that India has a long and continuing 'tradition' of violating human rights, for example in Kashmir. Someone needs to tell her, 'it cannot be justified in any way'.

That's ok. 'Par for the course' from an Indian diplomat, I would say, even one on her way out. What interested me more was an observation or perhaps a wish that things in the neighbourhood should be kept in the neighbourhood: 'We must take care of it and have to avoid jumping into conclusions on any third party's involvement'.



Rajiv Gandhi



Nirupama Rao

The logic can be extended. Sri Lanka can keep things within Sri Lanka. Tamils and Sinhalese can sort their problems among themselves. India can negotiate and resolve long-standing grievances of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities with the aggrieved. Sri Lanka leaves Pakistan alone, Pakistan doesn't bother Bangladesh, India stops messing with Nepal and Nepal will not interfere with India.

The point is, India played 'Third Party' in Sri Lanka, jumping to conclusions and playing a major role in turning a pussy cat into a people-eating Tiger who not only consumed her Prime Minister (Rajiv Gandhi) but slaughtered thousands upon thousands of Sri Lankans, in particular Tamils, leading to the inevitable denouement we saw on May 19, 2009.

Still, this neighbourhood watch proposal deserves exploration. We can be good neighbours with India and indeed the whole region of South Asia can be more fraternal than it has.

Mutual suspicions

Why should we open ourselves to 'third party involvement' in our affairs and in particular the terrorist and terrorizing West led by the USA and UK? They've not done us any favours and even as we speak are killing innocent civilians in Afghanistan not so much to combat terrorism as to maintain a presence in the region to oversee resource extraction of the US \$ one-three trillion worth of unexplored mineral wealth across the Hindu Kush, in particular uranium, lithium, copper and iron ore. And that's a treasure trove that India is keenly aware of and has already moved in to paw with greedy hands.

There's a need for South Asian countries to cooperate. It is the mutual suspicions we have about one another that have paved the way for rogue nations like the USA and Britain to massacre our brethren in the name of protecting them. Much of these suspicions are not without foundation.

India did give refuge to, arm, train and fund separatist LTTE terrorists in order to destabilize Sri Lanka. India continues to renege on UN Resolutions and the Terms of Partition with respect to Kashmir.

Pakistan is accused by India of funding and training the insurgency in that troubled region. There are realities.

So when Rao says 'let's be good neighbours' or 'let's sort out things among ourselves' one wonders if she means 'let India be the ultimate arbiter; let the UN and USA go fly a kite!' She ought to have spelled it out without leaving room for conjecture. In the absence of elaboration, one has to revert to history and that doesn't paint a happy picture of regional solidarity. Indeed it conjured the image of a regional thug.

Fraternal entities

It is not easy for the powerful to show humility or even to acknowledge that all is not well at home. India has her own problems. Political and economic both. India is not a Sadhu state and Rao hardly a diplomatic Mother Theresa.

South Asia is a region of squabbles and squabbling nations. Petty animosities and meaningless

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INDIA

Asoka Weerasinghe

From: "Chitra Mendis" <chitramendis@hotmail.co.uk>
To: <chitra.mendis@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:47 AM
Subject: FW: FYI: India behind mid-1980s terrorism

Just lest you missed this.

*** India abetted terror in Sri Lanka in the mid-1980s**

Tue, May 15, 2012, 10:58 am SL Time, ColomboPage News Desk, Sri Lanka.

May 15 (Hindu) The Indian intelligence agencies had a big hand in planning and executing terrorist strikes in Colombo in the mid-eighties, the President's Secretary Lalith Weeratunga said. Reading from a book, Gota's War, at its launch here, he said the role India played in Sri Lanka needed intensive discussion. He described the events described in the book as home truths.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa was under intense pressure from India, United Kingdom and France to stop the Eelam War IV in April of 2009.

But "he did not cave in to external pressure," Mr. Weeratunga has revealed.

Mr. Weeratunga was privy to the meetings. The Indian team, led by its then National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan, had arrived here in April, just as the Lok Sabha elections were on in India, and just before Tamil Nadu went in to vote. For different reasons, Foreign Ministers of England and France were here too, with the same agenda.

'Violated sovereignty'

The book launch function, meant to celebrate Defence Secretary and President's brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa's contribution to the war, turned out to be an India-bashing session: India aided and abetted terrorism, and repeatedly violated Sri Lanka's sovereignty. Its High Commissioner during the period dictated terms to Sri Lanka.

"When the Vadamarachchi operation commenced, the Prime Minister of India at that time, Rajiv Gandhi, issued a strong statement against the operationSri Lanka could have been rid of terrorism [at that time, but for the] high-handed interference of the then Indian envoy, Mr. J.N. Dixit," said Mr. Weeratunga, to an audience that comprised all top elected leaders and officials and diplomats in Sri Lanka, including President Rajapaksa and the Indian High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha.

Sri Lanka firmly believed that if this operation had gone on, the country could have been rid of terrorism more than two decades ago. Reading from the book, Mr. Weeratunga said: "While the Vadamarachchi operation was on, the Indian Envoy Mr. J.N. Dixit had met President Jayawardene and bluntly told him that India will not stand by idly and allow Jaffna to fall into the hands of the Army, and if the military operation continued, there could be unforeseen consequences.

Read More:: [Hindu \(Source\)](#)

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