

1-2-11A

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Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2012 1:19 AM
Subject: Re: Final Version of Petition to HE the Pres re 13A

Dear Mahinda and friends:

Please read this excerpt from the Sunday Times Editorial, yesterday April 21, 2012 which captures the essence of our problem in a nutshell:

Title: Intricacies of the Indian Factor

"....Let's face it. Sri Lanka is wary of the devolution manthra being parroted by India. Many see it as India's attempt to have a proxy or puppet 'Government' installed in the North preferably by its authorized local agent, the TNA. India may have beaten Sri Lanka at the World Cup final last year, but Sri Lankans can recognize a doosra when one comes at them. The problem, however, is that the Sri Lankan President no less has promised "13+" verbally, and to implement the 13th Amendment as far back as in 2009 when a resolution was introduced soon after the military defeat of the LTTE at the UNHRC. India voted for Sri Lanka then. Last year, the Sri Lankan External Affairs Minister went to India and promised the same thing. Now, India wants that promise fulfilled.

Notwithstanding whatever the Sri Lankan President may have said or his External Affairs Minister promised, there is public resistance to giving more powers to the provinces. That of course, does not mean devolution as a means of administrative necessity must be ruled out in its entirety. If devolution of powers in the context of any 13+ is a 'no-no', the District Councils as the unit of devolution and certain administrative powers, including limited land and police powers being decentralized is a 'can-can'.

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The Government is caught in its own cleverness and needs to extricate itself. Meanwhile, one can only hope that the visiting Indian parliamentary delegation takes with it a realistic view of Sri Lanka, not one from an imperial standpoint. "

So.....

In this backdrop, it is imperative that we let the President know our view that there is a considerable resistance including from ourselves to a 13+. We can leave it to him to make the decisions regarding how he is to handle the Indians/USA & West, and the TNA . As the editorial suggests, the Land and Police powers can only be decentralized at most. But the District should be the Unit.

May the Triple Gem bless Sri Lanka!!

Best regards,

Mahes & Neville

On Fri, Apr 20, 2012 at 4:55 PM, M. Gunasekera <mgunasekera@sympatico.ca> wrote:
Dear Friends,

I do hope I have had to amend our memorandum addressed to His Excellency the President for the last time, and that you will find this acceptable for the intended purpose.

I have changed the subject as suggested by a leading Sri Lankan nationalist, a former Senior Government Agent and an active member heading a charitable organization managed by a voluntary Board of Trustees, who wanted to remove any opposition at first glance by those receiving benefits under the Provincial Council set up by 13A.

An additional sentence has been included as submitted by a Professor of Political Science and Conflict Management in a leading US university in para 6. Also the text of para 5 has been re-phrased into several shorter sentences as suggested by my good friend DLO Mendis.

The seventh para too has been changed by adding a sentence re the 'window of opportunity' that needs to be acted upon immediately as often stressed by Dr. Mahes Laduwahetty.

I also had word from a good friend of mine to the effect that a recognized group of nationalists met this week in Colombo and reviewed our memorandum, and were of the opinion that it should be released to the public.

In the first instance, we shall refer it to His Excellency the President through Mr. Lalith Weeratunge and await a signal that we may proceed to canvass public support for it. Anjalika Silva or other member of the group too can use her/his channels to bring it to the attention of HE the President as a secondary avenue.

We need to establish a Liasing Committee of Overseas Sri Lankans and also establish a similar committee in Sri Lanka to jointly launch it and receive endorsement of the public to be

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