

President's widow might join fray in Sri Lanka. (1993, May 7). *The Gazette*.

## President's widow might join fray in Sri Lanka

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COLOMBO, Sri Lanka – The body of Sri Lanka's assassinated president, Ranasinghe Premadasa, was cremated yesterday, and his widow indicated during the ceremony that she might try to build her own political career, a suggestion that seemed to take members of the ruling party by surprise.

Only hours after the elaborate Buddhist funeral, government officials were suggesting that the president's widow, Hema Premadasa, might move quickly to try to become prime minister, thereby unsettling the ambitions of other politicians.

Last Saturday, while leading a May Day political rally, Premadasa and 23 other people were killed by a suicide bomber in what the police say was an attack by the separatist, guerrilla organization, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

A curfew was imposed on the capital last night in an effort to prevent ethnic violence. Government officials have said they feared reprisals by the majority Sinhalese against the Tamils.

Hema Premadasa, who is known to harbor political ambitions, had been kept out of the political limelight by her husband, who tolerated no challengers, whether from the party or from his family. Thus, Premadasa seemed to be using her husband's funeral to enter politics.