

Sleuths read between Adele's lines

A new book written by Adele Balasingham, the Australian-born wife of LTTE advisor Anton Balasingham is being studied by intelligence men for possible clues on why the LTTE wanted President Premadasa to be assassinated.

The book titled 'Women fighters of Liberation Tigers' outlines areas where the LTTE felt betrayed by the Premadasa Government and what it thought of the governments initiatives and strategies.

Excerpts from the book:

"The talks between Premadasa's regime and the Tamil Tigers, which started with positive hopes - ran into serious difficulties by the intransigent attitude of the Government. As the Government refused to offer any substantial proposals to resolve the basic issues, the talks dragged on without any concrete result. President Premadasa was primarily concerned with the evacuation of the Indian occupation army....

"...Premadasa deliberately undermined the direct dialogue between the LTTE and the Government by promoting the so-called All-Party Conference, with the anti-LTTE Tamil groups and by advocating a 'consensus' approach."

"The overall strategy

of the Sri Lankan military planners was to geographically dismember the North and East by occupying the coastal region of Manal Aru in the Mulaitivu District, thereby nullifying the Tamil claim of a territorially contiguous homeland."

"...Having firmly committed to a policy of military occupation of the Tamil areas with the view of destroying the LTTE's military power and to induct the State administrative machinery in the Northeast, the Government adopted an intransigent attitude towards peaceful negotiations."

"Caught up in this bellicose attitude the Sri Lankan Government made a disastrous mistake in rejecting a peace gesture proposed by the LTTE at the beginning of this year (1991).... The Government rejected the peace offer and proposed unfair and unacceptable terms and conditions which amounted to nothing less than total surrender. The LTTE leadership was finally convinced that the Government was bent on a war-path and sought a military solution to the ethnic conflict. When the Government slammed the doors of peace, the LTTE had no choice but to mobilise its forces for a crucial defensive war."

"Since the beginning of

the war the main road and railway links were cut-off by the military to curtail the troop movements of the LTTE and to maintain a rigorous economic embargo on the population of the

Peninsula. This blockade subjected the civilian masses to enormous hardships and they were compelled to trek along

the narrow, dangerous waterways of the Elephant Pass Lagoon "

"The Manal Aru area, which the Sinhalese termed as 'Weli Oya', is strategically situated along the northern coastal region linking Mulaitivu and Trincomalee districts. For years the Sri Lankan Government was engaged in a sinister programme of setting up

Sinhala colonisation schemes in this traditional Tamil territory with an aim of changing the demographic structure of the region. The overall strategy was to de-link the North and East and to put an end to the Tamil claim of a territorially contiguous Tamil homeland."

"The Eastern Province has been the seat of ten-

sion and turmoil for several decades as a direct consequence of a racist policy of aggressive Sinhala colonisation of this traditionally Tamil region. Successive Sri Lankan regimes pursued this policy with single-minded tenacity, with the objective of structurally transforming the demographic composition of the population."

SUNDAY TIMES
27.6.93

Sleuths read...

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