

Voice of Shakthi Thursday 06 September 2001

Last week, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to [Australia](#), Major General Janaka Perera paid his first official visit to [Melbourne](#). He attended several public and private functions. In the forefront of all the festivities were the leading lights of an organisation which profess peace and unity in Sri Lanka. Putting on a show which resembled a political rally in Sri Lanka, they festooned the purported venue of the [meeting](#) with various banners and posters against their so-called arch-enemy, the LTTE.

Sri Lankans who came to this venue were however told that the [meeting](#) was actually in another place. This show of posters and banners, they were informed, was only to mislead a group of Tamils who had planned a protest against the Ambassador over his appointment, a legitimate right, one would have thought, enjoyed by all Australians in this democratic country. Glowing from this major military victory over the murderous Australian Tamils, our brave patriots, who boast that they are willing to lay down their lives from far-away Australia for Mother Lanka, took the Ambassador to the real venue of the meeting.

Our editorial today is not to comment at length over the antics of these cardboard heroes. Our concern is about the degree of complicity of the good Ambassador in all these bizarre plans. As the representative of Sri Lanka and an appointee of President Kumaranatunge's regime, what role is he performing exactly when he attends such functions?

The people who involved the Ambassador in this circus make no bones about their feelings for President Kumaranatunge, her administration or even the Leader of the Opposition. To quote from their latest press release, which is available on the web, President Kumaranatunge is quote,

"Chandrika was - and is - an alien to the masses. Brought up in a depraved Parisian life style, characterless and half-educated, Chandrika may be the least suitable Minister to hold the highest position in the country." The personal abuse against the President and the Ambassador's boss does not stop there. The press release goes on, in bold type too, "If not for the massive boulder that sits on his grave, SWRD Bandaranaike would have risen up to curse his French daughter, President Chandrika and all her men who have turned his policies topsy turvy."

President's Kumaranatunge's strong stance for a political settlement to the conflict in Sri Lanka, which is echoed by the Opposition Leader, the international community and Sri Lanka's business community also receives short shrift in the press release. It says "Both the Sri Lankan President and the Leader of the Opposition are falling over each other to gratify their western masters by acquiescing in the demands of the Tamil Tiger terrorists. The bone of contention between Chandrika and Ranil is not the grand betrayal of the nation - they both are wholly for it - but who will deliver the wishes of the masters."

And the poor Sri Lankans burdened by rising costs of living, power cuts, the defence levy and general maladministration, receive a serve too from our super patriots. The people's consistent call for a just and honourable peace, reflected by their ballots over

many years is, according to this press release, utterly naive because they do not realize that the crux of the problem is the LTTE.

In other words, Sri Lankan people unfortunate enough to be living there, should understand that the war must continue and more innocent lives sacrificed to satisfy the egos of those Sri Lankans in Western countries who can of course cheer the army from very far away.

In the light of this press release, we would like to pose this question to His Excellency the Sri Lankan Ambassador. Do you subscribe to these lunatic views? Surely not. Your office, Mr Ambassador, carries a heavy responsibility. If, as you said at your community gatherings last weekend, you are in Australia to represent all Sri Lankans, one would have thought your first step would be to firmly disassociate yourself with such rabble, not pander to their extremist views.