

Voice of Shakthi Thursday 23 August 2001

Last week, President Kumaranatunge at last correctly spelled out the real situation about the ethnic conflict in [Sri Lanka](#). Addressing a group of SLFP members and Corporation bosses, she stated what many ordinary Sri Lankans and international communities have known for decades, that the current conflict can be solved only through political means.

The end of World War II was achieved through the Yalta Agreement, she said. Similarly, major world powers are seeking resolution of the Northern [Ireland](#) conflict and the crisis in the Middle East through political negotiations, she added.

For a poor country such as Sri Lanka, the economic costs of this war has become unbearable and would ultimately destroy it, she warned.

At a subsequent [meeting](#) with Sri Lankan professionals and community groups, she warned those who advocated a military solution, not to play around with the country's future. This particular message, we at Shakthi believe, should also be directed to expatriate Sri Lankans.

Safe in their homes in [Australia](#), these are the people who preach to us over and over again that the war must continue. These people who utter brave words from afar about protecting the Punyabhoomi should be told in no uncertain terms, that it is the future of the whole country that they are playing with.

We know their favourite refrain is to label anyone who oppose their extremist nationalistic views as traitors to the Motherland; anyone who advocates a peaceful solution, like President Kumaranatunge, as LTTE supporters.

We at Shakthi would like to pose this question to these extremist elements in our community. Does the President's recent statements make her the greatest traitor to the Motherland and the LTTE's biggest supporter?