

I wonder how many of you took the trouble to read the piece written by Dayan Jayatilleka under the above caption that appeared in the Sunday Observer of the 25th of June. Dayan dealt with a volume titled "Dying to Win" written by the University of Chicago's Professor Robert A Pape. Professor Pape is someone who has done an in-depth study of suicide bombers from the emergence of this new strategy of warfare and so it is essential that those of us who are concerned with the tragedy in Lanka should read and digest what the Professor has to state. Dayan Jayatilleka's summary and comment is adequate for those who cannot lay their hands on the research study.

The strategy of using suicide bombers has made the task of overcoming the LTTE terrorists particularly intractable and arduous. Suicide terror can be lurking unsuspected all over and in every nook and corner in a way that is hard to track down. The Iraq war was easily won by the Allied Forces as far as its first phase was concerned when conventional war techniques were employed; the technological superiority of the Allies overcame any obstacle. However, that war became unmanageable when suicide terror was unleashed by Iraqis. The situation in Israel and Palestine is similar and that conflict has dragged on endlessly. Those who urge the President to go for war overlook this factor. The call for war is an unstudied knee-jerk reaction by simple minds based on a flawed simplification of the problem of going for war. "Go, destroy, burn, and bomb", these people urge. The suicide bomber is missing in their calculation. Haven't we been at war in this way for at least 16 years? Another growing complication is the real possibility of insider information where our own men cooperate with the LTTE by giving vital



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information. The attack on the airport at Katunayake, on the Army Commander, and on Major General Kulatunge is probably linked to insider information and betrayal. Yet, another difficulty is the prevalence of the Tamilnadu factor, which has made any indiscriminate attack that can affect Tamil civilians out of the ques-



Shyamon Jayasinghe

tion. The government has had to stop 'limited retaliatory air raids' at India's request.

Reckoning the complication set in by suicide terrorism, Professor Pape suggests a twofold strategy to deal with the situation. I would suggest that the possibility of insider betrayal and the Tamilnadu factor adds further weight to the adoption of such a strategy in fighting the Tiger in place of the simplified one of unleashing a war.

Pape's first line of attack is to offer something very positive that can take the fuse out of Tamil grievances that provides the psychological basis of the war and fuels the Tamil diaspora who fund the LTTE struggle. The Tamilnadu factor can also largely be overcome with the adoption of

such an approach. In our Foreign Minister's recent discussion with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the latter emphasised the need for a devolution package

In thinking of concessions, Professor Pape suggests that we mentally separate the Terrorist issue from the Tamil issue. Here, a genuine devolution package can be presented disregarding the LTTE. Now this is something that war criers don't want. They want a military offensive with no concessions given toward the cause of Tamil regional identity. The more moderate of these war criers might ask, "If the LTTE is refusing any such package then what purpose is served in such a strategy?" Here the latter miss the tight-rope walking and the subtlety involved in simultaneously networking with India and the global community while resorting to this strategy. Dayan Jayatilleka suggests that the concession package deal "must be made under a Indo-US strategic umbrella and embedded in security partnerships between our three countries"

Dayan Jayatilleka points out how former President CBK attempted this first line of attack by presenting a package ignoring the LTTE. He rightly states that CBK failed mainly because she tried to enlarge the constitutional package to ensure her incumbency by another two years. In Dayan's words, "The terrorist armies or groups may not accept these concessions and may even intensify violence in the short term, but a package of concessions will slash support for the terrorist cause and thereby make it possible for the military to defeat the armed insurgency"

The second of Professor Pape's strategy to beat the Tiger thus involves military action. This is not going to please the pure peace activists. It is a military action to wipe out terrorists who have been depleted of

3ZZZ Sinhala Program Convenor Challenged

We give below an email sent out by Mr Shyamon Jayasinghe, well-known personality in our community and former Ministry Secretary in the Sri Lanka Government, to the Convenor of the 3ZZZ Sinhala program, Mr Sumira Ratnayake. When questioned by **Sannasa**, Shyamon said: "Someone has to get up and challenge the politicisation, propaganda, false presentations etc that is going on in a radio that was meant for the enjoyment of the Sinhalese community. This radio is meant for the free use of the whole community. It is now a captive in the hands of a group"

Mr Sumira Ratnayake, Convenor 3ZZZ Radio (Sinhala)

Dear Sumira,

Why don't you interview me for a different opinion about the Lankan situation, about what your people are doing, and what we in Melbourne can do with regard to the LTTE terrorist threat?

I am not claiming to have the right answers, but I like to add a different point of view for the consideration of listeners. This is an opportunity for your program to break the monotony of one-sided presentation that has plagued your program throughout your entire period. Your professional responsibility is to present different interpretations and let listeners decide for themselves. That is the way to respect your listeners.

My request merits a positive response from you because of (1) my considerable background and experience in Sri Lanka's Public Service (2) my scholarly interests in the field of politics and public management and (3) my journalistic experience in political analyses. For example, even an internationally reputed journal like the Oxford Contemporary Review has published my analyses on the Lankan situation.

Isn't this a community radio that should reflect the diversity of opinion in the community? A community radio, by definition, must be accessible to anyone in the community and not merely to a chosen few as is currently the practice.

I am ready to face at interview the best you can pick. I will be available Sunday week. Hence, you have adequate time to prepare.

Come on, take the challenge!

I am emailing this to more persons than are indicated

Please acknowledge receipt

Yours sincerely,
Shyamon Jayasinghe

TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE NO EXPLANATION IS NECESSARY, TO THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE NO EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE.

Douglas Fernando

The Da Vinci Code fiction has invented history with numerous falsehood and erroneous pieces of evidence about Jesus Christ and His Divinity for the consumption of the gullible reader. It is a frontal attack on Jesus Christ and whole of Christianity done with utter contempt for Jesus Christ and with no respect for the religious susceptibilities of others. Many secular historians have commented that the vast majority of Da Vinci Code historical claims are distorted or complete fabrications. It is a putrefied heap of garbage polluting the civilized world.

My intention here is not to adduce counter arguments to the Da Vinci Code, but to impress upon the readers on the appropriate action taken by the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka to ban the screening of the film, the Da Vinci Code. The church cannot and will not be a silent spectator when the Holy name of God, our heavenly Father, is assailed or profaned. That is our firm stand and resolve. According to Shyamon Jayasinghe as appearing in the June 2006 issue of "Sannasa" the Da Vinci Code is a Christian earthquake and a shocking challenge. Far from it Mr. Jayasinghe, you are sadly mistaken. Those who crucified Jesus and put him to



death thought the same way, that, with His death Jesus Christ and his teachings would be ended. But what happened? With His resurrection from death, He proved that He is God Divine, and his teaching spread to all ends of the Earth. Nothing can shake the foundation of Christianity. Nobody can alter one syllable in the "words" of His teaching.

Here I wish to remind those who ape the western culture and the self made westerners that we Sri Lankans have a culture in which we respect our parents, elders

and religious. Even the not so educated will not tolerate any insult to one's father or mother, for instance if one's father or mother is called a womanizer or a whore what would be the reaction of a son. I'm sure every reader could imagine the spontaneous response. Similarly the Catholic Church has stood up to the occasion defending the Heavenly father. It is not a third world reaction as Mr. Jayasinghe asserts. In the same context what would be the reaction of the Buddhist clergy if

the name of Lord Buddha is assailed in a similar way. We know how the Buddhist clergy reacted when the image of Buddha was depicted in commercials. That is the way we react when the religious founders and leaders are brought to disrespect. We fully approve such protests. I wonder where the western democracy was then? In the same vein will the advocates of western democracy accept same sex marriages in Sri Lanka?

Let's be honest and realistic, accept and adhere to good and desirable traits in the Western democracies. The under-developed world has much to learn and gain from western cultures. Practice of democracy for good governance is the most valuable aspect in the western world that we could emulate. At the same time let us preserve and protect our moral values and good traditions and pass them on to our children undiluted.

In conclusion let me quote the poetic words "Men may come and Men may go, but I go-on forever" That is how the church is.

For more information on this fictitious book "The Da Vinci Code" you may please read "The Da Vinci Deception" by Mark Shea and Edward Sri "The Da Vinci Hoax" by Carl E. Olson and Sandra Miesel