



arm forces led by Sarath Fonseka did an exemplary job, that again with the guidance and support of Gotabhaya. As the operation against Tiger terrorists was drawing to a close, the US, the international policeman, was among the Western Powers all out to thwart the efforts of the Government advising Sri Lanka to talk to the terrorists. Mahinda Rajapakse stunned the big powers by flatly rejecting their overtures and sticking his plans.

This stand apparently irritated the powers that be, who did not stop at that. What most observers failed to realize was that LTTE supporters all over the world were rallying together trying their best to exert their influence on Western Governments. There were substantial numbers of LTTE activists in most countries with links to government sources. They did not stop even after the complete defeat of the LTTE in Sri Lanka. This was seen even in Australia which never banned the LTTE, with the media joining the supporters in carrying out propaganda against the Sri Lankan Government. This was demonstrated by them soon after the release of the report by the expert panel appointed by Ban ki-Moon. SBS television in particular wasted no time in quoting their usual LTTE spokes-person the Sydney-based Tamil lady doctor. She represents the LTTE supporters who are still active all over the world. This is the group that the Government has still failed to silence with direct dialogue with them or a successful international campaign to expose their myth. Rohan Gunaratna, Sri Lankan terrorism expert had warned about this danger. He recommended a more vigorous campaign to eradicate international terrorist networks.

Apart from the fact that Ban ki-Moon went about selecting LTTE supporters for his panel in the first place, negative feelings and attitudes generated by a number of factors have contributed to the current situation accentuated now by Moon's operation. Perhaps the best analysis of the report came from an unexpected quarter, The Wall Street Journal which has categorically stated the resultant situation that can be expected. Disrupting the entire process of rebuilding that Sri Lanka has to carry out. It has said that the report will do more harm than good for Sri Lanka. Now that the unexpected has taken place, all Sri Lankans and the Government have to plan their actions carefully without wasting resources in unwanted propaganda or accusations. Ass Dayan Jayatilake has said, Sri Lanka has to win over the world with truth and sensible actions. If there are doubters we cannot go round blaming them. They need convincing, which must invariably be based on fact and dialogue. While the effort to eliminate actual terrorist groups must go on, a more patient operation of taking the world into confidence through revelation of the true picture and interaction with governments and international organizations would no doubt be fruitful.

It is encouraging to see all religious dignitaries and ethnic groups rallying behind the President and his Government. What worries or rather irritates the Sri Lankans everywhere is the attitude of the UNP the major opposition group. While its leaders are splitting hairs on the issue, more sensible parliamentarians have no hesitation in expressing their opposition to Moon's report. The best example came from parliamentarian Wijayadas Rajapakse who took the unusual step of addressing a letter to the UN Secretary General pointing out the fact that he acted beyond his limit of authority.

What the authorities ought to do is to take stock of their own actions and pay attention to every detail of what has to be done in the more arduous process of rebuilding not only the country but the image of Sri Lanka which no doubt has suffered as a result of defeating the terrorists and the continuous struggle by interested parties to discredit the Government and armed forces. Government must take this unwelcome opportunity to muster all the support generated by it within and without the country in order to make amends as far as the image of the country is concerned.

MY MOTHER

[For Mother's Day]

If flowers bloom in a flower garden
I will feel your scent
If sun shines in the blue sky
I will feel your brightness
If you make the sun shine
you will make the world beautiful
You are the mother who makes
my life bright and happy

When you sleep with me, you hug me tight
And you make my blood not red but white
When I can see the whole wide world
You give me precious golden eyes
You also teach me the good and bad deeds
Until you pass away I am going to look after you

Minulee Kodituwakku

YEAR 4
Matthew Pearce P.S



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