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The military solution to the Tamil issue is like wearing the amude to stop dysentery (Atheesarayata amude gahanawa wage). Tamilnadu pressure on Delhi is increasing by the day and the LTTE Diaspora are working day and night to add to this. Having failed to break away themselves the Tiger Diaspora is employing diplomatic moves. India's support for the resolution against Sri Lanka was a consequence of the South's pressure on Delhi.

Now that India has snapped friendly neighbourly bonds it can go further. We have to consider one thing: No country's sovereignty is absolute. It is conditional. If its internal governance is causing headaches to a great and powerful neighbour it is opening itself to risk. One cannot blame India if it intervenes. If Russia is facing a serious issue with regard to the treatment of its ethnics in a neighbouring country it will be forced to intervene and, if necessary, to invade. This happened in Cyprus where Turkey had invaded the island and split it apart. Likewise if this Tamil issue is allowed to fester like this Delhi could make an aggressive move. We know this happened once before under JR Jayawardena when the Indian Prime Minister had forced himself to Lanka, got JR to sign an agreement and arranged for Indian Peacekeeping Forces on Lanka soil. Where was our sovereignty then? Mohan Singh is a milder character but that mildness may not be sustainable in these circumstances. Why did America go to war in Iraq and Afghanistan? Why is it intervening in Pakistan? Why did the Americans invade Pakistan and kill Bin Laden over there? Where is the doctrine of sovereignty? America intervened and

invaded because of the threat to itself from Al Qaeda.

It is all so simple as that. Sovereignty is not an absolute concept. A country must be "in good behaviour" to enjoy that. More so a weak, poor, island like Sri Lanka. That is the stark reality. In this context therefore the cries of our so-called patriots and the permanently self-deluded JVPers etc are false cries that could only bring great harm to our land. In the end the ordinary people in Lanka want to live peaceful lives; they want to find a good life for themselves and their families; to make ends meet; to look after their kids and give the latter a decent education. These patriotic criers have found berths for their kids in Australia and we see them-Ministers, MPs included- visiting this country so often. We see their kids in Australian schools and universities.

The path for Lanka is now clear: It must take Delhi and Tamilnadu to its confidence and work out a solution that would appease the Tamil community without causing fears among the Sinhala people. That solution must have the long vision of bringing that community together with the rest of the population under an ideology of ethnic harmony. Physical infrastructure must be developed and economic opportunities must be built for all communities to work together for mutual benefit. This needs foresight and wisdom. It is imperative that we eschew 'Sinhala Nationalism' and generate Sri Lankan Nationalism; Sinhala Nationalism is, plainly, self-destructive.

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