

NSSP leader castigates the Press for disinformation

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Rajpal Abeynayake
Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, leader of the Nava Sama Samaja Party, called upon the press to dispel what he calls the "malicious canards" spread by certain newspapers that he participated in an anti-Sinhala, pro-Eelam demonstration in London. Mr. Nanayakkara said that these concoctions by certain sections of the press could have probably been engineered by 'certain quarters' interested in rousing the people to a fabricated consciousness that he (Mr. Nanayakkara) was a traitor. "This" he said "could have most probably been done with the intent of bumping me off."

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Mr. Nanayakkara then answered questions asked by "The Island":
Q: The "Forward" newspaper carried a news item which claims that



Vasudeva Nanayakkara

A: Does every woman who has a right to get divorced get divorced? A land has common-ownership. Does every land that has common ownership have a partition case on it? The right is one thing, separation is another. But the media of the capitalist class does not let the people accept this fact. However we are doing the difficult task of convincing the people of this fact. This is a task that leaders of other left parties have abandoned. They are saying that in this situation the left parties should support the government. We say that the government has

then your position regarding the forcible ejection of Sinhala people by Tamil militants in the North and East?

A: We are absolutely against this, and have been vocal on this stance through our Tamil language newspapers. We would say that most militants (and they have told me this) were racists who served racialistic motives, who are now gradually coming to the realisation that their goal and their liberation would be the establishment of a Marxist state with the co-operation of the Sinhala community with similar sentiments. Hence, they are doing a disservice to their cause by ousting the Sinhalese from these areas, and we strongly condemn this, and have condemned it in the past.

'Neither anti-Sinhala nor anti-Tamil -only for justice to all communities'

Mr. Nanayakkara, explaining the rally in London said that it was a joint demonstration by a collection of organisations to commemorate "Black July", — the 1983 anti-Tamil riots in Sri Lanka. He said that organisations such as EROS, PLOTE, LTTE and certain labour organisations of Britain participated in the demonstration, each expounding their separate lines of thought. "As far as we were concerned we shouted the same slogans we have been shouting in Sri Lanka: that we support the liberation struggle of the Tamil people, and that we stand for a united leftist government of Sri Lanka. But, the reports in certain newspapers that we shouted anti-Sinhala, pro-Eelam slogans are an absolute canard, a despicable attempt to misrepresent our stance and slander our motives, probably with a view to rouse certain elements to

you were in London to iron out certain pressing ideological clashes within your party. Is this true, and why were you in London in the first place?

A: This is not at all correct. We were in London to participate in an international leftist parley. Whatever differences of opinion we have within the party could be described as 'technical and logistical', meaning that as far as our fundamental ideology is concerned we are not at odds with each other.

Q: Most readers of newspapers in the Sinhala community would probably tend to interpret your "fundamental ideology" concerning the ethnic issue i.e.: that the Tamil people are entitled to self-determination as equal to that of extending support to a separate state (Eelam).

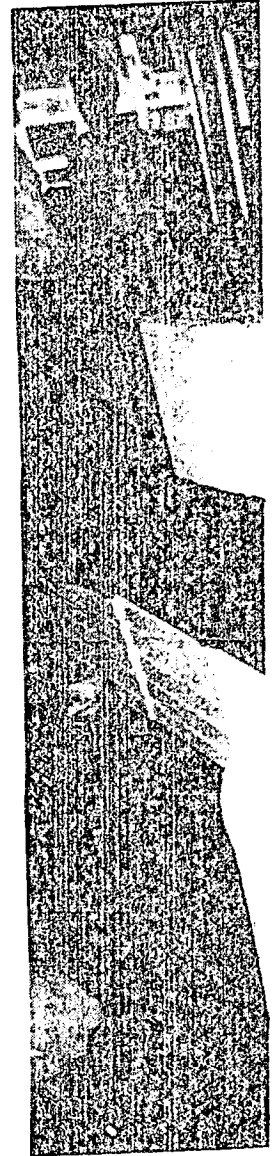
exhausted all its options, and the only solution they can offer is a war, an expensive war. The only solution to the problem can be offered by the leftist parties by creating a united leftist state, thus realising the aspirations of the Tamil people. As for the other left parties, for example the JVP, they are trying to ride on racist sentiments to opportunistically topple the government. We say that the way to oust this (Government would be to enlist the support of the Tamil people who have the common aspiration with the Sinhala people to establish a socialist government.

Q: You are against the establishment of Eelam, but accept the right of the Tamil people to self determination in their traditional lands. Explain

We are also happy that the PLOTE has condemned these attacks in the North on Sinhalese settlements.

There can be no unitary state without the consent of each separate entity, and we feel that the only way to maintain a unitary state with separate identities is with a leftist government. The way to establish the willingness of the North to a co-existing unitary state is to evolve a leftist leadership in the North, as the politics of the left is not on the basis of race but on the basis of equality.

Mr. Nanayakkara wound up by saying that if it is deemed that he be shot or hanged for advocating that the Tamils have a right to self determination and that a unitary leftist state be established, he is prepared to face that.



Batting 'star' Dilip India's anchor man on t tour, caught flat-footed by Shoe Company show

Jaffna over

(By Norman Palihawadana, and our Jaffna Corr.)

Residents of Jaffna staged a hartal and held a number of demonstrations to register their protest against the brutal killing of two stalwarts of the

Work dislocated

Attack on Eravur station