

The GREAT BETRAYAL

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According to usually reliable information coming from the Tamil diaspora in the West, there are various dissatisfactions being expressed by some of them about the current developments among them. Now that over two months have passed since the L.T.T.E. faced defeat and the dream of a Tamil Eelam started to recede, some of us have had time to do some naval gazing and reflect on all that has happened. Some of these which had been cautious murmurs or rumblings are now beginning to more audible grumbles. Some of these are of a self-critical nature, others are directed at various quarters of diaspora.

Views of the more senior Tamil generation

These are mostly from the more senior and mature diaspora of the first generation who came with their families for about a decade after the Black July atrocities and their aftermath. Some of the more discerning ones who are aware of the international developments view these sceptically & are starting to express contrary views but still very quietly.

The younger Tamil generation

Although the younger diaspora had been vociferous and active at the last stages of the battles a few months back seemed to take over the movement, the older generation seem to express their disillusion at the role they played during the few years. The seniors who came over with their teenage children seem to have had high hopes of their children taking over the carrying on of the torch of Eelam Struggle. But most of them have started to express their utter disappointment (not publicly of course) at this generation not meeting what was expected of them. Although the seniors had been trying their best to imbibe in them the values they held dear of someday achieving a success story of a Thamil Eelam, the young having got all the best of comforts, education, etc. had also got spoilt by their exposure to the Western values and had lost sight of these targets which the seniors had laid their targets on so much.

THE BETRAYAL BY THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Some of them express their disgust at the younger generation going to the extent of even accusing them of betraying the Eelam struggle. That Prabhakaran had high expectations of the young diaspora of fully supporting the struggle especially as it got more intense. Since a few years back he had expected a force comprising of these young highly technically trained diaspora to come over and train cadres for manning the future battles against the

Sri Lankan Army taking the war to a higher technological level. It was with these expectations that Prabhakaran had obtained all the sophisticated equipment which ultimately had to be abandoned.

The younger diaspora if they wanted to, could have easily gone to Sri Lanka and to the vast area under the L.T.T.E. command a few years back as they all had foreign passports and freely gone in anywhere as on holiday. That this is the sort of thing young Al Qaida in countries like the U.K. and U.S.A. did a few years back when they got training in fundamentalist centres in Pakistan and Afghanistan or in some Middle East countries. They got the ideological input and came back to the West to

for their short comings, saying that it is wrong to condemn them for not heeding the needs of the struggle. They justify the attitude of this generation on the fact that they never faced the harsh experiences which the older generation faced at the hands of the Sri Lankan State and the Forces during there tie there, prior to moving out. They also add that these youth have efficiently-taken the lead today in organising the recent protests and marches, thus doing their best to keep the flag flying.

But others point out that these youth coming here as kids got exposed to the computer war games and the Rambo type of films and videos glorifying the heroic deeds of the western individuals such as Rambo, Superman etc. who crush entire armies of alien lands single-handedly to



Prabhakaran's body found floating in the Nandikadal lagoon in the early morning of 19th May 2009, with gun-shots to his head.

fight. What Prabhakaran might have expected was a similar thing in reverse, i.e. for the young to get the sophisticated training in the West, come and train the cadres in Eelam and fight together with them there.

Some say that Prabhakaran had even expressed his hopes of a few thousands would come from the West to fight the final victorious Eelam war. Unfortunately all these seem to have fallen on deaf ears. The younger generation carried on regardless in their cushy climes in the West. It was because of these failures that the LTTE top brass had to even recruit children to fight the war unheeding all accusations from the U.N. and the world as things got intense, that they had to bury all the sophisticated armaments and equipment. Of what earthly use is all that without trained cadres to man them?

They say that Prabhakaran was forced to even get his son to fight in the battle front after the Air force was destroyed, and that he was killed miserably the day before the final defeat as he had no training to face such action.

So they put the full blame on the second generation of the diaspora for having been insensitive to the plight of the struggle in their selfishness.

The Rambo Generation

However, many other seniors seem to condone these youth

achieve victory. These films and videos made at that time to erase the shame, faced by America in the defeat in the Vietnam war shaped the world view of these youth making them slavishly believe the superiority of the white man. They dub these youth as the Rambo generation. These critics tell that it is this mentality which made them think that the West led by Norway would miraculously crush the Sri Lankan army even at the last minute, if they manage to persuade the West to it by the protests and gain their sympathy. These critics also indirectly blame the women folk of the earlier generation for dissuading these youth from physically going to the frontline.

INDIAN BETRAYAL

Whatever said and done, many of the diaspora are of the opinion that India did not support their struggle to the extent many expected. Some say that India could have avoided supporting the Sri Lankan navy, which prevented the senior cadres from moving away to regroup and fight in the future.

They also condemn Karunanidhi, Vaiko and others as being sham hot air only and no action at crucial stages.

But others point out that they could not have done much, facing a general election at the crucial juncture. Also that they could not expect

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කොටි නායක වේළුපිල්ලේ ප්‍රභාකරන් ඇතුළු ප්‍රධාන පෙළේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ කොටි නායකයින් සියළු දෙනාම පාහේ ඝාතනය වී කොටි සංවිධානය නොසිතුවීරු විනාශයකට මුහුණ පාමින් එහි අනාගතය ගැන කිසිදු බලාපොරොත්තු වූක කැබිමට නොහැකි අයුරින් දැන් දර්ශනය වීම පිටරට වෙසෙන දෙමළ ඩයස්පෝරාවේ සිත් දැඩි වේදනාවට පත්කරන කරුණක් වී ඇත. ප්‍රභාකරන් ගේ බිරිඳ සහ දරුවන්ද මිය යන්නට ඇති බව දැන් දෙමළ ජනයා පිළිගෙන ඇත. එහෙයින් සංවිධානය ඉදිරියට ගෙන යන්නට සුදුසු කෙනෙකු ගැන සිතන්නට වත් බැරි තත්වයක් පවතී. කොටි නායකයාගෙන් පසු නායකත්වයට තෝරාගන්නා කිසි කුමාරන් පද්මනාදන් හෙවත් කේපී, ජාත්‍යන්තර පොලීසිය මගින් මැලේසියාවේ දී ගිය සතිපයේ අන්අඩංගුවට ගෙන ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට බාරදී, දැන් ශ්‍රී ලංකා බුද්ධි අංශය මගින් දැඩි ලෙස ප්‍රශ්නකරන බව පැවසේ. මේ සියල්ල කොටි සංවිධානය ගැන විශ්වාසය කැබු, ඊළඹි රාජ්‍යයක් තුළ පිවිත් වන්නට සිහින මැවූ බොහෝ දෙමළ ජනතාව කර කියා ගන්නට දෙයක් නැති තත්වයට පත් කර ඇත.

දෙමළ විද්වතෙකු විසින් ලියන ලද මේ සම මත පළවන ඉංග්‍රීසි ලිපිය දෙමළ ඩයස්පෝරාවේ සිතැති හෙළිකරන්නකි. එල්ටීටීඊයේ පරාජයට හේතුව පිටරට වෙසෙන ඩයස්පෝරාව අවශ්‍ය උදව් අවශ්‍ය අවස්ථාවේ නොදුන් නිසායයි එය පෙන්වා දෙයි. මේ සියල්ලේ වරද කාගේද යන්න දැන් දෙමළ ජනයාම

පශ්චාත් මරණ පරීක්ෂණයක් පවත්වමින් සාකච්ඡාකරන බව ලිපියෙන් අනාවරණය වෙයි. එම ලිපිය මුළුමනින්ම සිංහලට හරවා මෙහි බහාලන්නට නොහැකිකේ ඉඩකඩ නැති බැවිනි. එබැවින් එහි මුඛ්‍ය අදහස කෙටියෙන් ඔබට මෙසේ දක්වමු.

අවසන් අවුරුදු කීපයේ ශ්‍රී ලංකා හමුදා වන්නේ දැඩි ප්‍රහාරයන්ට ලක්වූ කොටි සංවිධානයේ පිරිස් බලය හීනවී යන්නට විය. මියෙන ප්‍රමාණයට හරියන්නට අළුත් කාඩරයන් සොයාගැනීම විශාල ප්‍රශ්නයක් විය. ප්‍රභාකරන්ගේ බලාපොරොත්තුවූ වූයේ පිටරට සිටින දෙමළ ඩයස්පෝරාවේ කරුණ පිරිස් වන්නියට පැමිණ අවසන් ඊළඹි සටනට සහායදීම් විය කොටි සංවිධානයට බැඳේ කියාය. කරුණ කාඩරයන් සොයා එවන ලෙස යුරෝපයේ කොටි සංවිධානයට කිවිවත් එකද දෙමළ කරුණයක් ගියේ නැත. ලංකාවේ කෝලාහල නිසා පිටරටට පැත්ත දෙමළ උදවියන් ළමයි පිටරටට වී සැපපහසු ජීවිත ගතකරමින් පෙළපාලිවලට ගොස් කැගසනවා විනා ඒ ජීවිතේ අත්හැර වන්නියට ගොස් ඊළම වෙනුවෙන් ජීවිතේ දෙන්නට එකෙක්වත් කැමතිවූහේ නැත. මේ නිසා දැඩි කළකිරීමට පත්ව සිටි ප්‍රභාකරන් පිටරට පාසැල් ගොස් වන්නියට ආ සැනින් පුහුණුවක්වත් නැති තම දරුවන් සටන් බිමට යැවීමේ උත්තීස්කාරයේ මැරෙන බව ද දැන් හොන කරන්නට දෙයක් නැති නිසාය. ආයුධ කිබුණත් හටයන් නැත්නම් කුමකටද? කොටි සංවිධානය විනාශකළේ සහ එය පාවා දුන්නේ පිටරට සැප ජීවිත ගෙවන දෙමළ කරුණ වැඩිහිටි කඩුරුන් එකතු වී බව ලියුම්කරු ඒ ලිපියෙන් අවධාරණය කරයි.

anything different when looking back at the bitter history of LTTE's role vis a vis India during the last two decades.

THE BETRAYAL BY K. P.

Many in the diaspora agree overtly or covertly that the greatest betrayal that Prabhakaran faced which ended ultimately with his death was at the hands of Kumaran Pathmanathan or the infamous K.P., who was the chief arms procurer for the movement. According to some, he pretended to be Prabhakaran's closest friend and Prabhakaran had immense faith in K.P. It was this which made the leader appoints him as the Head of the International Division of the LTTE in January 2009 when things seem to be going awry for the movement in many aspects. K.P. also claims to have been entrusted by Prabhakaran to all the funds and to carry on the activities in the future.

Others who claim to have been in the know of the fairly long history of this character and his clandestine activities say that these last moves by Prabhakaran to trust this vicious man was the leader's ultimate undoing. According to them, K.P. manipulated and engineered things, once he had won the leader's trust by procuring some shipments of arms as things became desperate regarding supplies. K.P. also had made Prabhakaran to believe and trust him to procure a rescue mission with the help of Norway and Solheim even at the last moment. Although he pretended to have been in contact even in the last few days there is no way of knowing what really happened and who is really telling the truth. The fact is that none of K.P.'s supposed last minute support materialised and we know what subsequently happened to Prabhakaran, the senior leadership and the movement.

They accuse this man of scheming to take over the large funds and also to take over the mantle of



Kumaran Pathmanathan alias KP, in Malaysia a few days before the arrest

the headship of the movement which thus fell into his lap. Many are wary about this criminal whose long record is one of drug trafficking, arms smuggling etc, which is a long list and wanted by the Interpol and the law enforcement agencies, living in hiding because of a red alert and moving about like a shadow using twenty odd passports, being endowed as the future head of the LTTE or whatever form it takes.

Now that he has been apprehended by SL authorities, he has been spilling all the beans, many in the Tamil Diaspora, even those who were earlier supporting him have begun to distance him. Most are now of the opinion that KP is not the real tuff guy he pretended to be, but a traitor and a coward whose only motive is to save his own life.

These are some of the cross currents within the Tamil diaspora living in the West.

But the more discerning people among them have in despair, started to ask :

“ Is this what everything is coming to in the end ? ”