

## Party Activities & Statements 2002 April - June

A letter to the leader of the LTTE

18th April 2002

Mr Veluppillai Pirapakaran  
Leader, LTTE  
Kilinochchi

Dear Mr. Pirapakaran,

Greetings. Our party heartily welcomes the recent steps taken by the LTTE under your leadership, with facilitation by Norway, to secure peace. You would be aware that our party has continued to carry forward several mass movements to emphasise a ceasefire, talks with the LTTE and a just political solution. In that respect, the present climate is one in which we join in the joy of the masses.

Your clarification of your position to the country and the world at the recent press conference convened by you was very useful. Also, your inviting Tamil, Muslim and Hill Country Tamil parliamentary leaders and carrying out discussions with them with a view to achieve broad-based unity is commendable. Also, your coming to an agreement with the leadership of the Muslim Congress and finding a way for the return of the displaced Muslims is particularly welcome.

At the same time, I wish to draw your kind attention to some unfavourable aspects of the answers given by you to a few of the questions during your meeting with the media.

1. It is regrettable that you failed to respond to the question about the left and democratic forces of the South campaigning among the Sinhala masses against the war, in support of you and emphasising a political solution. We wish to point out that this has led to a feeling of regret that the anti-war forces among the Sinhala have not been acknowledged, and to the feeling that a powerful message to the Sinhala people has thus been evaded.
2. In response to the question about working class parties in the North-East, you had bluntly stated that there are no working class or capitalist class parties there. It is well known to all that besides our party, there have been other left parties and trade unions that have continued to represent the workers and peasants there. I also wish to draw your attention to the fact that it is on record that, at the same time, our party has been at the forefront of the struggles against chauvinistic governments and against Indian expansionist aggression.
3. We also wish to draw your attention to the fact that the view expressed by Mr Anton Balasingam that under the interim administration, the economy of the North-East will be an 'open market economy' is in sharp contrast to the stand taken by you in your endeavour to have a national economic policy in Tamil areas.
4. The positions of India and the US have come to the open following your meeting with the media. The US has sought to use the national question in our country through war as well as peace to serve the interests of its global hegemony and India that of its regional hegemony. We believe that you recognise the inherent dangers in this and will act with far-sight.

Further, the present climate of peace has come about as a result of the unrelenting struggle against the chauvinistic oppressors by the LTTE under your leadership. You are aware that all genuine left parties and democratic forces, including our party, have voiced support for

that struggle at various times, and at critical moments. We wish to assure that the support of our party will continue for your efforts in the negotiations for peace.

At the same time, our party appeals to you take appropriate action against the forces of conservative political domination and the greedy rich who are seeking to enrich themselves further by exploiting the present climate of peace and thereby protect the people.

Thanking you,  
S.K. Senthivel  
General Secretary, New Democratic Party

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### Press Release

#### **May Day Message of the New Democratic Party**

The General Secretary of the New Democratic Party, SK Senthivel and its National Organiser, E Thambiah stated in their May Day message that the fact that the May Day of this year is being celebrated amid cessation of hostilities and preparations for negotiations based on the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE gives a sense of great relief to the party and to the people of the country. The New Democratic Party during the past eighteen years had stood firmly against the war and given prominence to its demand for a negotiated settlement for the national question in each of its May Day messages. It had also continued to carry out campaigns in the North and in the South in support of that demand. The fulfilment of its wishes on this May Day is a great victory for the Tamil people and for all oppressed masses. The people should oppose and reject outright the forces of chauvinism that are hell bent on wrecking this initial victory scored as a result of a prolonged struggle. Thus, we put forward on behalf of the people the demand that it is necessary to make further efforts without delay or hindrance to safeguard the current climate of peace and to secure a lasting peace and a lasting political solution.

The message further stated that the government, while it was making an effort to achieve peace, was also loading the workers and peasants with heavy economic burdens and making their living conditions worse. The prices of essential goods have been raised sky high while the wages of workers in the plantation sector and the state and private sectors have been held down without a rise. The government has increased the fees and cost of services through the introduction of the value added tax (VAT). Such actions expose its big-bourgeois, pro-imperialist nature and seem to be a continuation of the anti-people policies of the past. Also, the open economic policy and the privatisation policy are being carried out under the guidance of the World Bank and the IMF in a way that suits the US scheme for globalisation.

One cannot fail to notice that besides its activities on the economic front, the US is also, under the cover of support for the peace process, seeking to set up army and naval bases under its direct control in Sri Lanka. Therefore, on this May Day, the New Democratic Party calls upon the workers, peasants and all other working people to mobilise themselves against the anti-people activities of the government and the actions of the US to dominate and control Sri Lanka.

S.K Senthivel, General Secretary & E. Thambiah, National Organiser

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30 May 2002

Press Release

The General Secretary of the New Democratic Party, S.K Senthivel made the following observation in his statement, issued on behalf of the Party, on the proposed defence treaty between the Sri Lankan and US governments.

The Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and Hill Country Tamil people voted the UNF into power not to surrender the country and the people to America. The UNP which, before its coming to power, posed as if it was speaking on behalf of the people, has, after coming to power, reverted to its pro-imperialist line and is acting as a puppet of the US. The proposed defence treaty with the US is one outcome of that course of action. There can be no doubt that this treaty will be used to stange to death the struggle of the people for self-determination. At the same time, it has also led to the danger of the independence and sovereignty of the entire people of Sri Lanka being captured by the US. The defence treaty represents a situation in which US hegemonism, to which our party has already drawn attention and about which it has warned, poses a threat to every one of our people. This threat is something that the entire population, including the Tamil people, should unitedly oppose.

The statement added that the US is working hard to realise its dream of global hegemony by branding the just struggles for liberation by the people in various countries as terrorism and seeking to eliminate them. It is as a part of this scheme that the US has chosen to establish foothold in Sri Lanka in order to gain control over the South Asian region. The defence treaty is designed to ensure and enable its implementation. Under this treaty, there would be opportunity for the US to secure the interests of its multi-national companies as part of its scheme of globalisation and to establish military and air bases in Sri Lanka.

Thus, the US chose to make this defence treaty with the UNF government in order to suppress the struggle of the Tamil people for self-determination as well as other anti-imperialist struggles and to bring the whole of Sri Lanka under its control. The UNF government, by agreeing to such a treaty, has demonstrated its usual loyalty to imperialism. It has deceived the Tamil people and betrayed the entire people of Sri Lanka. The entire people should rise in protest against this. The NDP affirms that it will be with the people and be at the forefront of this opposition to this treaty.

S.K. Senthivel, General Secretary, NDP

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S.K. Senthivel, General Secretary, NDP

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