

1<sup>st</sup> June 2003

**Press Release**

“A meaningful administrative structure with defined powers to carry forward and fulfil basic humanitarian needs including the restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the North East and the resettlement of the displaced is an essential need of the day. The participation of the LTTE in such an organisational structure is an objective necessity that cannot be lightly dismissed. The arguments contained in the demands put forward by the LTTE in this connection are clearly valid. Meanwhile, the proposal contained in the response of Premier Ranil Wickramasinghe seems a mere spoonful to quench the thirst of the elephant. It is inappropriate to talk of rebuilding the North East while it is in a state of destruction and desolation. Thus, it is necessary for the premier and the government to put forward, without making excuses, a meaningful and practicable administrative structure. Otherwise, the people would be anxious that an unfortunate situation would arrive where the environment of peace and other positive features that have emerged from the Memorandum of Understanding will be lost. The New Democratic Party emphasises to the premier and the government that the country and the people should not be allowed to risk such a dangerous situation”.

This view was expressed by S.K. Senthivel, General Secretary of the New Democratic Party in a statement issued on behalf of its Central Committee. The statement further pointed out that the Memorandum of Understanding, ceasefire, removal of restrictions and the opening of routes had been carried out without conflict with the Constitution, and have gained the support of all the people. A similar approach should be taken by the premier and the government to set up without delay an administrative structure with democratic features for the restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the North East and for the resumption of normal life, in which the LTTE could play a role.

Thus, the government should avoid acting with covert chauvinistic motives, using the pretext of legal restrictions, or yielding to advice from foreign powers and hegemonic forces. The New Democratic Party calls upon the premier and the government to, instead, carry forward the talks with courage and far sight and without retreat, to overcome the current difficulty in a spirit of compromise and understanding and arrive at a solution.

S. K Senthivel  
General Secretary, New Democratic Party

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13<sup>th</sup> March 2003

**Press Release**

“The Bush Administration has given a ultimatum to Iraq. The aim of the US is to topple President Saddam Hussain, who is vehemently opposed to America and Israel, install a puppet regime in Iraq, and take control of its oil reserves. The New Democratic Party strongly condemns the US for its massive preparations to unleash a war against Iraq under false pretext.

Recently 128 representatives from 20 countries made a clarion call to engage in anti-war activities in London on March 15<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of the International Anti-War Movement. The New Democratic Party declares wholeheartedly its solidarity with this declaration. We call upon all left and democratic forces to engage in anti-war activities from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March”.

This was a statement issued to the Press by the Politburo of the New Democratic Party. The statement further added: “Countries such as France, Russia, China, India, Germany and many Third World countries and people demand that America should not declare war on Iraq. The vast majority of the people of Britain, America, Australia, Israel, and Japan are also opposing war. People all over the world should, irrespective of differences in race, religion and language, unite to oppose and expose America’s sinister motive in planning a war against Iraq. This war is not merely targeted against Iraq and Muslims. It is an imperialist war of aggression against the entire people of the world. That is why we unite with the people of the world in opposing and condemning America’s warmongers and their stooge Tony Blair”.

S.K. Senthivel  
General Secretary, New Democratic Party

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10<sup>th</sup> March 2003

**Press Release**

The General Secretary of the New Democratic Party said in a statement issued on behalf of the Politburo of the NDP that “ The lives of the Tamil prisoners on hunger strike at the Kalutara Prison should be saved. The total indifference of the Premier and the ministers concerned, despite the condition of the detainees reaching a critical stage, has to be strongly condemned. The government should take due note of the fact that peace, negotiations and rehabilitation are issues that also concern those who have been detained for long periods without charge and members of their families, and take necessary steps to grant them justice and fair treatment”.

The statement further added: “Tamil political prisoners, including women prisoners, have been detained for long periods without inquiry in the Kalutara Prison and other prisons. They have only demanded that they should either be released, or be subjected to proper inquiry, or be allowed bail and tried in the High Courts in their own regions. This demand is entirely reasonable and cannot be lightly dismissed. Many things have been taken up for discussion under the memorandum of understanding, the ceasefire and peace talks, and action taken on some issues. The failure of the government to show the same kind of interest in the question of the Tamil political prisoners as it has shown in dealing promptly with things that concern its own interests seems to expose its chauvinistic motives. Therefore, the New Democratic Party strongly urges the government to save the lives of the Tamil political prisoners who face the risk of losing their lives in the Kalutara Prison by fulfilling the demand over which they are on hunger strike.

S.K. Senthivel  
General Secretary, New Democratic Party