



*High Commissioner*

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

8 March 2010

Mr. Andrew Charalambous  
Edmonton Conservatives  
16A Leighton Road  
Bushill Park  
Enfield EN1 1XJ

Dear Sir

I have read with amusement a flyer currently in circulation, quoting an observation made by you on 17 October 2009 at Hyde Park. The front cover of the flyer has a legend "Tamil Eelam is the only solution".

I quite appreciate that there is a General Election due any moment and that you are a candidate for the constituency of Edmonton. I am also aware that Edmonton has a strong Tamil presence and obviously all candidates seeking election need the support of the Tamil people. But that is not to say the ground realities ought to be distorted and articulated in furtherance of an objective that candidates seek to achieve. The Sinhalese people also vote.

It is common knowledge that the Tamil diaspora in the UK are engaged in promoting separatism, which you have so willingly subscribed to. It is said that political activities that are spelt out in the flyer are 'rare opportunities for Tamil diaspora to be the voice for the voiceless brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka, who have been denied a free voice'. I am sure that you are not aware that there are over 30 Tamil Members of Parliament, both in the Government benches and the Opposition ranks. To say that Tamil brothers and sisters have been denied a free voice is misleading. You are also probably not aware because you have not been adequately briefed by your Tamil constituents that more than 50% of the population in Colombo are Tamils. Tamil people live also in other areas of Sri Lanka, apart from the North. You are also probably not aware that in Sri Lanka there are Tamils in highest positions as Supreme Court Judges, Permanent Secretaries, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Heads of Government Departments etc. We have had a Tamil Chief Justice in the recent past and Attorneys General. It is some what inconceivable of how people who belong to a voiceless community can be elevated to these positions of authority and decision making. If the Tamil constituents have not told you the brotherhood that exists among the Sinhalese and Tamils, they have maliciously misled you. One has to remember that Tamils constitute about 10% of the population in Sri Lanka and they have had their fair share in all matters, both in the corporate and public sectors. There are prominent Tamils even at the helm of powerful conglomerates and other business houses. There are over 2000 Tamil doctors in the UK who have benefited from Free Education available in Sri Lanka. Please inquire from a Tamil Doctor or an Engineer whether they paid anything for their education in Sri Lanka.

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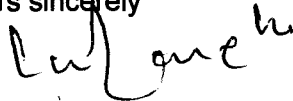
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I am also aware that you have been rather sensitive to the issue of Tamil refugees in camps, which the Western media have so maliciously classified as concentration camps. These people in the camps were housed there because they were destitute, with no where to go. The LTTE destroyed their dwellings and property. While they were in the camps, they were fed, clothed, sheltered, children provided with schooling and all other needs, till identification and registration process of the inmates continued. Even at the time the war was raging, the Sri Lanka Government fed the Tamil people in the North and East, including the Tamil Tigers. It is a common knowledge, that your Tamil constituents may not have not told you, that rice bags sent for the consumption of the Tamil people, were used as protective buffers of the bunkers occupied by the Tamil Tigers. I would like you to understand that there is no ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. It is purely political, which has been inspired by the arrogance of a few people who are driven by their vanity for self aggrandisement.

Please be assured that my Government regards Tamil people as part of Sri Lankan body polity and would ensure that they have equal rights with the rest of the country, as it has always been. Please feel free to engage with this High Commission if at all you need to be updated with the current political climate that we have painstakingly achieved at great sacrifice and commitment.

Yours sincerely



Justice Nihal Jayasinghe  
High Commissioner

cc: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Naseby ) Co-Chairs, All Party Parliamentary Group  
Mr. Andrew Love MP ) on Sri Lanka  
✓  
Mr. Eric Pickles MP, Chairman of the Conservative Party