

LTTE and NGO's Role in Constructing a Fictional Eastern Province History

Susantha Goonatilake ¹

The fictional construction of the "traditional homelands of the Tamils based on the now infamous "Cleghorn Minute" which, among others, stated that the origin of the Sinhalese was in Siam, has been debunked by several scholars including K.M. de Silva. The "traditional homelands" was a major plank of all the separatist movements. In this, they were helped by many foreign funded NGOs and individuals who took on the role of propagandist for the fiction both within Sri Lanka and the world outside. Among the key NGOs in this propaganda exercise were the International Commission of Jurists, the National Peace Council, Inter Religious Peace Foundation, International Alert, National Christian Council, Sarvodaya, Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality, the Law and Society Trust, International Centre for Ethnic Studies, the Social Scientists Association, the Civil Rights Movement, the Berghof Foundation, *Vikalpaya* group and Marga. Among the key propagandists were Victor Ivan, Dayan Jayatilleke, Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Jayadeva Uyangoda, Ketheshwaran Loganathan, and Kumar Rupasinghe.

The paper shows that most of these groups and individuals were interlinked. It documents the trajectory of the fiction as it spread, lubricated by large sums of foreign money, both within Sri Lanka as well as abroad. With the removal of the LTTE military threat, the paper posits that these groups and individuals will form an ideological reservoir for separatist fiction and suggests that measures taken after World War II for

¹ World Academy of Arts and Sciences
Email: susanthag@hotmail.com

denazification be followed. The latter programmes were applied by the Western Allies to the entire ideological apparatus of the Nazis.

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