

Maithri-Ranil Regime Continues the 'Business'

It is reported that Maithri-Ranil administration that has plunged deep into an economic crisis has intensified privatization of state resources giving into conditions of IMF and neo-liberal economic plans.

The present regime is planning, hiding behind the proposal to free masses from their burden, to sell, in the first round, state enterprises that are

running at huge losses due to weak management and then privatize others on the pretext of making them efficient and expanding their services.

SriLankan Airlines that was administered by Rajapaksa family members during Rajapaksa regime is submerged in a debt of Rs.62 billion and the only solution they have regarding the Airline is to sell it states Maithri - Ranil administration.

According to internal sources of the government the proposal to sell the

airline was put forward by the IMF during May. Already, three planes belonging to the Airlines have been handed over to a foreign airline on a lease and steps are being taken to privatize goods transport within the airport, catering and engineering services.

Also, the government has expressed its desire

to sell Mihin Lanka, Maththala Airport, Hambantota Harbour, Lanka Hospitals and two hotels. The government is planning to sell Fishing Corporation and the latest privatization attempt of the government is the programme to sell East Container Terminal (ECT) belonging to Sri Lanka Ports Authority. It is stated that the attempt to hand over ECT to an Indian company, without developing it, is to make up for the port city project given to China.

It is also stated that IMF has proposed to the government 'structural reforms' for the biggest state institutions such as Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Ceylon Electricity Board, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Airport, Airline Services and Sri Lanka

Ports Authority. These proposals for 'structural reforms' are of course ploys to get doors opened for more privatization.

Maithri - Ranil administration that has no answer for the economic breakdown in the country, just like previous regimes did, is trying to find solace in neo-liberal economic policy that has displayed its impotency internationally as well as locally. These failed economic experiments not only deprive the masses of their resources but also would take the masses and the country towards another deeper economic crisis. Hence, the time has come for the people in the country rally with the working masses and come forward to defeat this calamity.



Customs Trade Unions meet JVP regarding delay in bringing National Audit Bill.

JVP Condemns the Terrorist attack in Bangladesh and the Interference in South China Sea by the USA

The press release issued by the International Section of the JVP on 13.07.2016 states:

We, as the Political Bureau of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front - JVP) vehemently condemn the terrorist attack carried out in Dhaka in Bangladesh. We are fully aware of the suffering and the pathetic situation the masses are confronted with at such a

situation as we have experienced such sorrow and suffering of a thirty year war in our country. We also make this an opportunity to extend our condolences to the families of Bangladeshi citizens and foreign nationals who lost their lives in the cowardly attack. We wish speedy recovery for those who were injured in the attack.

Many countries in the world

are destroyed and confronted with horrendous civil wars as a result of terrorist and communalist organizations created and nurtured by imperialist countries. It is no secret that specially, terrorist organizations such as 'Mujahedeen', 'Al Kaida', 'ISIS', founded by imperialists, depend on military and financial support of imperialists and countries that follow their political agendas.

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'PORT CITY' Should be Stopped on Behalf of the Future Generations

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka

The development of a country is not carried out for the luxurious lives of a few living at present but should be a thing that is done for the future emphasizes the Leader of the JVP Anura Dissanayaka and added that port city project should be stopped to protect the environment for the future generations.

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka made these observations at a press conference held at the head office of the JVP on 22nd August to apprise the media regarding the government's decision to recommence port city project.

He further said, "When Mahaweli project commenced many organizations warned regarding the affect it will have on the central hills. As the project was carried out without heeding the warnings the people have to put up with the impact of the destruction through earthslips, floods and other natural disasters. Destructions that were never heard of 30 years ago occur regularly. Development

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No Rajapaksa rule in this country hereafter

Comrade Anura Dissanayaka



As Rajapaksa clique is aware that despite being able to subdue all others, they would never be able to affect the JVP, they attempt to attack the JVP and intimidate state officials that are carrying out investigations against them said the Leader of the JVP Comrade Anura Dissanayaka adding that Rajapaksa would never come to power again and asked the officials to carry out their investigations without any fear.

He said this at a press conferenced held at the head office of the JVP on 3rd September responding to a question raised by a journalist regarding criticism of the JVP by the former President.

"Rajapaksa clique went on a foot march not as a march to topple the government. Prasanna Ranatunga, Mahindananda Aluthgamage clearly said they were not marching to topple the government. Listen to the 14 minute speech by Mahinda

Rajapaksa. His main ccharge was against the FCID, CID, Bribery Commission and the JVP. He had no other criticism. It is the CID that carries out investigations regarding the murder of Thajudeen, disappearance of Eknaligoda, murder of Lasantha Wickremetunga and suicide bomber sent to murder Rajapaksa.

Hence, he attacks the CID to save himself and his clique. Also the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption is carrying out an investigation into the assets of Johnston Fernando, Mahindananda, Welgama, Weerawansa and Keheliya. The Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption is attacked to save his henchmen from investigations. FCID is attacked to save Namal Rajapaksa, Yoshitha Rajapaksa, Gotabhaya, Basil from investigations being carried out regarding financial crimes that have been committed.

Ranil Wickremesingeh or Maithri are not blamed. For, Rajapaksa clique believes tht they could save themselves from the deals they have with Ranil and Maithri. However, they know that all otehrs could be subdued but not the JVP. Their intention is not to form another governemnt but to intimidate officers carrying out investigations and judges."

Those who have skeletons in closets are scared of OMP

On what grounds does anyone say that the Office of the Missing Person's Bill would have adverse affect on war heroes and soldiers asks the General Secretary of the JVP Comrade Tilvin Silva. He said this when the journalists pointed out that Mahinda faction of the SLFP opposed the Bill.

Speaking to a daily newspaper Comrade Tilvin Silva said if anyone says so they indirectly admit that the soldiers had been used illegally for abductions and disappearances of individuals. He added that it is those who have skeletons in their closets that should be afraid of such a law coming into effect.

He said those who opposed the Bill opposed even investigations into the disappeared during '71 and 88/89 periods. Comrade Tilvin Silva pointed out that Mahinda faction opposed even the establishment of Financial Crimes Investigation



Division (FCID) as they were afraid that their frauds and corruption would be exposed. He said those who do not want investigations regarding the disappeared are the ones who were involved in disappearing individuals and it is natural that they oppose such a Bill added the General Secretary of the JVP.



Government singing lullabies to thieves & COPE exposure – A seminar by Voice Against Corruption (VAC)

Condemn the attack on University Students at SAIMT seminar - SSU

Socialist Students Union (SSU) issued a press release on 24th August condemning the attack on university students who questioned about SAIMT private medical school at a SAIMT seminar held at Ratnapura on 24th August. The attack was carried out by the organizers of the seminar.

The media release issued by the National Organizer of SSU Comrade Rangana Devapriya states:

"It is reported that student leaders, students and several others, who had questioned views expressed by speakers at a seminar organized by parents of the illegal medical school at Malabe and held

at Ratnapura today (23rd), were assaulted and several of them have been admitted to Ratnapura General Hospital. The victims have lodged a complaint at Ratnapura Police regarding the incident.

Everyone knows that the illegally begun private medical school at Malabe that challenges free education and free health services and deceive parents and children of this country is maintained with the generous support from former Rajapaksa regime and the existing Maithri – Ranil 'unity' government. Those who study here also receive this support fully to pave the way for them to take decisions regarding patients.

However, the deception of this institute and the harm it commits to free education and free health services in the country is being revealed day by day to the masses of this country as a result of revelations and clarifications carried out by doctors, university students, trade unions, progressive political parties and others.

As such, groups connected to this institute who had spent money to whitewash themselves are now taking various measures to silence those who are against their stand point. The incident that occurred today is a good example.

As the Socialist Students' Union

we condemn this act carried out to arbitrarily spread the stand point of the authorities of the institute and demand the government to arrest all those who are responsible for the attack. We would like to remind the deceitful authorities of the institute and the government that history has shown that the struggle carried out by the students' movement on behalf of the people would be further tempered by these petty attacks. Also, we invite all progressive masses not to be disheartened by such obstacles but to join the struggle for free education and free health services.

Division in the SLFP & the Political Passage

Whether anyone accepts or not the SLFP has been already divided. The division commenced with the defeat of Mahinda Rajapaksa at the presidential election held in 2015. At first, both parties took measures to hide the split. However, today the division is clear and the Maithri faction and the Mahinda faction have come to a stage where they carry out wars of words against each other.

The two main political parties in Sri Lanka, though they call themselves 'main', they are not methodical organizations. Their constitutions, officer bearers, conventions are but camouflages. They are collectives of power hungry individuals gathered together around a leader with power. Throughout history they have remained as party organizations only when they have state power. Then the party machinery is activated by the state machinery and all submit like slaves to the leader due to greed for power and fear. However, when power is lost the organizational machinery vanishes and they get divided just like amoebas do.

When J.R. Jayawardene came to power the SLFP splintered and two factions were lead by Sirima Bandaranayake and Maithripala Senanayaka. Several factions called Sirima faction, Maithri faction and Anura faction were formed. In the recent past the UNP too was divided. There were the Ranil faction, Sajith faction and Karu faction. As soon as they came to power factions have submerged and all have started functioning with

the state machinery. This has become common nature of such parties. This is why they cannot be considered as political parties but only as power hungry mobs.

In place of Sirima – Maithri (Senanayaka) factions in the past we have Maithri – Mahinda factions today in the SLFP. What is distinct is the division is deeper and broader; Maithri wields state power but Mahinda has the majority at party grass-roots level. Despite there is only the noise but no blows, there are signs of eruption of a ferocious brawl.

This conflict cannot be ignored regarding it as a mere internal conflict of the SLFP. For, it affects Sri Lanka's political passage as well as the people in the country. What does a careful study of the past year indicate? It shows that Mahinda clique and Maithri clique have acted not on behalf of the needs of the people but for their needs for power. Mahinda clique visited temples, dashed coconuts, held protest marches and acted dramas in the well

shouted at the protest walk of the Mahinda faction were against President Maithripala Sirisena. They hooted when they marched near SLFP head office. It is of course to hoot Maithri.

Meanwhile, President Maithripala Sirisena too extended the two year period of the 'unity' government to five years, increased the number in the cabinet, took interest in introducing a new electoral system, dissolved local government councils, appointed commissioners and postponed local government elections not on behalf of the people but to weaken Mahinda's influence within the SLFP and to heighten his influence.

Why does President Maithripala Sirisena beat Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to vouch that the present government would not topple but would continue for 5 years? It is because he knows that without the present government and sharing power with it he would not be able to retain the leadership of the SLFP nor can he keep



If not Mahinda should have a people's power that would enable him to go to the streets and topple the government. How can Mahinda think of such a task when even his party has lost half of its membership to Maithri? What could happen is that the members who are dreaming of getting ministerial portfolios in two years and save themselves from being sentenced for various offences committed during Mahinda Rajapaksa regime would abandon Mahinda as their dreams have been shattered and would cross over for power and for their protection.



is state power. Without stopping at this Mr. Sirisena is making signs that the government lead by him would exist beyond five years. Maithri's hostility towards Mahinda is so intense that he is prepared to continue the alliance with the UNP beyond the first 5 years. Meanwhile, Rajapaksa

He is prepared to boycott SLFP convention. Maithri's counterattack for this was to sack all pro – Mahinda organizers in districts and electorates and appoint people favourable to him. However, Mahinda knows that people around him cannot be kept with him without any short term targets. This is why he comes out with illogical challenges that the government would be toppled soon.

Recently, Ms. Pavithra Wanniarachchi had said the present government would be toppled in two years and a government with Mahinda's leadership would be formed. Making such utterances every now and then indicates they could not exist without such dreams. They named a shadow cabinet to help in their dreams.

Pavithra has come down to the level of Geetha Kumarasinghe by stating the government would be toppled in two years. It seems that just as Geetha has no awareness of the population in Sri

Lanka, Attorney at Law Pavithra Wanniarachchi too doesn't have any understanding of the Constitution of the country. According to the 19th amendment that was added to the Constitution the existing government could be dissolved before its term ends only if a resolution is passed with a majority of 2/3rd in Parliament. The UNP as well as Maithri faction would never want to dissolve parliament before its term ends. As such, Mahinda Rajapaksa would never be able to find a 2/3rd majority in this Parliament. Hence, Mahinda's government in two years is only an illusion – a wishful thinking!

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The SLFP formed in 1952 with the leadership of SWRD Bandaranayake who left the UNP seeking power having had to form an alliance with the UNP to come to power after 64 years is indeed a mockery of history. This has revealed to the country what type of a political party the SLFP is and its intentions. How



of the House not to raise people's issues but to protect Rajapaksas and to combat Maithri faction. Most of the slogans

the membership that is around him at present. The only 'weapon' Mr. Maithripala Sirisena has to weaken Mahinda clique

clique too is gathering its forces at grassroots level. Mahinda is rallying provincial and divisional level forces around him.

Maithri-Ranil Regime Attempts to Sell Colombo Port

Comrade Bimal Rathnayake

The present government is taking steps to sell Colombo harbour that is profitable stating it is run at a loss, the present Maithri – Ranil administration, like the previous regime, is taxing the people as well as making plans to sell state institutions says Parliamentarian of the JVP Bimal Rathnayake. He says the Ports Authority is running at a loss not because of the Colombo Harbour but because of Hambantota and Pachchaperumal harbours.

Comrade Bimal Rathnayake made these observations at a press conference held at the head office of the Party at Pelawatta today (29th). The Member of the Central Committee of the JVP and Kalutara District Parliamentarian Comrade Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa also participated.

Speaking further Comrade Bimal Rathnayake said, “A programme has been activated to sell East Container Terminal of Colombo Harbour. Colombo Harbour is more than a thousand years old, successful and a very important harbour. It has been a navally important port for centuries and is the main harbour owned by Ports Authority. It is being maintained successfully despite large scale frauds, corruption and irregularities that were committed during the previous regime. According to facilities it has in handling large containers it is graded 24th internationally. Colombo Harbour has been able to maintain its position as a high grade harbour according to international standards. It could compete with US and Chinese harbours. The Ministry of Ports & Maritime Affairs had published an advertisement to sell the East Container Terminal of Colombo Harbour and offers have been called. According to the advertisement ‘The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) has called for Expression of Interests (EOIs) for the development of the East Container Terminal (ECT) of the Colombo port.’ The government has planned to sell the terminal stating it is going to be developed. The advertisement states East Container Terminal (ECT) has a 440m long 18 m deep quay wall, a 20 hectares yard area and connected facilities developed by the SLPA.



It states “The Concessionaire has the advantage of deploying container handling equipment upfront and operating existing facility while developing the rest of the terminal.”

Accordingly, ECT already has the ability to handle 18,000 container ships. What is lacking at present are cranes and relevant equipment. During Rajapaksa regime quotations had been called to buy necessary cranes. Even with irregularities present 95% work had been complied during that time to install cranes. An agreement had been signed with a foreign company and preparations had been finalized to buy cranes for US\$67 million. However, the relevant agreement was cancelled in 2015 due to the change of government and and the increase in prices.

When there was the possibility of buying cranes and starting work in the terminal the present Minister of Ports Arjuna Ranatunga presented a cabinet

paper on 20th June, 2015 proposing to develop the ECT. The Minister states only 70% of containers and handled by the terminal and in the competition to gain volume of containers the terminal has to compete with Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Singapore, Salalah and India declaring Vallarpadam in Kochin as an International Container Transshipment Terminal the competition has intensified. The Minister also points out that modernizing 12 harbours in India would affect our harbours as 90% of eh containers handled by our harbours and from ships sailing to India.

As such, there is a necessity to develop ECT states the cabinet paper. The Minister also states that re exporting harbours in Asia are threatened and pointed out that 4 of the 5 main jetties in Colombo harbour handle container ships.

The weakest two terminals are the ones that belong to the government. As they are not deep enough

ships go to the privatized jetties that are deep as they have a depth of about 18 meters and have facilities. As other jetties in Colombo Harbour have been 85% or 93% privatized it is necessary to have the ECT with the government. Jetties in which the government had ownership of 7% or 15% earned a profit of US\$45 million in 2014. Despite this the Minister proposes shipping company or a terminal operator to take over 49% of the shares of the ECT of which the main shareholder is the SLPA. The Minister of Finance has approved the proposal and has instructed to appoint a committee to consider the decision. Based on this the cabinet has approved the cabinet paper. Also, the Asian Development Bank represents SLPA. The report prepared for the buyers in June, 2016 states only 15% ownership would be sufficient. Accordingly, Advertisements have been placed for tenders without any cabinet approval to sell 85% of

the ECT in Colombo Harbour retaining only 15% for the government. What this indicates is that a plan is being hatched to sell ECT when there is scope to modernize it. What is serious sis that the process to sell is contradictory to the proposal in eh cabinet paper. After this deal Colombo Harbour would be left with only sea water.

During the Mahinda Rajapaksa regime too people were taxed and state institutions were sold. Also, there were large scale frauds and corruption connected with Colombo Harbour. With all that Colombo Harbour earned profits. SLPA runs at a loss not because of Colombo Harbour but due to Hambantota and Pachchaperumal harbour projects. Hambantota and Pachchaperumal projects are pet projects. The government spent millions for those projects. It is these wasteful spendings that has made SLPA a loss. Rajapaksas’ wasteful spendings or corruption is not relevant to Colombo Harbour as it earned profits. Hence we ask the President, the Prime Minister and the cabinet from where and how was the process to sell approved. This process of selling would be effective for 35 years. This means the government wants to pawn the economic resource of our country for 35 years. Also, the government is violating the economic sovereignty of our country. All Ceylon Ports General Workers Union distributed a leaflet in June, 2016 against the attempt to sell the ECT. Also, we wrote to the Minister. The President was informed in writing. The engineers in SLPA wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on 27th June that ser vices could be carried out once the cranes are bought. Privatization would have a bad affect on the employees. As the government owns only two jetties in Colombo Harbour the number of ships arriving at these jetties is diminishing. Privatizing ECT would jeopardize jobs of port employees.

The UNP began privatizing state institutions in 1987. With that large scale frauds that went beyond taking commissions from projects begun since then commenced. Large scale thefts were committed from the

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Reveberating Global Political Rivalries in Asia

A sharp revival in rivalry in global politics has begun to show in the Middle East, Africa and Europe as well as in Asia. Though it is not intense as in the Middle East, a series of incidents are taking place in Asia that indicates it could develop to such a situation. Currently, we could identify three main inflammable issues that are related to global balance of power in the Asian Region.

China on one side and the USA on the other side are connected to these issues. The three issues are South Korea together with the USA is getting ready to deploy a missile defence system to confront an attack from North Korea, the issue that has come up between Vietnam, Philippines and China regarding islands in South China Sea and the conflict that has developed between Japan and China as a result of the new Japanese defence white paper.

THAAD Missile Defence System

The USA announced on 8th July that it would deploy Thaad missile defence system with South Korea. The defence system would be operational from end of 2017. South Korea states the reason for deploying a missile defence system in South Korea is due to North Korea's nuclear programme and specially for protection from Inter-continental Ballistic Missiles. It is designed to shoot down short, medium, and intermediate range

ballistic missiles in their terminal phase using a hit-to-kill approach. However, North Korea needs only short range rockets and conventional weapons to attack South Korea. Hence, the use of this missile defence system would be minimal in an attack from North Korea. Also, this missile defence system could destroy enemy missiles at a range of 200 km. The USA is planning to install the missiles about 300 km from Seoul in

the area where the largest population live doesn't get protection. With the US announcement that THAAD Missile Defence System would be installed, discussions between China and Russia commenced regarding defence in the region and the surfacing situation. After the 4th round discussions on 29th July China and Russia, making a joint statement, stated the decision to deploy missile defence system was a threat

Chinese parties believe that such actions by the United States and the Republic of Korea are not consistent with their purported goals and can cause serious damage to the strategic security of neighbouring countries, including Russia and China, and further complicate the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The two parties strongly condemned the plans and discussed the possibility of coordinating more closely in the wake

security, as reliably and effectively as possible."

They also agreed to have joint naval exercise in the South China Sea in September.

It was Philippines that took the crisis in the South China Sea to an international tribunal. It was regarding the ownership of islands in the South China Sea. According to China the islands belonged to China until 1970 but with the discovery of oil and gas reserves in the area Philippines and Vietnam started claiming ownership. Philippines went to Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague claiming its ownership for the islands.

China opposed the move from its beginning but the hearing continued unilaterally. Paul Reichler, a lawyer at Foley Hoag in Washington appeared for Philippines. However, Cui Tiankai, the Chinese Ambassador to the US, accused the

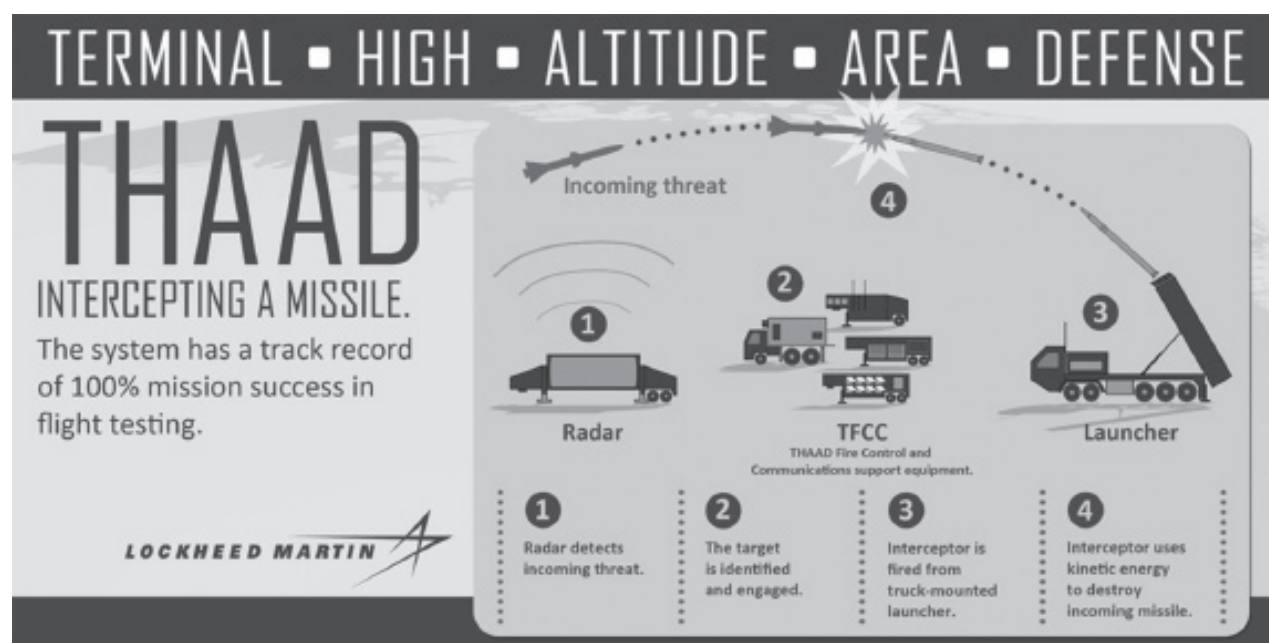
there is "no legal basis" for China's claims in the area.

However, China rejects this judgment and Chinese President Xi Jinping repeated Beijing's stance that the South China Sea has been Chinese territory since ancient times and said China's territorial sovereignty and interests in the region would not be influenced under any circumstances by the ruling.

China is a main trade partner of Philippines. 26% of Philippine's exports and 19% of its imports are done with China. Only 12% of Philippines' exports go to the USA and it imports 9% of its imports from the USA. As such, regionally making China an enemy is disadvantageous to Philippines. As such, it is evident that the legal action is undoubtedly a need of the USA.

Japan's defence white paper Meanwhile Japan's Defence White Paper released annually and was issued on 2nd August this year titled "Defence of Japan 2016". The first such 'white paper' was released in 1970 and has been releasing annually since 1976. It is a document having 488 pages and 30 of them express "deep concern" over China's growing assertiveness in the maritime domain. 50 pages express regarding the relationship between Japan and the USA. The main topics of the 'white paper' are security threats Japan is subjected to by China, North Korea and Russia. It also states measures that should be taken to beef up Japan's defences.

However, China has 'expressed strong opposition to Japan's 2016 defence white paper, calling the annual document hostile to the China and deceptive to the international community'. China states the 'ultimate purpose of Japan's defence white paper was large-scale changes to its military policy, increased arms



South Korea - a long distance away from South Korea's border. This means the system would not protect the most densely populated areas in the country. On the other hand the missile system is said to have a detection range as far as 2,000 kilometres in forward-based mode and 600 kilometres in terminal mode. This means the USA could get information about Russia and China.

It doesn't mean that

and "expressed major shared concerns over the decision of the United States and the Republic of Korea to deploy the US THAAD missile defence system in southern Korea. Washington's steps to unilaterally develop a strategic missile defence system that is deployed across the globe, including Northeast Asia, adversely affect the international and regional strategic balance."

The joint statement states, "The Russian and

of these unfavourable developments."

It was also stated that "Russia and China are bound by a comprehensive strategic partnership in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Statement signed by the heads of the two states on strengthening global strategic stability. The sides have agreed to promote cooperation and coordinate efforts to protect their respective national interests, primarily in the sphere of

tribunal of exceeding its authority by moving beyond maritime law into trying to resolve territorial disputes, which he described as "professional incompetence" and "a matter of questionable integrity". According to China the case was not the need of Philippines but that of the USA. The need to prevent China from being the biggest influence in Asia is behind the US act. After several years the tribunal ruled

Accord of Conscience', the National Programme presented by the JVP for the general election includes a proposal to establish a 'Truth Commission' so that masses distressed due to the war could forward their grievances and also to get relief said the National Organizer of the JVP Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka and added that the JVP is the only principled party that talks about its policies even after the elections by defending the right to get information about the disappeared." Comrade Bimal Rathnayaka made these observations at a media conference held at the head office of the JVP on 15th August to explain the JVP stand on the Office of the Missing Person's Bill.

Comrade Rathnayaka said, "Various views are expressed in the country regarding the Bill to establish an Office of Missing Persons (OMP). On one side it is said that the security forces are inconvenienced. On the other they say it is a bill to satisfy imperialists. A small clique complains that the JVP acted in agreement with the government.

The issue about disappearing exists from 1971 onwards. In 1971 disappearances were committed with the mediation of the government. During the 86 – 90 period and again during 90 – 2009 period there were reports of disappearances including several political disappearances. In 1971 and between 87-89 period the JVP was the victim of the disappearances. On other occasions people from other parties as well as from the JVP disappeared. The political disappearances during the 2009 – 2015 period were special.

In 1971 there was not even a process to get justice for the disappearances. However, the JVP mediated in an attempt to get justice from UNP and SLFP governments for the disappeared. We gave evidence at the state institutions established by those governments. Members of the Central Committee of the JVP gave evidence regarding incidences in '71 to the

Honour Families Seeking Justice for the Disappeared...

commission established by the government that came to power in 1978. It was the UNP that put up a commission regarding incidents committed by the previous SLFP government. The General Secretary of our party Comrade Tilvin Silva gave evidence before the commission appointed by Ms. Chandrika Bandaranayke regarding disappearances between 86 – 90 period. Of course, he did so with criticism regarding the defects of the commission. Also, Comrade Sunil Handunneththi, who was then the leader of Inter University Students Federation, gave evidence regarding disappeared students before Ms. Chandrika Bandaranayke's commission. It was a commission established by the SLFP regarding incidents committed during the previous UNP government.

During the second phase of Rajapaksa administration, when a bill regarding the issue was presented in 2012, we said we would support the bill with a condition. The condition was that a comprehensive investigation should be carried out regarding comrades Kugan and Lalith who were made to disappear in 2011. Most of those who were disappeared in our country were members of the JVP. Ms. Chandrika Bandaranayke's commission alone had received 33,000 complaints. The disappearances during the war could have been committed by the LTTE, security forces or other organizations. This is evident from reports and recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) appointed by Mahinda Rajapaksa after the end of the war. Once the war ended in 2009 an intense dialogue developed in the country regarding the disappearances. As the JVP,



we are against dividing the country. If such a situation comes up there would be an eternal war in our country. As such a war would be advantageous to the sinister rulers of our country; we are totally against the process that creates national disunity and division of the country. Just as we are against the division of the country, we are also against slashing people's rights on the pretext of fighting against division and emptying the Treasury stating money is needed for the war. Rajapaksa theory was to empty the Treasury to carry out the war. Even at that moment we said the country should be liberated from terrorists as well as thieves.

Within a week of the end of the war the JVP presented 14 proposals to the government as a 'practical approach for the solution of the national question'. In those proposals it is clearly stated that a 'truth and reconciliation commission' should be appointed to investigate injustices that have been committed against various communities and to bring harmony among the communities. We put forward this proposal as we thought there should be a common place for all the people to come out with the injustices they were subjected to during the war. This 'truth and reconciliation commission' could be a place where those who were made to disappear, their relatives

and the distressed could present their complaints, give details and could be used to prevent any disappearances in the future. After a few more months we put forward a series of proposals as a practical approach to minimize difficulties confronted by Tamil masses.

Also, the 'National Programme' the JVP put forward for the general election 2015 pays attention to the issue. On page 15 of 'The Accord of Conscience' we state "5.Truth and Reconciliation Commission" will be established to accept any complaints of those who were subjected to hardships from 30 year long conflicts in North and East. The Commission will investigate such complaints, intervene to serve justice and will act to strengthen national unity and reconciliation." It is only the JVP that talks about the 'manifesto' even after the election.

There was the need in our country for a commission to look into the suffering of Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim masses that had to undergo a horrid time during the war. The present government has put forward only an office to find information about the disappeared. There is no 'Truth Commission'. The government should establish such a commission. Such a commission is necessary to mediate in various injustices committed by

one community against another. Measures should be taken so that such injustices are not repeated. However, these governments do not mediate to prevent such occurrences. The Bill on the Office of Missing Persons (OMP) is only one part of it.

The stand of the JVP is that an 'Office of Missing Persons (OMP)' is necessary. There should be an accepted place for the relatives of the disappeared to make their complaints. Despite complaining to Grama sevaka, the divisional Secretariat, the Army, Police, Red Cross and commissions established by the government regarding incidents in 88-89, no justice was meted out. Hence, there was the need for such a responsible office. The Bill regarding the OMP was presented in Parliament on 27th May. We discussed the Bill in our Central Committee. We got our lawyers to tell us about the legal side of it. We mediated to remove clauses that could be used for petty political agendas locally and internationally. We proposed that provision that was available in the Bill and stated in clause 11 on page 8 that OMP could enter into agreements with local and foreign organizations need not be there. We need not allow local or foreign organizations to intervene on various pretexts. For, there are many instances in such offices in many

places in the world where officials had been bought over. Some examples are Chile and Guatemala.

According to clause 12 on page 11 the officials of OMP have been given the right to enter state institutions without a warrant for investigations. We believe this right should be given. However, we drew attention to two issues that arise. To prevent investigations that would be carried out to inconvenience state institutions we brought in an amendment stating a complete report on such an investigation should be sent to the IGP within 24 hours. We proposed that clause 21 which states OMP could carry out projects to collect funds locally and internationally should be withdrawn. As this is a state institution the funds should be made available by the government.

The 'joint' opposition charges that the security services personnel would be pursued once the bill is adopted. The bill was adopted without a debate due to the unnecessary act of the Rajapaksa clique.

Parliamentarian Vasudeva Nanayakkara of the 'joint' opposition participated in the supervision committee for the Bill. He could have presented their views. The two amendments they put forward were accepted by the committee. Also, Rajapaksa clique could have gone to court if there were serious and malicious points in the Bill. Without doing any of that they are talking nonsense now. Rajapaksa clique put forward fewer amendments than the amendments put forward by the JVP. There are several members of the Rajapaksa clique in the list of speakers for the debate. Names are forwarded for the list only when a debate is agreed. Parliamentarians Dinesh Gunawardene, Vasudeva, Weerawansa, Gammanpila, Wimalaweera Dissanayaka had given their names to enter for the list of speakers. Hence, Rajapaksa clique is looking for petty excuses.

When the JVP agreed for the Bill we are accused saying we have

Division in the SLFP..

>>> Page 03

does this affect the people and the country? This is what is important for us. As a result of power struggle in the SLFP Maithri faction will have to remain in the government and may be they will have to contest the local government and provincial elections jointly with the UNP. Then the real objectives of the alliance government which is power would be displayed instead of its promises of good governance and democracy. In this regard certain thieves and fraudsters would be apprehended while others would be protected and would be granted various privileges. The burden of the economic crisis would be heavier and it would be heaped on the masses. Slashing of welfare, privatization, and indebtedness would increase. People would be further distressed.

The promise of abolishing executive system would only be a

dream but constitutional changes would be carried out for the advantage of the rulers. Finally, people will totally detest the government. In such a situation what is the responsibility of masses that oppose the government? The SLFP party member at grassroots level and the sympathizers of the party should at least now realize that the leaders of the SLFP think only about their own power but not about the party member or the party. The progressives in the SLFP should stop being prey to the power struggle of their leaders but should rally with the party of their class.

The power struggle in the SLFP, the administration of the 'unity' government and the practice of the JVP that fulfills the role of the opposition with discipline and wins people's admiration day by day would draw afresh the future

dividing line of politics. In earlier changes of governments the dividing line had been drawn not with a class sense but with the party perspective. That is to say UNP against SLFP government or SLFP against UNP government. However, this has changed now. Hereafter, the dividing line of change in government would be drawn on a class perspective. That is to say left and progressive peoples forces against capitalist alliance governments. It is the dividing line that is necessary for the country, the line that would change the country. The oppressed masses should be ready to stand on their feet on the side of the political force that represents their class. The passage of politics is has to go in that direction.

Maithri-Ranil...

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privatization process that began with privatizing AMW. Lands in 'Janawasama' were sold for pittance. When resources in Steel Corporation were sold the valuation taken into account was so small that the value of a two door Tata bus to transport employees

was estimated as one rupee. The privatization process begun by the UNP continued during Ms. Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaratunga's period as well. Mr. Kumaratunga sold state enterprises including Puttalam cement factory. Again, during the UNP regime the Insurance Corporation

was sold. There was a loss of billions. Institutions belonging to the masses were sold for meagre amounts. Rajapaksa stole by selling state institutions more than they did from commissions. As such, the port deal is an underhand transaction. This is why the period for closing tenders is extended. We,

as the JVP, say the attempt to sell the terminal should be stopped immediately. The trade unions as well as the people in the country should oppose this move. Investigations by COPE have revealed information about the deal. Trade unions too have revealed information about the deal."

Honour Families...

>>> Page 06

a deal with the UNP. The government was in a hurry to get the Bill adopted in Parliament. The government wanted to present the Bill as the VAT bill was not debated on that day. We went for the party leaders meeting held regarding this. Those in 'joint' opposition shout without coming to such meetings. At the party leaders meeting we opposed bringing the Bill before the due date. Also, we proposed that two days should be allocated for the debate instead of the one the government had proposed. However, the government proposed to have the debate on the 11th. We agreed to have the debate on two days and we withdrew the adjournment debate we had proposed for the 12th. However, the debate could not take place due to the sabotaging moves by Rajapaksa clique. We put forward our amendments with a lot of difficulty. The real deal was between Ranil Wickremesinghe and Rajapaksa clique. The Parliamentarians of 'joint' opposition who raised hell when the Bill was presented to be debated could be seen having friendly chats with members of the

government in the Parliament lobby.

We do not work according to the needs of Rajapaksa clique or that of the government. We voted with the 'joint' opposition when it brought a no confidence motion to allow Ravi Karunanayaka, who had been unpopular even with UNP Members, to collect votes. Did we have a deal with Rajapaksa clique then? We gave evidence before UNP commissions against those who cut graves in '71. We gave evidence to commissions appointed by the SLFP regarding graves cut by the UNP. However, our deal is with the people. Not even a third party investigation was carried out regarding the disappearance of Eknaligoda that occurred during Mahinda Rajapaksa regime. Also, we could never say disappearances would not occur during this administration. Hence, it is necessary to prevent any disappearances in the future. We would take care not to jeopardize sovereignty of the country despite our attacks on Rajapaksa clique, against the UNP and also against Maithri administration."

Reveberating...

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and a revision of its pacifist constitution'.

China, that is aware of the attempt of the USA to encircle it with enemy states, was able to launch the first ever quantum communication satellite. It was launched from the

Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in north-western Gobi Desert. This satellite gives China ability to have communication between Earth and space an uncrackable communications system, by turning messages

quantum and taking them into space. The new Quantum Space Satellite (QUESS) program is no mere science experiment. China is already becoming a world leader in quantum communications

technology; a satellite that delivers quantum communications will be a cornerstone for translating cutting-edge research into a strategic asset for Chinese power worldwide.

'PORT CITY' Should be Stopped..

>>> Page 01

projects that bring commissions for a few are being carried out sacrificing the future.

We are at a massive disadvantage when the monetary value of environmental destruction, financial damage, the disadvantage in international politics is compared with US\$133 million the Chinese company is investing for the project. We'll have to pay a massive compensation as a country.

This project to be commenced violating environmental laws, creating financial damage and harming sovereignty of the country should be stopped immediately. This wouldn't bring any benefits to the country. Why can't Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe find 700 acres from elsewhere without reclaiming from the sea if what is going to be built is a financial city? According to our knowledge it is not difficult to find such land area from Colombo. What the likes of Ranil Wickremesinghe and the clique want to do is to carry out their agendas on the pretext of a financial city. Dollars did not flow to our country from western countries the way Ranil and his clique expected. For, those countries themselves are immersed in perpetual economic crises. As such Ranil and the clique had to turn towards China again. They had to put forward new proposals for Mattala, Hambantota that were considered unsuccessful projects. Even projects that are detrimental to the country have to be tolerated due to the economic crisis the country is confronted with."

>>> Page 01

JVP Condemns the Terrorist attack...

Currently, Afghanistan and Pakistan completely and Bangladesh and India partially have become prey to attacks by extremist organizations. This indicates the attacks that began from the Middle East are spreading to Americas, Europe and South Asia. We believe, the people of Bangladesh, who have contributed to two victorious freedom struggles, would fearlessly confront these terrorist attacks and would be able to free their country from the terrorist menace.

The JVP also vehemently condemns the attempts of imperialists to make South Asia and Asian Region the next prey of their military and economic strategy.

The provocative acts carried out targeting China should be specially mentioned. We believe that the territorial disputes that have existed in the South China Sea, involving China and a number of its neighbouring countries for many years should be solved through discussion by countries that are involved in the dispute but we condemn the interference and provocations by the USA in the region using the dispute as an excuse.

Imperialism that inflames wars throughout the world for its own existence sending its senior officers to discuss terrorist acts and issues arising from such attacks which are the consequences of their own vicious agendas is nothing but a joke and we would like to mention here that the military and invasive role played by imperialist countries led by the USA is loathed by people throughout the world.

We, invite downtrodden people of the world who are oppressed by terrorism, extremism and imperialist interventions to become the couplings of the chain that tie down imperialism.

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13.07.2016

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Don't keep your secrets under lock & key Mr. President...

There is a saying among our villagers that 'when two thieves quarrel it would be very easy to find who had stolen the bunch of plantains.' A similar thing is happening now in politics in our country. Rajapaksa stalwarts who ruled the country from 2005 to 2009 have got into two factions and are threatening each other saying they would expose thefts and reveal files of the other faction. However, no one has revealed who stole the bunch of plantains (people's money). People know who plundered public money. However, they do not possess secret information regarding such thefts. The secret information is with those who stole and with others who worked with them. People are waiting for them to come out with the secrets.

President Maithripala Sirisena speaking provocatively at a meeting in Matara said that he has with him secret information regarding thefts and crimes committed by Rajapaksas during Mahinda Rajapaksa regime and if an attempt is made to split the SLFP and form another political party he would make them public and if he does so Rajapaksas will have to walk on the streets instead of coming to power. He made this statement at the rally held at Matara to celebrate one year of 'unity' government. This is the first time President Maithripala Sirisena made such a public warning to Rajapaksas. It is evident that the warning is a threat to prevent the attempt by Rajapaksa clique to divide the SLFP and form a new party. The division of the SLFP has come to such a stage that its President has to warn about publicizing secrets to save his party. That's another story. Our attention should be drawn to the secrets Maithri knows about Rajapaksas. These secrets could never be trivial, insignificant ones. For, as Maithri says if they are revealed Rajapaksas 'will have to walk the streets'. Hence, these secrets could be about very serious crimes.

Earlier, when Maithri came out of Mahinda's government to contest the presidential election Mahinda too made similar utterances. He said Maithri's files are with him but he would not publicize them. It is evident that files and secrets each of them says one possesses couldn't be secrets of their families or their personal files. Of course, people have no interest in such files.

However, what they talk about is information about financial frauds, political crimes committed when ruling the country. Hence, people should know them. Using them as trumps whenever necessary, hiding them and use them to threaten are serious offences.

Mahinda has not revealed the files he had said he was having about Maithri group. It is not clear why he failed to do so – is it because he is scared of Maithri or is it because Maithri possesses bigger files about him and his group? Now, Rajapaksas' secrets Maithri is said to possess could be more serious. Hence, what needs to be done is to expose them to the people without keeping them in hiding to be exposed if a new party is formed or not reveal if a new party is not formed. It is President's responsibility to reveal them. If not Maithri too would be considered as a pseudo challenger like Mahinda.

Regarding this issue Minister Rajitha Senaratna had said the secrets would not be revealed just because the JVP insists on it but they would be released only at the necessary time. If the secrets President Maithripala Sirisena is said to possess are that of his family's inner secrets they would not be of any interest to us or the people. However, they should be revealed without any delay if the secrets are about financial frauds and crimes of the former ruler of the country and his clique. Let's not forget that the mandate President Maithripala Sirisena received is one that includes revealing Mahinda's frauds and corruption.

Secret information about former rulers' crimes should not be kept in hiding to blackmail them but should be immediately handed over to relevant sections. They should be revealed not at the time one likes but at the time the country needs.

What happens if an ordinary person does what Mathiri did? If any ordinary person declared publicly that he is aware of information about crimes of an individual or a group he would have to go to the police station or the CID the very next day. He would have to give a statement and give evidence in Court. If the statement was made when the Prevention of Terrorism Act was active he would have been punished for the 'crime of concealing information'. However, the relevant institutions don't take any action as it was uttered by the President of the country. This is why the President himself should place before the people the truth about these secrets.

The tradition of using files to threaten or not revealing information as they are buddies or have been stealing together should be stopped now. Hence, the responsibility of the President is to reveal immediately the 'secret' he knows about Rajapaksas.

Here the people too have a responsibility. It is to draw away from politics of those who keep files of others' secrets to use them to blackmail them and also those who have stolen together but threaten to expose fellow rogues in a bid to be in power or to grab power. The people should rally for a new political journey. The accusations against each other of those who ruled alternatively indicates they are the two faces of the same coin and this has made it easy for the people to take a decision to go on a new political path.



Listening to people's woes at Kilinochchi



Representing Party in an international summit in Indonesia



Dialogue with the masses...



Loving mother nature - SYU tree planting campaign



Appreciating services of Sri Lankans employed abroad