

LETTER

ENDLESS WAR

Sri Lanka and its people are being driven towards a deep abyss by the pursuit of a cruel war and the implementation of a neo-liberal economic system. The pursuit of war is the result of a Sinhala-Buddhist chauvinistic capitalist stand unwilling to offer a just solution of any kind to the national question. Meantime, a liberal privatised economic policy is being guided by imperialist globalisation. If these two serious problems and their adverse consequences are not subject to review and appropriate solutions not found, there is imminent danger of further aggravation of the ongoing destruction by war and the ravages of poverty.

Only the powerful people's movements thus created can overcome the hazardous challenges facing the country and the people, and make progress.

The Mahinda Chinthanaya government of Sri Lanka is troubled by its inability to win the war that has been going on for the past quarter of a century and by its difficulties in facing the economic crisis. This calamitous situation is not something for which the Rajapaksha government alone is responsible. It is the adverse result of a constitution that has been in force for three decades and the executive presidential system under it. Both hereditary ruling class political parties have enjoyed power under the dictatorial executive presidential rule of a single individual and a single party, as initiated in 1978 by J R Jayawardane. Neither of these parties nor their leaders had been able to find a solution to the national question that has been transformed into war. Their Sinhala Buddhist chauvinistic positions would not allow them to.

Meantime, behind the curtain of war, individuals who were and are in power and those close to them have become very rich by accumulating wealth through corruption, fraud and abuse of power. But the children of the ordinary workers and peasants of the South have been sacrificed as cannon fodder on the warfront. This situation persists to this day. Likewise, those who die daily in the North-East are the ordinary people and their children.

On the other hand, multinational companies continue to plunder the resources of the country and exploit the toil of the workers. The country's agriculture has been wrecked and an import-based consumer market has been expanded. As a result, the peasants who comprise the majority of the country's population have become impoverished, and the people have been made to await foreign shipments for essential food items as well as pay higher prices for them.

US and Japanese multinational companies have already penetrated the domain of liberalised and private sector economy. They have since been joined by Indian businesses. The forces dominating the US and India have to this day given every possible form of direct and indirect assistance to pursue the war. But their rivalry to dominate over Sri Lanka continues. There seems to be a tendency for the two to await an opportunity for direct intervention.

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[This is a slightly shortened version of a statement issued by the Central Committee of the New Democratic Party on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the party.]