

Joint Indo-Sri Lanka action? (1992, January 15). *The Island*.

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Joint Indo – Sri Lanka action ?

by Shamindra Ferdinando

Sri Lanka and India are moving closer to forge an alliance to fight the LTTE official sources said.

They said the two governments have agreed in principle to cooperate with each other in combatting the threat posed by the LTTE.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), a special arm of the Indian security apparatus probing the May 21 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was receiving the assistance of Sri Lanka security agencies to investigate the crime and LTTE activity, the sources added.

The Crime Detection Bureau (CDB) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), two arms of the regular Sri Lanka police responsible for investigations into serious crimes, have despatched senior officers to Tamil Nadu to work with top members of the SIT.

At least three officers, a Deputy Inspector General of Police and two Senior Superintendents of Police are in South India at present in connection with SIT investigations into the assassination of Mr. Gandhi who angered the LTTE by ordering the Indian military to launch offensive-type operations in the north-east Sri Lanka in October 87.

Both governments have recognised the need for

joint action against the LTTE which has become a major irritant to both regimes.

Apart from police action, the Indian and Sri Lankan navies have become partners of a naval operation to halt the terrorists crossing the narrow Palk Strait.

In view of the moves to increase the pressure on the LTTE and closer cooperation between the security agencies of the two governments, sources rule out the possibility of Sri Lanka resuming fresh negotiations with the group to end the north-east strife.

According to some sources, India was moving closer to name the LTTE as a terrorist organisation.