

Project peace "for a united Sri Lanka" 4. (1993, November 15). *The Island*.

defending the landing of the Tamil refugees on TV with half-truths; was later appointed by the Canadian Government to the Refugee Determination Board, to screen the refugee claimants for acceptance into Canada. How convenient and lucky the Tamil refugee claimants were! That is how the Canadian sympathy worked for the Tamils. As civic minded Canadians "Project Peace" protested to the Minister of Employment & Immigration. She sent us a letter on 30 June 1989 which said, "I am confident that those who were chosen will carry out their responsibilities in a fair, compassionate and efficient manner." We were disappointed and felt let down.

On the issue of the High Commissioner, 'Project Peace' organized a Canada wide telegram campaign to Joe Clark, the Minister of External Affairs in support of the High Commissioner. The texts of some of the telegrams were -

"I am concerned. The Tamil Eelamist lobby with lies about Sri Lanka will eventually snare you and discredit your Government. Please be warned and stop encouraging the unwarranted hounding of Sri Lanka's High Commissioner immediately".

"Tamil separatists have a proven record to be liars. Please stop this witch hunt of Sri Lanka's High Commissioner and not strain our relations with Sri Lanka anymore", etc.

On the night of Sunday, 21st September 1986, I was interviewed on camera for over one hour for the CBC's 'THE NATIONAL' which was to be aired on Monday night. This was on the ethnic issue, the violence, whether the High Commissioner had blood in his hands, and the truth to the stories that the Tamil Eelamists were propagating. This interview was pre-empted going on air because the High Commissioner finally made a statement on camera. The Tamil Eelamists in Ottawa was led by a Tamil Roman Catholic priest, who used his cleric-collar to his advantage to gain credence for his gospel of untruths in the ethnic issue. Earlier, I had debated this Tamil priest on this very subject on CANADA AM, a national news broadcast on TV which was moderated by Norman Perry.

That night before departing the TV reporter informed me of the News Conference the following day at 10 A.M. at the Holiday Inn's Kent Saloon on Kent Street, given by Umapathisivan