

Project peace "for a united Sri Lanka" 5. (1993, November 15). *The Island*.

Pararajasegaran (Baby) who was flown in from Paris to discredit the High Commissioner as a torturer. This Press Conference was organized by the Eelam Tamil Associations of Canada in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton, Vancouver, Windsor, Saskatoon and Halifax, and Chaired by the very same Tamil Roman Catholic priest.

Since 'Project Peace' was keen to monitor this Press Conference, I requested a member of 'Project Peace, who worked near the Holiday Inn to meet me at 9.55 to join me on this mission. His role was purely to inform my wife if I got beaten up by the Eelamists. Since he did not arrive in time I proceeded to the Conference room, which was packed with media personnel and members from the Tamil community. I was the only Sinhalese present until the other person turned up about 20 minutes later. There was a confrontation at the entrance to the Conference Room and I nearly got thrown out. However, I managed to stay back having been pushed against a wall by two burly Tamils who stood on either side of me after threatening me not to disrupt the Press Conference. About 40 minutes into the Press Conference I walked out in disgust, uttering under my breath "you bunch of bloody fools, don't you know that you are being taken for a hell-of-a-ride by these Tamils?". A few reporters followed me and my friend into the corridor and interviewed me, and I made a statement on behalf of 'Project Peace'. The first thing that I did was to get into a taxi and headed to the High Commissioner's residence and briefed the High Commissioner of the Press Conference.

The following day I was contacted by a senior Canadian Press reporter to be interviewed over lunch on Baby's torture charge. We met at a restaurant on Kent Street. Apparently he too was at Baby's Press Conference the day before. During the interview I asked him, "Didn't you ever sense that the Tamil translator was babbling away in English his story what the Tamil Eelamists wanted you all to hear and use you to get their blatant lies world recognition through the media? Didn't you wonder why that when a reporter questioned Baby, his reply took about 20 Tamil words but the translator took about 200 words in English to translate those 20 Tamil words?"

This Canadian Press reporter told me, "It is funny you brought this point Mr. Weerasinghe. We sent one of our senior reporters