

to cover their Press Conference in Toronto. We got a call back from him asking us to ignore this Press Conference as a non-event, as he found out that the Tamil translator didn't speak a word of Tamil". Well, the cat was out of the bag by that point and the media was aware of the fraud by then. But by that time the anger of the Canadians of the 155 boat people who lied their way into Canada had fizzled out. The Tamils were the winner by the end of the day as their strategy had worked for them perfectly. I couldn't see how a career diplomat could have bettered 'Project Peace' on this issue.

Further, I met with the Deputy Bureau Chief of the Canadian Press, who was convinced that these Tamil Eelamists were really not telling the truth, who wrote a 'Press line' which reflected our view and was carried in every article which was put out by the Canadian Press on the charge against the High Commissioner.

Perhaps, Hussain may wish to re-assess his thesis that it is only the career diplomats who are capable of beating the Eelam propaganda campaign in Canada. Could they have done what we had done? This tough assignment to keep up with the well organized, well funded and aggressive Eelam lobby cannot be handled by diplomatic niceties. It has to be a scrum with the Canadian Eelamists to get our word in. Afterall it is the confidential reports coming out of the Canadian Mission in Colombo that really counts, and much ground work has to be done in Colombo to make even a dent of a change in the minds of Ottawa's policy makers.

Hussain might wonder whether 'Project Peace' had managed to change the views of the Canadian media. I like to believe that we did. There was an editorial in a leading daily in Ottawa which was influenced by a public talk that I gave in Toronto - Sri Lanka's Devolution of Power : on a Path to an Eelam - that I had given a week before in Toronto. That afternoon nearly 50 Tamils demonstrated in front of the newspaper building denouncing the editorial writer.

I said earlier that I had exposed my family to danger. In the summer of 1986, I had my two-year old daughter video-taped for Police records in case she would be kidnapped by the Tamil Eelamists, to silence my involvement in 'Project Peace'.