

TUs vow support for devolution package. (1995, September 17). *The Sunday times.*

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More than 20 leading Trade Unions have pledged their support for the devolution package saying it is a sincere attempt to bring about a political solution to the ethnic conflict.

The unions in a joint statement said the workers in the North and East has drifted away from trade unions due to the ethnic conflict, causing a blow to the working class struggle. They accused the former government of using the Public Security Act to trample upon and to put burdens on the working class.

The Trade Unions said there was room for improvement in the package through discussion in the Parliamentary Select Committee. They appealed to all the working people to extend their co-operation, taking into careful consideration all national realities, without giving into communalism.

The Trade Unions said that the discussions being held on the package, at times attempted to devalue and weaken the proposals, rendering them unacceptable to the Tamil and Muslim minorities.

Although some believe that the war could be won by military means, the Trade Unions said war would not eliminate the causes of the conflict.

The unions believe that if the Parliamentary Select Committee can work out a solution successfully, it will undoubtedly be a powerful influence on the LTTE to enter into peace talks. They have told the Government that talks will have to be held even with the LTTE in working out a final solution to the conflict.

The joint press statement was issued by the following unions:

Ceylon Federation of Trade Unions, Ceylon Federation of Labour, Sri Lanka Nidahas Sevaka Sangamaya, Public

Service Trade Union Federation, Union of Post & Telecommunication Officers, Govt. Workers Trade Union Federation, Sri Lanka Nidahas Rajaye Vurthiya Samithi Sammelanaya, Samastha Lanka Rajaye Lipikaru Sangamaya, Sri Lanka Mahajana Trade Union, Desha Vimukthi Trade Union Federation, Govt. Clerical Service Union, Sri Lanka Post & Telecommunication Service Union, Sri Lanka Eksath Gramaseva Niladhari Sangamaya, Govt. Shroff Services Union, Sri Lanka Inland Revenue Service Union, United Front of Railway Employees, Lanka Estate Worker's Union, United Corporation & Co-operative Employees Union, All Ceylon Commercial and Industrial Workers Union, Joint Plantation Trade Union Centre, Lanka General Services Union, United Front of Trade Unions of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board.