

Who supplied arms, vehicles, cheques worth millions to Tiger asks Chandrika. (1994, November 04). *The Island*.



People's Alliance Presidential candidate Premier Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunge addressing Wednesday's election rally at Kegalle town. (Picture by: Srilal Gomes)

Who supplied arms, vehicles, cheques worth millions to Tigers asks Chandrika

Wijitha Nakkawita reporting from Kegalle

The UNP is pointing a finger at the People's Alliance government and accusing it of conniving with the LTTE to assassinate Gamage Dissanayake, former UNP presidential candidate. One of the UNP politicians who made this accusation seems to suffer from a loss of memory. It is pertinent to look back on the recent past and ask this politician and the UNP leaders who connived with the LTTE and supplied them with arms and ammunition, vehicles, cement to build bunkers and paid railroads of ruses by cheques drawn by the Treasury? queried Premier Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga at an election rally at Kegalle on Wednesday.

It was also necessary to remind these politicians whose record for the past 17 years was one of bribery, corruption, violence and oppression of innocent citizens that UNP created the conditions for an armed uprising in the North when they ran amok beating up their youth, disrupting their local elections, killing the Tamil youth who rose up in the democratic protest and finally killing innocent Tamil civilians who had opted to live among the Sinhalese in the south, in peace and harmony. Has the memory of these bankrupt politicians failed them? Or are they using the death of their own colleague to fool the people once again? she asked.

The people of the South and the North were aware of the long and disgraceful record of the 17 years of UNP misrule. Were not its own leaders like Ranjan Wijeratne, R. Premadasa and several UNP Ministers and Party leaders killed when they were in power? Have they ever found a single suspect or produced one person in a Court of law, charged with any of these crimes? Why was the scene of crime at Armour Street washed within half an hour when R. Premadasa was killed by an explosive device on May Day? If LTTE was responsible for all these crimes who had connived with it? the Premier further queried.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said she and the entire PA cabinet and party members were both saddened and shocked at the brutal assassination of Gamage Dissanayake. But with due respect to the slain leader, she said, she wished to say that the PA did

not stand to gain by his death because the PA was to win the Presidential election with a larger majority even if he had lived.

On the other hand it was a sad and disappointing incident for the PA government which was on the process of ending the era of gun culture and thuggery that was introduced to the political life of this country by the UNP. The post election violence created by J. R. Jayewardene regime by 1977 where thousands of opposition supporters were beaten up, killed, was ended after the PA came to power on August 16. The PA chose not to oppress UNP supporters but to live in harmony with them. The PA did not unleash post election violence but allowed all people to live without fear. Therefore the killing of Gamage Dissanayake was all the more saddening and disappointing to the PA leadership, she noted.

The entire political credo and objective of the PA was to end political and all other forms of violence in the country. The UNP had stood for a faith in which people were intimidated, emergency rule was made the normal law of the land, and government by fear instituted instead of a judicious governance. It was easier to oppress people and run a country by misusing state power. It was easier to perpetrate state terrorism and misuse the police and the defence forces to instil fear into the people and rule the country. That was what the UNP had done. But the PA opted for the more difficult credo in which the people were made free, each citizen respected, and allowed to hold any view and express such views without fear. The PA was prepared to listen to criticism and allow all its political adversaries to express themselves freely, without direct or indirect suppression, she said.

The people of this country against whom the UNP had perpetrated violence and deceit had called an end to the UNP bluff on August 16. They had given a two thirds mandate to the PA but the 1978 constitution the UNP introduced had negated the mandate of the people giving the PA a slim majority in Parliament. Today, the PA was coming before the people again after keeping several of its pledges to seek a larger mandate in the Presidential election so that the absurd constitution of J. R. Jayewardene could be amended abolishing the monstrous executive Presidency. "Our hands are

clean. We do not rob Public funds. We do not harbour thugs or criminals. We opted for democracy and all our actions are transparent. Therefore we are confident that the people of this country whom the UNP believed to be fools, will reject the UNP with a greater force in the Presidential Election," she said.

Col. Anurudha Ratwatte Minister of Irrigation Power and Energy and Deputy Minister of Defence said that the UNP was once again 'masquerading' before the people pretending innocence of the crimes against the public for the past 17 years. Their latest gambit was a resort to scurrilous pamphlets against the PA leadership. This was the last resort of a set of rejected politicians within the UNP who were trying to fool the people by accusing the PA with a conspiracy to kill Gamage Dissanayake. How did the UNP act when Lalith Athulthumudali, Denzil Kobbekaduwa or Ranjan Wijeratne was assassinated? The UNP had not made any proper investigation into any of these crimes and on the other hand it had prevented proper investigations he charged.

Col. Ratwatte said that the PA had allowed a full scale investigations to take place into the killing of Gamage Dissanayake and had not washed the scene of the crime as the UNP did when former Premadasa Ransinghe was killed at Armour

Street. The scene police and forensic experts been guarded only to make a full investigation given all the oppo Mr. Dissanayake was asked. The family o to invite foreign detectives whether they wisen to bring them down to and an opportu. That was the difference investigate the d the PA. The PA government between the UNP shelter or hide criminals but will not and did r

was always keen to assist the police and defence forces to carry out their duties in apprehending criminals whoever or wherever they may be he noted.

Ministers, Dharmasiri Senanayake, Richard Pathirana, Deputy Minister of Justice Foreign Trade and Constitutional Affairs, K. P. Silva, Jagath Balasuriya MPs and several others also addressed the meeting.