

Indian role

The Indian government denied for years that Tamil terrorists were being trained, armed, fed, and cocooned in India.

Mrs. Gandhi's government also denied that India had exploded a nuclear device using Canadian technology. Alope Sen in his letter may deny Indian hegemony and contribution to regional instabilities but who believes him?

President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka signed a pact with Rajiv Gandhi after Indian jet fighters had screamed belligerently over Sri Lankan airspace, stopping a Sri Lankan government offensive to end Indian-sponsored Tamil terrorism. Mr. Sen conveniently ignores this.

As for Bhutan, it had better tack its foreign policy India's way or else. (Or else Sikkim, which was "absorbed" unilaterally by India in 1975.) Sure, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka are neighbors of giant India, but they suffer grievously for that.

Mr. Sen suggests that the Indian troops landed in the Maldives because of a good neighbor policy. Unfortunately, Indian's huge military buildup, coupled with the Rajiv Gandhi doctrine of involving sovereign neighbors in the vortex of domestic Indian policies, does not support this self-serving view. The irony is that the Sri Lankan mercenaries who attacked the Maldives were part of thousands of Tamil terrorists trained in India to destabilize Sri Lanka.

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