

Chandrika's policies are very positive, says Dr. Neelan Thiruchelvam. (1994, August 24). *The Island*.

Chandrika's policies are very positive, says Dr. Neelan Thiruchelvam

by Aloy Perera

The Tamil United Liberation Front's (TULF) national list MP, Dr. Neelan Thiruchelvam said yesterday the reason the TULF was backing the People's Alliance is because Premier Chandrika Kumaratunga's policies are very positive and consistent than that of the previous government of the UNP. The previous government had not shown any consistency or resolve in approaching this problem.

Speaking on the BBC's South Asia survey programme yesterday the TULF's top spokesman said that the TULF has reviewed the positive statement made by Prime Minister Kumaratunga to bring an end to the North-East conflict and work

towards a negotiated political settlement.

"The TULF believes it should be supportive of these efforts and to work to this end, the TULF decided to extend cooperation to the government," he said.

Asked why he was confident that Mrs. Kumaratunga, was going to solve this problem when earlier governments have failed, Dr. Thiruchelvam said he believes she has adopted a very positive and consistent approach towards ending the war in the North-East through engaging in direct unconditional talks with the LTTE.

Also, he said the framing of a political solution based on the most extensive form of devolution are critical elements and that the

TULF feels that not only has Mrs. Kumaratunga consistently adopted this position in the political campaign, but has also taken into confidence the Sinhala public in the South of Sri Lanka, on the parameters of her solution.

Reacting to a question as to whether the TULF has been too quick to pledge support before any concrete results of her policy towards the conflict in the North have emerged, Dr. Thiruchelvam said that what is important is there should be a new approach. He said that a consistent and determined resolve to adopt a basic issue, which is basically the need to frame a political solution and engage the LTTE in a negotiating process and bring an end to the conflict, is necessary.

"We do not believe that the conflict can be ended by just a pronouncement by the government.. We feel the previous government had not shown any consistency or resolve in approaching this problem.

On the question of whether the TULF will advise Premier Kumaratunga on the dialogue with the LTTE on the North-East, constitutional lawyer and head of the International Centre for Ethic Studies based in Colombo, Dr. Thiruchelvam said that this has been the TULF position in its election manifesto. The position is entirely consistent with the People's Alliance approach that a political solution can only emerge through direct talk and political contact with LTTE.