

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL FACTORS IN SRI LANKA'S FOREIGN POLICY pdf

1: Regional And Multilateral

*Bilateral and multilateral factors in Sri Lanka's foreign policy (Research monograph / Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies) [Vernon L. B Mendis] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Search Toggle display of website navigation Argument: July 23, , 9: The group met most recently last November , and again in June , after 10 years of inactivity. But the fate of the Quad is still fragile. Indeed, the first attempt at the Quad died on the vine because then-Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd withdrew over concerns that the Quad needlessly antagonized China. Today, however, following a burst of concern about Chinese influence, Australia is all in. So are the United States and Japan. That leaves India, where New Delhi may be getting cold feet. For starters, India seemed less enthusiastic about the Quad following the Wuhan summit. Although the two leaders did not issue a joint statementâ€”underscoring their deep differencesâ€”they also agreed to find ways of working together. While there are reasonable Indian explanations for the decision, the timing seems unfortunate. Bringing Australia into Malabar for the first time would have sent a clear message that the naval component was active and that the Quad was unified, and rejecting Canberra sent the exact opposite message. The following weekend, Modi attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization SCO summit in Qingdao, China, for the first time as an official member of the group and met with Xi again on the sidelines. Modi and Xi agreed to find a project that they could work on collaboratively in Afghanistan and to engage Pakistan to reduce regional tensions. If true, Beijing would probably insist on India first leaving the Quad to fully benefit from this arrangement. India used the opportunity of the second maritime dialogue with Beijing to elaborate on its vision of the region, first laid out at the Shangri-La Dialogue by Modi. Taken together, these developments are no doubt troubling for the future sustainability of Indian participation in the Quad. But New Delhi has equallyâ€”if not more persuasiveâ€”arguments to remain a member and an active one. Regardless of any agreements reached at Wuhan, the reality is that India and China still have serious misgivings about each other. But eventual Indian Navy operations alone within this network will probably not be enough to ensure the entire Indo-Pacific remains stable and peaceful. Having the Quad members available to supplement and reinforce Indian operations at and via these ports could increase deterrence. India has supported Hanoi in this endeavor, recently hosting an unprecedented joint naval exercise in the South China Sea. In addition to working with New Delhi at the strategic port of Sabang, Indonesia has also recently agreed to boost defense and maritime security cooperation. Even if New Delhi one day officially exits the Quad, it is unlikely to alter its bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the Quad members. Indian defense relations with the United States, Japan, and even Australiaâ€”despite the Malabar decisionâ€”have never been better. Trilateral arrangements have also borne fruit as shown by the Malabar joint naval exercises among India, the United States, and Japan. But given all this, at the end of the day India could still very well wind up leaving the Quad to avoid antagonizing China. Furthermore, because Modi may face a tough re-election campaign, keeping Doklam under wraps until after to avoid possible defeat will be imperative. This likely puts an even greater priority on maintaining bilateral stability. India could swing either wayâ€”and both decisions would be equally understandable. Derek Grossman is a senior defense analyst at the nonprofit, nonpartisan Rand Corp. He formerly served as the daily intelligence briefer to the assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific security affairs at the Pentagon.

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2: Sri Lanka - Net Financial Flows, Multilateral (nfl, Current Us\$)

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Following nearly four decades of service to the United Nations, Mr. Joseph passed away in March. In his message of condolence, former Secretary-General Kofi Annan noted how Mr Joseph insisted on remaining in Kabul, when many other international organisations left Afghanistan, demonstrating not only his courage, but also what many of his peers remember as his most extraordinary gift, his shrewd political foresight. He later became the first Ambassador to the United States of America in . He pioneered the trend from bilateral to multilateral aid, and laid the foundation for the strategic shift to Human Development. However, as high-proficiency in the French language was required to conduct the peace negotiations, Dr Kanakarathne was substituted by a French legal advisor. In addition, he was the first President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, where a comprehensive constitution for the oceans was drafted. Lakshman Kadirgamar Lakshman Kadirgamar, a renowned diplomat and an international humanitarian, was a consultant to the ILO from to . A lawyer by profession, Mr Kadirgamar, later served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka from to , and again from to . He was first appointed to this post in by then Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, and served for three additional terms. His legal career started in , when he was sworn in as an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Ceylon in . Dr Jayantha Dhanapala Dr Jayantha Dhanapala is a national and international diplomat with a distinguished career as a peace builder, disarmament expert and a supporter of non-discriminatory global norms. He is a champion for the achievement of the MDGs, and in highlighting the issues faced by developing nations. He was widely acclaimed for his Presidency of the Conference on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension; the treaty extension was adopted indefinitely and without a vote. In , he was appointed as a Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He was re-elected to the CMW as its Chairman, to serve a four-year term until the end of . He is currently the Ambassador to the United States. Dr Radhika Coomaraswamy Dr Radhika Coomaraswamy, a lawyer by training and formerly the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission, is an internationally known human rights advocate who has done outstanding work as a Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, during her tenure from to . In this capacity, she served as an ethical and independent advocate to build awareness and give prominence to the rights and protection of children affected by armed conflict. During a career spanning over thirty years, Dr Perera served as the Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, negotiating on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka a range of bilateral and multilateral treaties covering diverse subjects such as foreign trade and investment, maritime boundary regimes, mutual legal assistance, and extradition. He has previously served as a member of the International Law Commission from to . In recognition of her role on development and legal reforms in Viet Nam, Ms Wignaraja was presented with a National Medal of Recognition. Ms Asirwatham has had a long career in the Sri Lankan diplomatic service, during which she has held several positions in Colombo, and presently as Director-General Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Azeez has served as a diplomat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since .

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3: Foreign relations of the Holy See - Wikipedia

It also directs Sri Lanka's foreign policy with these countries in the political, economic, security, education and social spheres. Technical cooperation and development assistance, investment relations, tourism and cultural promotion through bilateral, regional and multilateral engagements are part of the responsibilities of the Division.

Explains activities of the multilateral development banks in and other aid-funded projects where procurement is open to U. Multilateral agencies also provide long-term lending for government projects. In addition, bilateral donors, such as India, Japan, and Germany, fund major government projects by providing long-term concessional loans. The government also seeks foreign commercial borrowing for project finance. In addition to public-sector lending, the ADB also lends directly to the private sector to finance projects. Retained profits finance approximately 70 percent of private investment, with short-term borrowing financing an additional 20 percent of investment. The stock market and, to a lesser extent, the corporate-securities market are also used to raise capital. Foreign investors are allowed to access credit on the local market. They are also free to raise foreign currency loans. Commercial banks are the principal sources of local bank finance for projects. Bank loans are the most widely used credit instrument in the private sector. As of June , the commercial bank monthly lending rate applying to prime customers is The average lending rate to other customers is Companies registered in Sri Lanka are allowed to borrow abroad. In June , the Central Bank removed the maximum borrowing limit. Currently, the minimum loan tenor allowed is three years. Trade and Development Agency USTDA funds feasibility studies, orientation visits, specialized training grants, business workshops, and other forms of technical assistance to help American businesses compete for infrastructure and industrial projects. These institutions lend billions of dollars in developing countries on projects aimed at accelerating economic growth and social development by reducing poverty and inequality, improving health and education, and advancing infrastructure development. The Commercial Liaison Offices help businesses that create U. Field; the overseas network of Commercial Service offices; and, in Washington, desk officers, sectoral experts, and the advocacy center.

4: Bilateral Relations – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

However, this requires the Government to develop a coherent foreign policy approach, as opposed to an all azimuth approach, as is currently the case. Currently, a multiplicity of players is representing Sri Lanka within the international arena.

September 16, at 6: These engagements are reflected in the growing media coverage received both in the local and foreign press. Addressing the 4th Summit, the President called upon his regional counterparts to take collective steps against drug smuggling via ocean routes: The endorsement of the BIMSTEC chairmanship thus provides a unique platform for Colombo to project a credible image in the region, as well as among other multilateral associations such as the Indian-Ocean Rim. The successful implementation of these initiatives is key for Sri Lanka in the coming year. However, this requires the Government to develop a coherent foreign policy approach, as opposed to an all azimuth approach, as is currently the case. Currently, a multiplicity of players is representing Sri Lanka within the international arena. This multiplicity of actors is not necessarily a bad thing and it could even turn to be beneficial if thought and played strategically. The issue however arises when a multiplicity of actors involves a multiplicity of approaches. Unfortunately, the latter seems to be the case with regards to Sri Lanka. Even more worrying is that such all-azimuth approach seems to reflect the local state of affairs where each actor follows a different political, social and economic ideology. While the negative repercussions of such approach are starting to show at the local level, Sri Lanka cannot afford to replicate the same mistake at the regional, let alone at the international level. The stakes are indeed far higher considering the ongoing battle between neo-liberalism and populism. In the case of Sri Lanka, developing amicable relations with all is essential; almost vital to its survival within the international community. Moreover, if we were to consider this as the best approach right now for the island, this would require us to follow the footsteps of countries, such as China, who are pursuing an independent foreign policy. Yet, an independent approach to foreign affairs may not be ideal or even practical for a small country such as Sri Lanka. This in fact goes against the non-aligned approach that pushed us into the limelight a few years back and which is today an essential part of our regional heritage. Most importantly, this will not project a sense of credibility among our peers. We therefore need to find our own voice and not underestimate the seriousness of our geo-strategic location within the region. Without such coherence, we will fail to rebuild our post-NAM credibility among current and former allies. As mentioned in my previous articles, we must necessarily develop a combined foreign policy approach; one that strengthens bilateral ties while engaging in the good old fashion multilateral diplomacy. But this requires a stronger leadership; both at the local and international level. And a strong leadership cannot be built on a multiplicity of voices. It needs to have a clear direction or vision and a more strategic approach. It must consider the bigger picture, as well as the local realities. The need for such leadership and vision was clearly articulated during the 4th BIMSTEC summit during which leaders decided to rationalize the organization by restructuring existing areas of cooperation to ensure tangible results. The strong condemnation of terrorism by member states during the 4th summit gives an additional opportunity to Sri Lanka who might find this to be a safer place to truthfully reflect on the lessons learned from its protracted war, lessons which are both positive and negative. A space and a voice that it failed to find within the international community. This chairmanship will be a much-needed test for Sri Lanka to prove its potential. And such test should not be taken lightly. Its success or failure could indeed determine whether, or not, we are ready to re-engage with more powerful multilateral coalitions; including the BRICS. It is right now the only vehicle that we get to drive.

5: Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy: Correcting a confused state of affairs

*Indonesia positioned between Southeast Asia and Australasia is a crucial gateway for India and Sri Lanka to further their foreign, economic and security endeavors in these two regions. * Megha Gupta, a scholar of Masters in Diplomacy, Law, Business at Jindal School of International Affairs, India.*

The scope of air diplomacy Published Date: Cooke Sri Lanka has remained one of the most globally connected countries. Whilst expeditions were dispatched to the Roman Empire in some of the first international interactions, special envoys continued to traverse the world over the centuries. Likewise, Sri Lanka attracted many traders and conquerors owing to resources and location. Numerous calls have been made to make Sri Lanka a hub in the Indian Ocean, but often islanders fail to realise that Sri Lanka was a hub of strategic importance. Traders from China, the Arab world, as well as the Portuguese, Dutch and British all found the island to be of considered importance and sought to control it to their benefit at varied periods. Making the island a hub is therefore not a new policy but one which needs to be revived. Amidst fresh developments regionally and internationally, Sri Lanka is often provided with opportunities that require innovative action which at times, steers away from the traditional modes of operation to exploring new avenues for building cooperation and increasing potential. More importantly, the need to strategise foreign policy becomes crucial, if the country is to move from being constantly on the defensive to adopting a more proactive stance in global affairs. Reflection on that which has been becomes highly relevant at this juncture. Whether in terms of research or policy planning, foreign policy formulation needs the utmost attention given the international ramifications of each and every step taken. Today Sri Lanka is a member, dialogue partner and observer of numerous organisations and groupings, yet the amount of leverage the country enjoys internationally, as a result of such affiliations, leaves much to be desired. For too long the island has remained static owing to developments within, but now with the conflict a near decade into history, it is time the country surges ahead, but it would only be able to do so with strategy, which it tends to lack at the most crucial of times. Identifying national interest remains at the core of decision making. Whether in negotiations over bilateral issues, staking a claim at the United Nations or through the plethora of multilateral platforms that Sri Lanka sits at, the prospect of going in with an agenda for success, rather than merely marking attendance, needs to top the list of priorities. Security remains critical, from defence of the island from outside interference; cyberattacks; protecting the air and maritime boundaries and resources; preserving peace, law and order within the island; ensuring a healthy population; securing sufficient food; avoiding economic downturns; promoting investment while protecting the environment. All of these dimensions of security are paramount for a country going forward. Sri Lanka possesses the ability to connect with the world by air and sea. Yet enhancing air connectivity remains critical to propel the nation forward. Thus of significance is the opportunity to be accrued by adopting a policy of air diplomacy, as an integral component of foreign policy. The military component of the study examines the means by which the Sri Lanka Air Force SLAF could contribute to the implementation of a policy of air diplomacy and study the role of academia in creating a neutral platform from which militaries would be able to engage. States need to go beyond the prescribed formula wherein large and powerful states use air power and air diplomacy to bolster their military might. Instead being examined herein is the potential of an island state to adopt an effective air diplomacy policy that would enable decision makers to strategise foreign policy, ensure greater connectivity and guarantee a higher degree of influence in regional and global affairs. It is argued that the building of a nexus between and among militaries would auger well, as levels of cooperation and confidence would be boosted. The contributory role of academia in the pursuit of this policy generates a triangle in which the military and academia work jointly to identify areas and mechanisms for implementation, and reach out collectively to influence foreign policy formulators. Air diplomacy was born during E. Nearly a century later advancements in technology enhanced air travel, which contributed to the rapid pace at which nation-states became enmeshed in the concept of, and

thereby gave credence to, globalisation. Improved and safe travel propelled industry, commerce and changed the persona of diplomacy. The role of the diplomat was transformed. Leaders themselves engaged directly thereby forcing the diplomat into a new position of contact between states. The transformation called for the adaptation of the diplomat to the new role of strategic advisor which many countries and professionals still grapple to understand. The changing environment saw the evolution of New Diplomacy, as we identify the sphere in modern times. The air connectivity also led to the enhancement of military contact, and it has been considered to be a highly effective form of attack or retaliation. While the First World War had seen sporadic air attacks which accounted for some 1, deaths in Britain due to aerial bombardments, as opposed to the 57, men who died on just the first day of battle at Somme in , air attacks were not as sophisticated as they are today or have been for the past several decades. From the infamous blitzkrieg over London, to the attack on Pearl Harbour, the usage of planes to drop nuclear bombs over Nagasaki and Hiroshima, their role in the Vietnam war, and their usage in other countries including Cambodia, Indonesia and Bangladesh, and in the last two decades across the West Asia and stretching into Afghanistan and Pakistan, the consequences of the air power are viewed negatively in much of the world, given the ramifications of death and destruction it leaves in its wake. It was in the post Second World War era with the heightening of the Cold War and emphasis on building stronger militaries and enhancing military capabilities, that air power began to supersede naval power. While in earlier centuries states attached great importance to naval power as evidenced through the building of the Chinese Navy, Spanish Armada, Royal Navy and the Japanese Imperial Navy among others, it is to air power that states turned in the twentieth century. Rapid advancements enabled faster movement, flexibility and swifter attacks, especially in relation to aerial strikes. Conflict is not the sole aspect of air power. A century ago, as highlighted by Claudel, states were discovering the opportunities that improvements in connectivity would provide, and their Forces were exploring the potential of humanitarian operations, wherein the transportation of goods and services, assisting in rescue missions, conducting evacuations and supporting ground troops, became an integral component of air power. States thereby amass air power leading to superiority, which translates into an effective tool for diplomatic engagement. It is evident that diplomacy and all aspects of the sphere are used by states in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy. With a wider scope and deeper reach, the dividends are richer and greater. Foreign policy today is enriched through multifaceted approaches, and states are striving to evolve with developments in a plethora of fields. Amidst these varied approaches is that of air diplomacy. As a thematic area, and more importantly, a policy option, the study of air diplomacy, its relevance and potential reveals its use today by states to enhance engagement and display military might. Hence it is understood that air power has the potential to wreck havoc and generate widespread destruction through its usage in military campaigns. Yet the significance of air power and its connectivity to diplomacy becomes highly relevant in an era in which although military power is used for battle, it is also used for peace keeping missions. Similarly air power may be used for the achievement of stability, ensure security and the enhancement of relations in the international sphere. Air diplomacy if practiced as a concerted policy would chiefly enable the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bolster ties with countries, particularly in the region, and also with those which similarly focus on this sphere. It would also enable the SLAF to increase connectivity with other forces in the region, improve relations with the aforementioned strategic locations, ensure opportunities of reach into new spheres, such as regional and international search and rescue operations, and carve an identity for the force to be recognised. It would result in Sri Lanka harnessing location and geopolitical importance to boost the economy, augment the development drive, and strategise international engagement. Similarly the geopolitical importance of the Indian Ocean, and its rising relevance in global trade and contact, could boost the aviation arena. General de Gaulle highlighted the connection between diplomacy and the use of armed forces, wherein he identified that diplomacy had three levers: It would also indicate that countries with greater degrees of power would be able to enforce stronger positions in air diplomacy. Similar developments occurred at international conferences, she argues, particularly the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation in , and the Bermuda Agreement two

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years later. Role of the military Seventy years ago air connectivity was to play a critical role in the first crisis of the Cold War. With the Soviet decision to block access to Berlin the eruption of the Berlin Blockade from 24 June to 11 May Cold War tensions were to reach a heightened situation as former Allied powers sought wars to avoid confrontation. It severely tested the peace that prevailed, and enabled a blockade stricken people to survive for nearly a year, but also provided a new dimension to air power and its usage. The United States Air Force and the British Royal Air Force flew more than , flights into Berlin taking with them in excess of 13, tonnes of food supplies on a daily basis. Creating a coalition of support for Berlin, aircrews from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa joined the effort to support the American and British forces. The success of Operation Vittles and Operation Plainfare so named by the Americans and British respectively, was evident when more good and supplies were arriving in Berlin than had been supplied earlier via the rail route. Commemorated annually, the success of the main airlift was bolstered by other initiatives such as Operation Little Vittles, through which chocolates attached to little parachutes were dropped promoting goodwill among the German people, towards the forces that were intervening to assist them. The cooperative measures adopted by various militaries saw Western powers realise the need to remain united and support the West German government in the face of Soviet aggression. The surprise attack resulted in loss of key ammunition ranging from tanks to aircraft in Israel but the Americans were instantly prepared to replace the losses incurred with Kissinger assuring Israeli Ambassador Dinitz that: The intervention by the United States enabled Israel to survive the coordinated attack and restored a balance of power given the Soviet support extended to Egypt and Syria. It also came at a time when Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir was threatening to use nuclear weapons to counter the attacks from her adversaries. Connectivity originated when Portugal become the first neutral state to establish diplomatic relations with the United States following the Revolutionary War of Independence. Developments during Operation Nickel Grass also made American forces realise the need to improve staging bases overseas, which was identified as a severe deficiency. The Operation was yet another instance in which Air Diplomacy engaged in by the United States, Israel, and with the support of Portugal, resulted in the thwarting of attempts to generate instability. From July to January , the UN-led humanitarian operation, named Air Bridge, ensured the supply of more than , metric tons of aid, including food, medicine, equipment and other supplies to Sarajevo. Without a doubt, the airlift saved tens of thousands of people and kept the city alive through three winters of war. Whilst the United States has played a pivotal role in many airlifts in the course of the last century, Israel has displayed significant involvement in such operations as evidenced in Operation Moses, wherein 8, Ethiopians were airlifted from Sudan to Israel over seven weeks from November to January Thereafter in , Operation Solomon saw the airlifting of more than 14, Ethiopian Jews to Israel in just 36 hours. Earlier Operation Yachin from to saw an exodus of 97, Moroccan Jews by plane and ship, although Operation Ezra and Nehemiah from to had been on a larger scale with between , and , Iraqi Jews airlifted from Iraq in a hugely significant exodus of the Jewish community from countries in West Asia. Operation Magic Carpet between June and September resulted in the evacuation of 49, Yemenite Jews to Israel and had been carried out by flights by British and American transport planes. Irrespective of the country involved, the number of tonnes of relief supplies or even the number of people that were evacuated, such airlift operations carried out for most of the second half of the last century saw heavy reliance on air connectivity. Opportunities abound, the usage of such openings remain the challenge the country is yet to overcome. The adoption of an innovative air diplomacy policy needs to be rationalised on two levels, with two categories at each level. This could be done primarily in the bilateral sphere whereby Sri Lanka utilises her strong bilateral connections with strategic countries in the region and beyond, and secondly at the international level, whereby Sri Lanka plays a vigorous role in redefining defence cooperation through air diplomacy. Both levels provide the country and the SLAF with the opportunity of branching out and generating another platform for cooperation which would augur for the state in the long run. The bilateral level would need to be examined in two categories. Sri Lanka purchases ammunition, equipment, aircraft, vessels, etc. These are countries of strategic importance and it is vital to develop closer relations with them. This could be in varied

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forms, such as structured joint sessions between the militaries, and in particular with the Air Forces of the respective countries. Adopting a similar format as the Joint Sessions between countries at the political level, the Air Force interface would lead to deeper understanding, better cooperation and stronger connectivity, especially at times of need. It could also evolve into and include the conducting of joint drills between the Air Forces, which would result in the sharing of technology and expertise. The second category at the bilateral level would be with countries of strategic importance in the global arena. Whilst a similar model of structured sessions and joint drills maybe adopted, the second tier would give Sri Lanka the opportunity of reaching beyond the usual remit of connectivity and improve bilateral relations in the process. Multilateral engagement forms the second level whereby the bilateral connectivity could, in time, be merged with a regional conclave of Air Force Chiefs, which is absent from SAARC at present. Whilst this could be examined within the framework of existing groupings, whereby Sri Lanka proposes the establishment of such fora even in groupings such as BIMSTEC and the Commonwealth, where the use of air diplomacy would greatly enhance security cooperation. Further engagement in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation SCO , wherein Sri Lanka is a dialogue partner at present, could see the country seeking deeper engagement, even actively campaigning for full membership, while articulating the contribution, especially in the area of counter terrorism that the country would be able to make, and gaining through collaboration with other member states and dialogue partners of the SCO. This platform would generate immense opportunities for the air chiefs of specific countries to converge each year in a bid to discuss military aviation issues, multilateral cooperation, enhance regional security as well as improve humanitarian assistance and relief efforts. The conclave would also serve as a hub for the sharing of information on suspicious air activity, response to terror threats, and measures that could be adopted to thwart such activity and threats. Preserving and promoting national interest: Why air diplomacy is essential Whether at the bilateral or multilateral levels and within the specified categories of these two levels, the formulation of an effective foreign policy is at the core of national interest. The protection and promotion of national interest, while within the mandate of the state, could be implemented through innovative measures. The adoption of an air diplomacy policy, which would be implemented chiefly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka Air Force and with the involvement of academia, would see Sri Lanka gain immensely through all that has been hitherto described. The potential of the island to adopt such an effective air diplomacy policy would enable decision makers to strategise foreign policy, ensure greater connectivity and guarantee a higher degree of influence in regional and global affairs.

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6: Sri Lanka - Project Financing | www.enganchecubano.com

Sri Lanka's foreign policy is a forward-looking engagement with the rest of the world, based on a rigorous, realistic and contemporary assessment of the bilateral, regional and global geo-political and economic milieu.

India- Sri Lanka relations are based on a deep and abiding friendship on shared historical experience and common civilisation. Both countries have taken a similar trajectory in international relations, having emerged from colonial oppression. Since then, India and Sri Lanka have proceeded to renew and reinvigorate age old cultural, commercial and strategic links for the mutual benefits of the two independent nations and their peoples. The specific geo-strategic location of India in the Indian Ocean and ethnic affinity of the Indian Tamils with the Sri Lankan Tamils have been the most important factor of their relationship. Sri Lanka is one of the closest neighbors of India, separated from it at its narrowest point by 22 miles of sea called Palk Strait. The relationship between Sri Lanka and India has been built upon a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious and the highest political level engagement, growing trade and investment, cooperation in the fields of development, education, culture and defense, as well as a broad understanding on major issues of international interest. Soon after the victory in presidential election, Maithripala government sent off Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera to India with a clear message that the new Sri Lankan government looks forward to strengthen bilateral relations with India. More importantly, this visit showed a new dedication to Non-alignment which was a key factor in the good relations between India and Sri Lanka, during the Cold War era. We may also see that the Maithripala government in Sri Lanka is considering more to following a Non-alignment policy, than ever in the past. Although previous government gave opposition only one month to become battle-fit, everything moved so rapidly against Rajapaksa and end up with his defeat in elections. Moreover, it seems like Modi government believes that this new Maithripala government in Sri Lanka will help to strengthen the bilateral relations. During Rajapaksa government, although the bilateral relations remained cordial, occasional tensions and suspicion remained the order of the day. However, Indian government faced awful political pressure from Tamil Nadu especially in fishermen issues, Tamil Diaspora issues etc. As a major power in South Asia, India had to tread very carefully respecting the sovereignty of the Sri Lanka while attending to concerns surrounding human rights. What precipitated matters was the sudden appearance of two nuclear submarines at the Colombo Port late last year. China also has strong economic ties with Sri Lanka especially in the infrastructure sector. Cultural and religious linkages play a major part of tourism engagement. Although the Indian tourist inflow is proportionally less, it is steadily on the rise in the last few years after the war. Sri Lanka has many beautiful tourist attractions. Its historic association with the epic Ramayana is an added attraction for Indian tourists. This covers a very wide range of activity of special importance to Sri Lanka in the search for new technology and the use of nuclear energy, with ground breaking action to facilitate the development and strengthening of scientific, economic, and technical cooperation in a highly specialized field. It looks forward to specific projects in relation to transfer and exchange of knowledge and expertise, sharing of resources and experience, and capacity building. There will be focus, among other matters, on applied research in the peaceful usage of nuclear technology; production and utilization of radioactive isotopes in industry, agriculture, water management; health care including nuclear medicine. This comprises a very wide area of activity, between two neighbour, in the context of the rapid globalization of economies, and the search for sources of energy that are less harmful to the environment, with the possibility of easing our dependence on imported fossil fuels. This also has considerable importance in expanding the opportunities for development of knowledge and skills among the youth who are eagerly seeking such progress. Another essentially important instrument signed is The Work-Plan for under the existing Memorandum of Understand MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture. This provides for collective programmes in agriculture, including post-harvest technology, agricultural science and technology, agricultural extension and farmer linkages, horticulture exchange, training in the field of farm mechanization;

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knowledge on livestock disease, and plant quarantine. In a country where the vast majority of the population is engaged in agriculture, and where the development of the rural sector is of increasing importance, this will offer many new opportunities for progress through the availability of new agro-technology, as well as providing new areas of training for the youth, especially in the rural sector. There was also a MoU on the Establishment of Nalanda University, which encourages networking and collaboration with Nalanda University, the great historical centre of learning which is being re-established in India. This will give opportunities for existing Centers of Excellence in Sri Lanka to interact with Nalanda, enabling to build an Asian community of learning with regional awareness. And both countries have signed four important cooperation agreements as well. Trade and tourism remain two major areas of engagement between the two countries. Indian investments in Sri Lanka will be heartily welcomed because of the natural civilization proximity. Sri Lankan business community was eagerly waiting for the arrival of the Indian Prime Minister who, they hope, would bring in more trade and investment into their country. People-to-people contacts were also highlighted by the grant of Indian visas on arrival for Sri Lankan nationals. This is of interest to the Sri Lanka side given that only a handful of countries had earlier been exempted from the new scheme. It can be hoped that the governments of both the countries will focus on all these areas and do everything possible to take bilateral relations to newer heights.

7: Bilateral Issues Section

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.

8: Overview of Australia's aid program to Sri Lanka - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Greece's Bilateral Relations - SRI LANKA Relations between the two countries are good, bilateral and multilateral cooperation is satisfactory. Greece took immediate action upon the news of the tsunami that hit regions in Southeast Asia in December in order provide relief and help those affected by the tsunami.

9: Elisabeth Dallas – OnFrontiers Expert

Sri Lanka's foreign policy traditionally follows a non-aligned trajectory (Sri Lanka was a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement), though it has a strong aspect of multilateral participation - especially at the United Nations where the country takes a pro-active role.

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