

Foreign Minister highlights triumph of quiet diplomacy



Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama has highlighted Sri Lanka's highly successful and constructive engagement with the international community in playing a major role in eliminating the menace of terrorism from the shores of the island. The Minister made this observation while participating in the Debate in Parliament last Tuesday (09 June 2009) on the Motion to extend the State of Emergency for a further period of one month.

Elaborating further, the Minister hailed the triumph of Sri Lanka's quiet diplomacy in being able to secure an uninterrupted supply line to meet the procurement needs of the armed forces, the diplomatic clearances that were vital in obtaining over-flight rights to transport urgent supplies by air, the intelligence received from friendly countries that made it possible for the Navy to intercept and destroy the floating arsenals of the LTTE.

The Foreign Minister, while replying to a question by Hon. Lakshman Seneviratne, MP, categorically stated that there was no Accord between the UN and the Government following UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon's visit to Sri Lanka last month. Only a Joint Statement had been issued at the end of visit on 23rd May, which reflected the substance of the discussions he had held with Government leaders.

The Minister reiterated the position of the Government to widen its engagement with the international community in terms of Sri Lanka's national agenda that President Mahinda Rajapaksa has enunciated for the total integration of Sri Lanka as one nation.