

Court martial “Field Marshall”

As the date of the Presidential Elections is approaching it is increasingly becoming clear that there is no fight for the President in spite of some so called free media trying to boost the image of the unfortunate retired general. It is a difficult job for these media to boost the image of a person who does not have a political image and especially of a person who has no political common sense. Unfortunately the opposition has chosen a person without a political common sense as the political common candidate. The JVP may bring in the numbers to the meetings of the UNF meetings organized by the former, but they cannot match the crowds at the meetings where the President is scheduled to speak. The retired general is known to be his own man, and even if his speeches are written by somebody else he is likely to alter them using his inexperience.

Few politicians have crossed from one group to the other based on anything but principles. It is clearly a case of taking revenge from the relevant leader who had not treated the relevant politician to his expectation. Talk of various freedoms is nothing but bullshit as some of these parties do not have any internal democracy within the party itself. Apart from these jumping for personal gain some political parties support this candidate or the other again depending on what they could achieve by identifying with one of the main candidates. These regroupings of individuals and political parties do not matter much nor do they give any indication as to what political grouping they belong to.

In spite of these political pole vaulting, a fact that cannot be ignored though the political outcome of this phenomenon is negligible as far as the Presidential Elections are concerned, there is a tendency for the nationalist forces to gravitate towards the UPFA while the anti national forces are seen with the UNP led UNF. It can be now declared that Anura Kumara Dissanayake has led the JVP to the lap of the UNP, and now it is only a lap dog of the anti national forces. There are many people in the camp of Sarath Fonseka who would not trust the JVP, but they can now rest assured that the JVP has no nationalistic tendencies and that the party is only following Mangala Samaraweera to its doomsday. The JVP has no mass base in the anti nationalistic groupings and it cannot survive for long after giving up its nationalistic credentials.

Though there are exceptions to the rule, the two groups are fairly well demarcated. On one side we have the nationalistic anti colonialist group led by Mahinda Rajapakse who never thought of bowing down to the westerners or the Indians. He has formulated his own foreign policy of balancing foreign powers clearly identifying the colonial and anti colonial forces in the world. There may be pundits who claim that Clash of Civilisations by Samuel Huntington is the worst book that has been written. These are naïve pseudo intellectuals who unable to come out with a new concept or theory try to gain recognition by shouting slogans such as cultural harmony. The cultures like many things else are existing in harmony borrowing from each other while simultaneously competing with each other. Over the history some cultures (I use the word culture rather than the concept civilisation) have been dominant in regions during certain intervals of time, but we have now come to the stage where western Judaic Christian culture with its Greek Judaic Christian Chintanaya dominates not a region but the whole world. Capitalism is only a

product of this culture and chinthanaya and when Max Weber wrote his Capitalism and Protestant Ethic he understood capitalism better than Karl Marx did. Huntington did not write his Clash of Civilisations to call the other cultures to unite and form the first international to fight against western Judaic Christian culture and the Greek Judaic Christian Chinthanaya, but to wake up a west that had been put to a deep slumber by Fukuyama's End of History. We do not agree with Huntington but it cannot be denied that he had more inspiration than Fukuyama.

China and India may be following the development model of the western Judaic Christian culture and the associated Chinthanaya but their collective and individual futures lie in different directions as both countries would realise in time to come. We ourselves have no alternative but to think of a different development model accompanied with a different knowledge system if we want to be independent. Though this may be too far fetched a formulation for many nationalists most of them would want to be independent of the western system that has been dictated on us.

Though we are still in an incipient stage a new world order is emerging with the countries of the western Judaic Christian culture on one side and the other countries with all their differences gravitating towards the other corner. With so much western propaganda they have not been able to isolate Myanmar and it is worth remembering that the President of Sri Lanka took the initiative in travelling to Myanmar and meeting their President. The Myanmar President since then has come to Sri Lanka in spite of many people not agreeing with inviting a so called dictator. It is heartening to note that the head of state of China is to visit Myanmar and hopefully the President of Myanmar would visit China in the near future.

The nationalistic group and the anti nationalistic group led by Ranil, Anura Kumara and Sarath F are different from each other basically on this count. The nationalistic group broadly speaking wants to be independent of the dictates of the westerners. This group ably led by Mahinda Rajapakse showed how to stand up to western pressure during the humanitarian operations against the LTTE. The so called Tamil nationalism in Sri Lanka was created and nurtured by the western powers and today the westerners find themselves in the awkward position of Tamil racism operating directly from their countries. They have no alternative but to allow the Tamil racists to behave the way the latter want as they were the Godfathers of the racist sect.

Sarath F is sponsored by UNP led UNF and JVP, and the former party is nakedly anti nationalistic and slavishly pro western. The JVP it appears is neither nationalistic nor pro western but only thinking of coming to power by hook or crook. They are in company with Mangala Samaraweera who is also keen in coming to power using the same techniques as the JVP. They are like the proverbial Raigamya and Gampolaya and think of using the other as well to come to power. Sarath Failed has no experience in politics and think that he can transform the recognition he earned as an officer into recognition in politics. This is a mistake many people make as they think if one has done a service in a certain sector he or she should gain recognition for that in a different field.

In any event the UNP did not support the operations against the LTTE and they cannot now claim that Sarath F gave leadership, albeit under the political leadership of the President, to the army and therefore the latter has to be elected the President of the country. The UNP or UNF has no claim whatsoever to the victory of the armed forces against the LTTE having bowed down to the British, the Norwegians and anybody else who dictated terms to them. The armed forces won in spite of the UNP and the UNF, and both the UNF and the JVP have managed to use SF against MR, the former I am afraid though a nationalist previously has turned out to be an anti nationalist as he has an axe to grind against the government of Mahinda Rajapakse. In any event there is no fight as such and the westerners are trying to make use of it to “extract information” on “war crimes” committed by the armed forces and Gothabhaya Rajapakse.

The United Nations have now written to the Government of Sri Lanka based on a statement by the retired General (whose promotion as a Field Marshall was recommended by some) Sarath F according to which the Defence Secretary had ordered the commander of the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion to shoot three terrorists including Vamadevan and Nadesan as they came out with white flags to surrender. We do not know whether they came out with white flags or not nor whether they were sent by Prabhakaran when he realised that he had no chance of survival. Whatever it is SF claims that he heard the story from a journalist. In any event it is not known why the United Nations have decided to act on a news item that was denied by SF subsequently. Also it is not known why they did not act with such concern when Rohana Wijeweera and Gamanayake were killed while in custody.

Whatever the reasons may be for this discrimination by the UN, the retired General has now joined the anti national forces and is acting against the interests of the country. If the incident had really taken place then SF as the former commander of the army has divulged information that betrays the armed forces and the state. If the incident had not taken place he could be charged for cooking up stories to discredit the armed forces and the state. In either case if it is possible to court martial a retired officer then it is duty of the relevant authorities to court martial the “Field Marshall”.