

Noracholai coal power

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Island

The Island published a letter by me titled 'security of coal power plant in Kalpitiya Peninsula' on October 23 1999. In this letter I stated "When a large power source like the coal power plant 300 MW expanding to 900 MW is to be sited in the Kalpitiya Peninsula is it not imperative to pay special attention to its security aspects? When security is being dealt with, one must remember the disastrous consequences posed by suicide bombers in the ongoing internal conflict and be aware of the constant threat to Sri Lanka from the separatists sympathizers in Tamil Nadu in the new Indian Government".

Recently we experienced the devastating setback the security forces suffered in the Wanni-so many towns lost in a matter of a

day or two which were gained in 3 years.

This debacle was followed by a mortar attack on the 450 year old Madhu Church the most sacred Catholic shrine, killing 38 innocent refugees and pilgrims and injuring 56.

In this climate does the CEB with over confidence still consider that it is safe to set up the Noracholai Coal Power Plant with the 4 Km long coal unloading jetty, the life line of the power plant in the Kalpitiya sea?

Without wasting any more time on this issue of great national importance, an honest reply from the CEB to this pertinent question is greatly desired. According to CEB reporting, the attempt to set up a Coal Power Plant had been going on for the past twenty years. In the Wanni what was gained in three years

was lost in a matter of two or three days. But in the case of the Coal Power Plant in Kalpitiya Peninsula, the efforts of twenty years can be lost in a few minutes by a suicide bombing attack.

I strongly feel now that what I suggested in my earlier letter that the CEB should get back to Mawella — the site in the south that is best in all respects in the present context, as pointed out by others in these columns, to set up the Coal Power Plant, is correct.

I think Sri Lanka is the only country in the world which goes on obstructing Coal Power generation and strives to go backwards.

Remember God helps only those who help themselves.

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