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SRI LANKA-INDIA: Tamil Insurgents Suppressed

Ethnic violence between Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority and the country's Tamil insurgents has abated since Sri Lanka's new Minister for National Security returned from New Delhi last week. The minister reported in parliament he had been assured by senior Indian political advisers that New Delhi was committed to maintaining a unified Sri Lanka. Indian Tamil leaders in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, however, are continuing to call on New Delhi to prepare for armed intervention in Sri Lanka to protect Tamil civilians in the event of another round of violence, according to press reporting. [REDACTED]

Comment: The current lull in communal violence is in response to Colombo's tough new antiterrorism program instituted by the Minister for National Security. The brutality of the Army's tactics has alienated even moderate Tamils and increased the likelihood of a more extreme round of ethnic violence. New Delhi has informed Colombo-[REDACTED] that Indian military intervention to stop further communal bloodshed is still a distinct possibility if President Jayewardene cannot maintain law and order. [REDACTED]