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#### **INDIA-SRI LANKA: Cabinet-Level Meetings**

Private talks between Sri Lanka's Minister for National Security Athulathmudali and Prime Minister Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday were the first at the Cabinet level between the two countries since Gandhi's election in December. Sri Lankan officials say President Jayewardene has insisted the meetings be held without Gandhi's principal adviser on Tamil affairs. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** Press and diplomatic accounts of the meeting's agenda differ, but the talks may lay the groundwork for meetings between Gandhi and Jayewardene soon. Colombo may hope to encourage Gandhi to make a fresh assessment of India's involvement with the Tamil insurgents. Gandhi would be receptive to participating in political negotiations between Colombo and the Tamil militants again, but he probably will continue to deny that India is extending support to separatists based in India's Tamil Nadu State. He will continue to urge Colombo to negotiate a settlement with the Tamils and to ease its harsh military program in the north. [REDACTED]