

# **US encourages peace in Sri Lanka**

Adam Ereli, Deputy Spokesman of the US Department of State, issued the following statement in Washington, DC in December: “On December 24, representatives of the Co-Chairs of the Sri Lanka Donors Group - from Japan, the European Community, Norway and the UK - met with LTTE leaders in Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka to urge an immediate end to violence and to encourage them to engage positively with the government in peace talks. The US, also one of the Co-Chairs, reiterates this message in the strongest possible terms. We are deeply concerned about the continued erosion of Sri Lanka’s four-year-old ceasefire as marked by the recent series of violent incidents. “The US recognizes that a lasting peace in Sri Lanka can only be achieved by Sri Lankans. We call on both sides to embrace peace and work together to build a future for Sri Lanka that is prosperous and secure:’