President’s intervention on Ha’s pilgrimage praised

President Mahinda Rajaapaksa is beginning a three-day visit to India today and will meet with his counterpart Pratibha Patil and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The visit, following his recent con-

flict, a dynamic role to play … we are telling them the world and elsewhere is that they [too] have a responsibility to determine … to re-integrate them into society.”

The relief plan proposed by the government is also a provisional one for those who are expected to go to Mecca next year. This plan and the movement of Haj groups through different states is expected to be finalised in the arrangement of the annual Haj pilgrimage.

SINGAPORE, June 7, 2010: Sri Lanka’s External Affairs Minister G. L. Peiris on Sunday set his face against “foreign inter-

vention” in the country’s ongoing conflict phase, he said “we don’t wish to add to the already thick thicket of past pro-

blems”.

The government had also thought about “building infrastructure in the North and East in order to give a dynamic role to the people there”.

The government “has [also] the responsibility to determine … to re-integrate them into society.”

The relief plan proposed by the government is also a provisional one for those who are expected to go to Mecca next year. This plan and the movement of Haj groups through different states is expected to be finalised in the arrangement of the annual Haj pilgrimage.

The government sources said the President will hold discussions on the agreements on defence, trade, and eco-

nomic cooperation with his counterpart in New Delhi. The visit of President Rajaapaksa is expected to be the first after his election victory in January this year.

External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of Housing Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Defence Palitha Jayawardena, and Secretary to the President Lal Weeratunga will accompany the President.

The President’s visit also comes as Sri Lanka is planning to expedite rehabilitation and reconstruction work in the northern province, which was liberated from LTTE’s last year. India already has a contract in the northern region to dammed railway line in the north and the east, which is under construction.

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