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BY LOCAL COURIER

25th May 2006

Ameer Ismail Esqr.,
Chairman, Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption
36, Malalasekera Mawatha,
Colombo 7

Dear Mr. Ismail,

I enclose a copy of my Letter of even date to Dr. Carol Becker, Mission Director, USAID, together with the attachments thereto, for your kind attention and any necessary action, inasmuch the Commission is reported to be a co-partner to the Program referred to in the News Report under reference.

I have noted statements attributed to you *vis-a-vis* politicians re - this cancerous menace of fraud and corruption ! In my experience, politics and corruption are very much inter-twined, each surviving on the other ! In this context, I draw your kind attention to the contents of my Letters attached. I also draw your kind attention to the Hanzard of 1994 recording the Debate on the Bill to establish the Commission and to introduce the offence of 'Corruption' into the law.

Pontification / pronouncement is one thing, but action is another. I wonder when we could ever overcome socio-political realities prevalent in our country ?

I also noted with interest a recent News Report of a Workshop, organised by Transparency International [TI] on the 'Role of the Media in Combating Corruption' and the statements attributed to you. TI Sri Lanka maintained a stoic silence and wilful inaction on the perverse purported 'Tax Amnesty' of 2003, and even intimated to me in response to representations made, that 'TI is precluded in taking up individual issues', whereas this was most certainly a public issue affecting the State and the People and the Rule of Law, even breaching international Conventions on Terrorism, Drugs and Money Laundering !

I urge you to consider *prayer* [c] on page 4 of the attached draft Settlement Motion forwarded, amongst others, to you, as a positive step in commencing to combat fraud and corruption, and thereby sending out a much warranted right signal to the public and thereafter taking action against the miscreants.

Yours truly,

Nihal Sri Ameresekere

c.c. Mr. S.C. Mayadunne, Auditor General, Auditor General's Department,
- another co-partner to the reported Program

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BY LOCAL COURIER

25th May 2006

Dr. Carol Becker,
Mission Director,
USAID,
44, Galle Road,
Colombo 3.

Dear Dr. Becker,

It is with much interest that I noted the attached News Report this morning *vis-à-vis* the commitment of USAID to deal with the cancerous menace of fraud and corruption, noting that Sri Lanka is ridden with a 'high level of corruption'.

In the context of the foregoing, I attach a copy of a recent Letter I forwarded to ADB, OECD and to Contacts in Member Countries of the ADB OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia Pacific giving cover to my Letter of 24th April 2006 to Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, President, World Bank, together with the attachments thereto. I draw your kind attention to the contents of the said Letter and the attachments, particularly to the contents of my Letter of 10th February 2006 to Mr. Peter Harrold, Country Director, World Bank. I received a response yesterday on behalf of Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, to which I am in the process of responding.

I recently attended the Annual Conference of the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management at Miami, where I met Casals & Associates from Virginia, who have been specialising in carrying out anti-fraud and corruption initiatives and programs. I was made to understand that a former USAID Director, Mr. David Cohen is with them now.

Our Company [formally known as Comindtax Management Service Ltd.] were the Sub-contractors to a Washington based Consultancy Company on introducing and developing the concept of Public-Private partnerships for economic infra-structure development, which was a Project funded by USAID. The Director at that time in 1992-1993 was Mr. Dick Brown. In fact, payments due to our Company were held back for some time by USAID due to undue influences and pressures exerted by interested and affected political personalities, as a consequence of my prosecution of the fraud on the Hilton Hotel construction on which monies had been sought to be obtained fraudulently on Government Guarantees. I am not complaining, but just pointing out what I have experienced to be the reality in society, as borne out by the aforesaid Letters.

I also attach a copy of my Note dated 20th April 2006 *vis-à-vis* a draft Motion for Settlement in one of the several Cases I had instituted against the perverse purported 'Tax Amnesty' of 2003, which has been determined by the Supreme Court to be a fraud on the public. I draw your attention to Prayer [c] on Page 4 in the draft Motion attached thereto, which directly pertains to the issue of combating corruption in Sri Lanka.

Yours truly,

Nihal Sri Ameresekere