

# Nihal Sri writes to Blake to set record straight

March 1, 2013  
Mr. Robert O. Blake  
Assistant Secretary  
South & Central Asian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520, USA



**Nihal Sri Ameresekere**

Dear Robert,  
Statement made to the Foreign Affairs Committee, Sub-Committee on Asia and the Pacific

I was indeed *appalled* upon reading in the foreign and Sri Lanka media a Statement reported to have been made by you this week to the aforementioned Committee, particularly *alluding* a 'sweeping statement' criticising by *innuendo* the recent impeachment by Parliament of Sri Lanka of the Chief Justice.

I regret that your such 'sweeping statement' has apparently been made, *arbitrarily* devoid of any facts to have *substantiated* the same; whereas comprehensive representations had been made by me to you justifying the said impeachment of the Chief Justice.

You are well and truly aware that I had taken the trouble to afford you the relevant and pertinent facts, supported by documentary evidence placed before the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, justifying the aforesaid impeachment of the Chief Justice; inasmuch as, I, as far back as February 2012, had put in issue before the Supreme Court the dis-



**Robert O. Blake**

facts placed before you had been caused to be *analytically examined* by your Officials, prior to you having made such 'sweeping statement' to the aforementioned Committee, publicised internationally, inasmuch as, I, as an experienced professional, took such stance to uphold the rule of law and the UN Convention Against Corruption, which Sri Lanka had ratified as far back as March 31, 2004.

Indeed it would be a great *travesty of justice and lack of accountability* on the part of your Office, if as evident from the foregoing, the aforesaid facts, supported by documents, had been *suppressed* from the aforementioned Committee, thereby putting in issue the *credibility* of the aforesaid 'sweeping statement', whereby grave and irreparable prejudice and irremediable mischief had been caused before the international community on the said matter of impeachment of the Chief Justice.

I believe, that particularly in the US, facts are incisively analysed and documents examined, prior to briefings being made for

actions to be correctly taken thereon. In this instance, I regret very much that apparently such had not been the case.

I cite two of my experiences on matters of national economic proportions given the context of a small country, that Sri Lanka is. Though two leading US corporates were involved in the said two matters, to my knowledge, your Office, nor any other US State Agency took any action thereon, notwithstanding the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Firstly, the colossal loss caused by the fraud on the Government of Sri Lanka in the construction of the Hilton Hotel, where Hilton International Co., US, had a Management Agreement, including to provide Technical Assistance during construction, which loss was prevented by me through litigation upheld by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and reported in the Commonwealth (Commercial) Law Reports.

Secondly, the *purported* Oil Hedging Deals perpetrated, amongst others, by Citibank, a US bank, on the bankrupt Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, a State corporation, a customer of the said Bank, where *purported* colossal Claims by the said Bank were dismissed in an Arbitration before the London Court of International Arbitration.

Facts pertaining to the foregoing have been well documented in a series of Books I had published through AuthorHOUSE

US - website [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com). Ironically, the Business Manager's Office in Los Angeles had sent your Office copies of the relevant Books during the first half of last year acknowledged by Emily Fleckner of your Office.

I urge you to cause speedy and effective warranted remedial action to be taken. I am most willing to debate the aforesaid issue with you at any public forum.

*Yours truly,*  
**Nihal Sri Ameresekere,**  
F.C.A., F.C.M.A., C.M.A.,  
C.G.M.A., C.F.E.  
Associate Member, American Bar Association  
Member, International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities

cc: US Representative Mr. Ed Royce (Congress representing Southern California's 39<sup>th</sup> District)  
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