

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the letter dated 13.8.2011 from Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to Ms. Jennifer McIntyre, Consul General, Consulate General of United States of America, Chennai – 600 006 is reproduced below:-

“It has been reported in the Media that Ms. Maureen Chao, Vice-Consul, while speaking at the Semester Abroad Programme orientation in SRM University, stated, “I was on a 24-hour train trip from Delhi to Orissa. But, after 72 hours, the train still didn't reach the destination and my skin became dirty and dark, like the Tamilians”.

This remark which smacks of racism is highly condemnable. You will agree that this remark of the Vice-Consul is an affront to all Tamils. I would like to request you to impress upon Ms. Maureen Chao that she has to withdraw this remark and also apologize for having made such a comment on the Tamils.”

Issued by: Director, Information-Public Relations, Chennai – 9

Date : 13.8.2011