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**SRI
LANKA**

**SITUATION
REPORT**

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தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆய்வுக் குழுக்கள்

SITUATION REPORT

Note to Readers :

This issue of Situation Report was printed late. Although it is dated March 1st, we have availed of the delay by incorporating more recent news reports.

A Reader's lament

(Letter to the Editor-Sun, April 16, 1987)

Would the time come soon for the people of the country to raise their heads and cry "Oh Lord save us from our Saviours.

Not a day seems to pass without either a top ranking politician, some customs or police officers, forest, excise and many other officials that one can think of from various state sectors being involved in big time smuggling, currency rackets, dope dealing, timber felling, poaching ending up in thuggery and even murder in some cases.

These are crimes against society and crimes against the state. It is unfortunate that it is men who have been assigned to protect us against these crimes against us as well as the state that seem to be involved in the commission of the crimes..."

Soldier's Suicide note

(From Sun, April 17, 1987)

"While I was resting in the Palaly army barracks. I heard two gun shots outside. When I rushed in that direction, I noticed the deceased Chandrasena lying on the ground with chest injuries. There was a gun beside him.

Lance Corporal K. A. Sirilal Hemantha (22) made this statement while giving evidence at the inquest on the death of L. Chandrasena (28), a soldier, at the Palaly army camp.

The inquest was held at the General Hospital by Colombo Additional Coroner, Flavian G. B. Perera.

Lance Cpl. Sirilal also said in evidence as follows:

I was in the barracks around 9-00 a.m. on the 15th. It was an off day for the deceased Chandrasena and myself. I do not know where exactly he was at that time. When he was taken to the army hospital in an army vehicle. Chandrasena was found to be dead.

Sgt. Fernando of the Palaly Police produced a letter written by the deceased prior to his death, the letter read as follows:

"We Sinhalese are sorry for the Sinhalese who shed their blood for the country, the nation and our religion. I salute the 11th Gajaba regiment devoting the New Year in the service of the country and the nation. We, Sinhalese have no place to live as Sinhalese. This soldier is joining the dead by ending his life..."

Buddhist monk murdered

(Sun, April 18, 1987)

The Ven. Udumapuruppe Saddhatissa, incumbent of the Sri Bodhi Rukkaramaya of Pallewela in the Maturate Police area, was found dead with his neck cut on April 12. Maturate police reports.

The 87-year-old monk had lived alone in the temple according to PolicePolice further say that a sharp weapon has been used to cut his neck but the weapon or weapons have not been found..."

Mrs. B 71st birthday

(Sun April 18, 1987)

The leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party Ms. Sirimavo Bandaranaike yesterday celebrated her 71st birthday among a large gathering of well wishers at her residence at Rosmead Place.

Among the well wishers were members of her party. Ms. Bandaranaike also received greetings from foreign nations including China, USA, Yugoslavia and the United Kingdom.

Probe on 'missing' women

(Sun, April 20, 1987)

Police are investigating the alleged disappearance of over 60 young women from their homes in and around the Kandy district.

According to a senior spokesman, the disappearance of these young women, has not been reported to police, by their parents. However the missing girls are learnt to have written to their parents that they are safe and sound, but have not revealed where they are living.

Meanwhile, police and the CID, which

investigated the theft of guns from the Pallekele Camp, searched 200 houses in suspicious locations at Menikhinna and Pallekelle on Saturday evening, according to a higher police official.

Compensation for victims

(WEEKEND, April 26, 1987)

The victims of recent terrorist massacres at Habarana and Alutoya and the bomb blast victims at Pettah would soon be paid compensation the Ministry of Rehabilitation has announced.

Necessary particulars on these persons would be called from relevant authorities from next week, an official said.

Officials are presently discussing steps to be taken to pay these monies to dependants of these victims.

The payment of compensation for the victims of Mahanagapura, Aranthalawa, Avranthalawa, Seruwewa, Muttur and Wan Ela massacres this year, meanwhile seem to be at a standstill with no steps taken by Government upto now, it is reported. The situation appears to be same for those injured in these incidents.

Despite Government assurances, no compensation has yet been paid to the families of any victims of the Anuradhapura attack in May 1985.

"We will implement a practical scheme within the next few weeks for the victims of Habarana and Pettah attacks but we need accurate information" Minister of Rehabilitation and Education Services, Lionel Jayatileke told "WEEKEND".....

OBITUARY

THANGARAJAH - Mr. A. W. Thangarajah of Thunavy, Vaddukoddai (Retd. District Officer, Sri Lanka Govt. Service). Husband of Thangaratnam (Retd. Principal Sri Shanmuga Vidyalayam, Trincomalee / Navaly Maha Vidyalayam), father of Manohari (Abu-Dhabi Commercial Bank), Dr. Maheswaran (London), Nirmalarajan (Engineer, Brunei), father-in-law of Sivashanmugam (Engineer, Abu-Dhabi), Bhavani and Geethanjally passed away on Wednesday 29th April. Cremation took place in Madras, 17, 5th Cross street, Madras -20.

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and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from February 14 - March 2 were carried in Issue No. 29 of the Situation Report

MARCH 3

Hundreds of soldiers air-lifted to Mandaitivu and Fort camps, the whole day. Helicopters flew between Palaly and Jaffna seventeen times. Those air-lifted to Mandaitivu camp transferred to the Fort garrison in trucks and armoured vehicles.

Twelve youths arrested by armed forces in Semamadhu, Vavuniya taken to Vavuniya army headquarters and under detention there. In this connection, a complaint has been lodged with the Vavuniya Citizens' Committee by the parents of those arrested.

An Air Force Officer J. S. Janaka Perera (29) shoots himself with his S. M. G. gun and commits suicide.

Following a strident explosion in the Fort garrison boundary area, heavy shelling and firing erupted from inside the Fort camp and continued for more than an hour. High tension in Jaffna town.

Six Tamils Suntheram Vairamuttu (49), his wife Parameswary, Vairamuttu (45) K. Vallipurathan (54), S. Kailanathan (40), U. Rajanathan (42), and his wife R. Selvalochumi who go to Pankulam (with prior permission of army authorities) to ascertain state of their homes find their dwellings occupied by Sinhalese. An altercation takes place and the soldiers camping in the area intervene and shoot and kill all the six of them.

Union College, Tellippalai that was closed following army operations in the area and damage to a section of the school buildings is yet remaining closed.

Agricultural production completely neglected in Kadduwan, Myliddy, Erlalai areas consequent to constant shelling from Palaly army camp towards these villages.

MARCH 4

A plane believed to be carrying arms and army officers, about to land

at the Palaly Air base, is fired at by LTTE guerrillas with 50 calibre machine gun. Plane is hit and lands in the runway emitting flames and covered in heavy smoke. It is reported that there might have been several casualties. Immediately following this incident, a sea plane attempting to take off is also fired at by the militants and forced to remain at base. A helicopter, however, takes off with a fast vertical climb and attaining a fair height (beyond reach of machine gun fire) and circling over Vasavilan, Kurumbacitty, Kadduwan strafes these villages for hours. Shells are also fired from inside Palaly camp towards civilian areas.

An army contingent of over 100 soldiers come out of Navatkuli camp (beyond the check point at Navatkuli bridge) to march into civilian areas and is confronted by LTTE guerrillas. In the ensuing battle at least 5 soldiers are believed killed and several injured. Army retreats into camp. Helicopter, strafing the area heavily, lands at site of battle and fly away with the dead or injured.

Shells are fired from inside Fort camp towards Koddady. Number of houses are damaged. M. Lawrence (52) and her daughter Mary Asin (30) of Muththamil Veethi, Koddady injured and admitted to hospital.

Shells are fired from within Thondamanaru army camp. Three houses are badly damaged. Roofs of ten houses impaired. Three civilians injured.

MARCH 5

Two helicopters (one flying fairly low) strafe Puttur, Vatharawattai, Veeravani, Vannathipalam villages for over 1½ hours. Students rehearsing for their Annual Sports Meet at Sri Vigneswara Vidyalayam playground are too fired at from these helicopters. In panic they run helter skelter. Ratnam Saraswathy (50), R. Jayarohan (12) and (13) are injured and admitted to hospital. Several...

A tractor owned by one Apputhurai directly hit and damaged. Three heli-

copters circle repeatedly over Aththiyar Hindu College, Neerveli, causing tension. It is suspected that this exercise is a prelude to an attempt to open an army camp at Vatharawattai into Thenmardchchi.

In an accidental explosion at Thondamanaru, LTTE fighters G. J. Sireshtarajah from Pt. Pedro and Nirupan (V. Ithayavel) from Sastri Koolankulam are killed.

A delayed report says that on 3/3/87 soldiers from Palaly army camp had marched out to Harbour View Hotel camp at Kankesanturai in four batches. They had gone along the main roads as well as through compounds. A soldier going through a compound, unnoticed by his comrades, had fallen into a well, covered by shrubs, and was neck deep in water in the well. Civilians come to his rescue and pulled him out. His colleagues had returned looking for him and taken him along after profusely thanking the people.

V. Thambirasa, N. Yogarasa, K. Nadarasa, Poopalapillai and another of Porativu travelling to Jaffna in a C. T. B. bus from Batticaloa arrested by the security forces at Poonani check post. Passengers in the said bus said so on arrival of the bus in Jaffna.

Army camping at Vasavilan junction move into Tholagatti Farm (a 100 yards from junction) and after interrogating the 2 priests who were there are yet at the farm keeping them as hostages. Tension in Vasavilan area. It is in this Farm that Rev. Wencelous was shot dead by the army last year.

MARCH 6

S. Selvakumar (9) and K. Suthakaran (6) from Navatkuli injured in shelling from inside Navatkuli army camp. A shell fired towards Ariyalai alights on house belonging to P. Suntheralingam and razes it to the ground. Helicopter strafing for over 1½ hours causes tension in Ariyalai, Irupalai, Kaithady and Navatkuli. Several houses are also damaged.

Helicopter circling over the area seeing an unusual gathering at entrance

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to Kandasamy Temple in the evening (it is the usual gathering of devotees who assemble for Friday prayers) fly down and strafe at the crowd and the Temple. The panic-struck devotees stampede and run for shelter.

Five houses in Kurumbacitty demolished by security forces who come to Kurumbacitty from Kadduwan. It is learned that so far more than 20 houses have been bomb blasted by the armed forces in Kurumbacitty.

MARCH 7

Jaffna comes in for a major attack by armed forces. At least 30 Tamil civilians killed, and over 100 injured in today's incidents.

In the early hours areas in Nallur, Kanthermadam and Kachcheriyady, all densely populated, are bombed from the air. Two are killed and over 20 (including 10 women) injured. More than 10 houses in Chetty Street, Nallur Cross Road and Temple Road are damaged. Cattle too are hit and killed. Cloud of smoke embraces the said areas following the bombing.

In the evening, Jaffna town savagely shelled from inside Jaffna Fort for about 1 1/2 hours. Innumerable shells are fired into all parts of the city. Several people are killed and more than 50 are injured. Up to 10. 00 p. m. 16 corpses are brought into Jaffna hospital mortuary. It is learned that a shell that alighted opposite Windsor Theatre claimed the largest number of victims. House beside Jumma Mosque is hit and A. Ameen (26), his wife S. A. Seiyooth (22) are killed. Their son Asmin (4) injured and admitted to hospital. Confusion in hospital as large number (injured in the shelling) are rushed into the hospital for emergency treatment. The doctors, nurses and the staff do everything within their means in treating the injured in quick time. But the hospital itself came in for shelling, leaving a police constable of the hospital post and welfare officer dead. Hospital O. P. D. section, Medical Officers' Rest Room, V. D. Clinic and hospital water tank (still overflowing) are damaged and more than 15 persons moving about in these places are injured.

More than 100 soldiers are flown into Navatkuli army camp from Jaffna Fort camp in 2 helicopters. Whilst this is in progress, helicopters strafe the areas along the flying route. Shells are also fired from inside Navatkuli army camp.

Colombo newspaper "Island" reports that seventeen persons including 11 soldiers were killed when a lorry carrying soldiers and civilians hit a landmine at Avarantalawa near Ullukulama 12 miles off Vavuniya.

MARCH 8

With the arrival of additional soldiers at the Navatkuli camp, shelling is intensified in all directions from last night. Observers believe that this is a prelude to expanding the perimeters of the Navatkuli camp and also to open up a new camp at Kaithady. Shells fired from camp explode in Ariyalai, Kaithady, Kaithady bridge and Navatkuli areas. Several houses go ablaze and are also damaged. Counter offensive by the LTTE guerrillas keep the soldiers within the camp. Helicopters transporting troops from Jaffna, prevented from landing inside camp by militant firing

Attempt by soldiers to come out from the Western side of Valvettiturai army camp stalled by firing by LTTE guerrillas. Following this, shells are fired from the army camp towards civilian areas like Sea Beach Road, Samparmalai, Uthayasooriyan playground, Theruvil Playground in addition to heavy gun fire. A militant is killed and nearly 10 persons are injured including 3 women from one household.

Thumpalai, Kalatty, Varaththupanai areas shelled from Pt. Pedro army camp. 65-year old Packiyam Iyadurai is injured and admitted to hospital. Methodist Girls High School and Hindu Girls' High School remain closed. Attendance in other schools very poor.

MARCH 9

Militants hold back armed forces in a 40-hour battle around the Navatkuli army camp that began on the 7th night. Many soldiers who attempt to cross into civilian areas through coconut groves are reported killed. Army trucks

pick up the dead and take them to camp, Uththaman and Kannan, two LTTE fighters are also killed. Yesterday evening, soldiers moved into Andriez's Prawn Factory on suspicion that militants have infiltrated into the Factory and mixing with the more than 150 men and women working there. All workers are detained in the Factory as hostages. They are later, released, after consultation with higher authorities. Factory now occupied by security forces.

Death toll in shelling massacre rises. Jaffna town appears as a ghost city. Attendance at Schools and Colleges is practically nil; almost all of them are closed by noon.

Govt. Agent, Jaffna inspects areas subjected to bombing in Nallur, Kantharmadam, Kachcheriyadi and shelling in town.

Jaffna Multi Purpose Co-operative Society decides to financially assist the families of those who lost their lives in the savage shelling on 7. 3. 87 and pays Re 500 /- to each of the bereaved families.

In a letter to the Indian High Commissioner, Jaffna Traders Association says that their members have lost more than 10 million rupees worth of moveable property in the wanton destruction caused in the shelling carried out by the armed forces stationed in the Fort camp.

Another Muslim, Mohamed Sultan(23) injured in the shelling on 7. 3. 87 succumbs to his injuries

MARCH 10

Helicopters strafe areas surrounding Navatkuli army camp for the third day. Shells are also fired into civilian areas. Residents on the run. LTTE guerrillas too return the fire and resist bravely to keep the army within barracks.

Andriez Prawn Factory yet remaining occupied by the armed forces. Workers refrain from attending for fear of army harassment.

Soldiers occupying the Prawn Factory are seen with bullet proof uniforms. Sand bags are stacked on all four sides of the factory and a bul-

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ding close to the factory bomb blasted and levelled. These are believed to be preliminary steps for the expansion of the Navatkuli camp.

A helicopter returning to Palaly from Navatkuli (where militants prevented it from landing inside the camp) fires shells along Punnalaikadduwan road. Mrs. S. Thangaratnam (45) cooking for the staff engaged in constructing a chariot for the Neerveli Pillaiyar Temple is hit and killed. All the staff are injured. Number of cattle grazing in the open are killed. Following the incident, all schools in the area are closed.

An armed gang intercept a van at Madukands on the Vavuniya - Horowa potana road and rob the passengers (all Tamils) of their valuables. These persons were returning from Jaffna where they went following army atrocities in Sampaltivu, Nilaveli and Kumburupitty.

MARCH 11

Army truck carrying soldiers from Saliapura army camp in Anuradhapura to Padaviya overturns enroute. Seven soldiers are killed on the spot and twenty others admitted to Anuradhapura hospital in serious condition.

A cargo boat arriving at Kankesanturai unloads rolls of barbed wire, tarpaulin water proof clothing and other building materials. These are taken to Harbour View Hotel in the first instance and then to the Palaly camp. Whilst being transported from Kankesanturai to Palaly in armoured vehicles, heavy security is provided with armed soldiers lining the roadways for the armoured vehicles to proceed towards Palaly. These items are believed to be meant for opening new army camps. Food items too arrive in this cargo boat.

Militants confront the army for the fourth day at Navatkuli. The militants mount heavy offensive as the armed forces (occupying Andriez Prawn Factory) attempt to spread out into civilian areas from all sides of the factory. According to LTTE, number of soldiers were either killed or seriously injured. Following this set back, army fires shells into civilian areas. A helicopter too strafed the surroundings.

K. Josephine (41) a woman beedi roller from Ariyalai injured in firing by sentry from Fort garrison and admitted to hospital.

An accident service to solely attend on emergency cases is established in the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. This has been done to meet the situation now prevailing in Jaffna.

MARCH 12

All displaced persons from Myliddy South, Kadduwan, Kurumbacitty and presently living elsewhere have been asked to furnish particulars of their families to the respective Asst. Govt. Agents to consider financial assistance.

72 sewing machines despatched from Colombo to distributors in Chavakachcheri, Chunnakam and Jaffna dismantled at Elephant Pass check point and only cabinets admitted into the peninsula whilst the machines and steel frames are seized and retained in the army camp.

Owners of hostels, lodgings and rooms for rent within Colombo Municipal limits have been compelled under the Emergency Regulations to furnish names and other particulars of the occupants to the police forthwith. The police have been ordered to carry out sudden raids on these establishments. It is understood that these steps are being taken on intelligence reports that members of the EROS organisation are moving about in Colombo whilst stealthily finding accommodation in such places.

10 gallons of petrol supplied to 2 Ambulance vans of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital at the Kankesanturai army camp. A senior medical officer remarked that the supply was most inadequate and out of the supply already 1 gallon had been spent on the journey to Kankesanturai and back.

Rev. Fr. Kurukulasuriya, Mrs. Subashini Varathan of the Trincomalee Citizens' Committee and Messrs. Sivapathasunderam and Thevan from the Hindu Youth Federation, Trincomalee arrive in Jaffna and take over the 3 Sinhalese fisherman from the LTTE.

MARCH 13

Steps are afoot for opening a military

airfield adjacent to the Thallady army camp in Mannar. Jungles around the camp are being cleared and the ground levelled at a fast pace. All airport facilities are expected to be completed within a month. Work is being carried

out on a big scale so as to provide landing accommodation even for very big transport planes. Simultaneously, all transport along Thallady - Murunkan Road is to be prohibited shortly and diverted via Mannar - Thiruketheeswaram.

Villagers of Suntherapuram comprising 175 families displaced from Vasavilan (consequent to commanding of their lands for expansion of army camp) are desperately in need of water. Although a bore well was dug up for them by the missionary priests, enough water even to meet their basic needs is not available. Insanitary conditions are prevailing and spreading of infectious diseases is imminent.

S. Subashini (17) of Varuthalaivilan, a student, shot at by army whilst engaged in cooking is injured in her left shoulder.

LTTE guerrillas "cannon charge" a unit of over 50 soldiers coming towards Udupidy Road from Thondamanaru camp. Two soldiers are killed and many injured. Firing and counter-firing ensues and the army unit retreats carrying the dead with them.

From last midnight, shells are fired from Palaly, Vasavilan, Thondamanaru and Harbour View Hotel camps towards civilian areas for a considerable time. Shells are also fired from gunboats anchored along the Northern coasts. People alarmed and evacuate interior.

MARCH 14

An army unit from Kankesanturai Harbour View Hotel camp on its way to Palaly army camp is attacked by LTTE guerrillas. According to LTTE securities, several army personnel were injured.

Following firing and counter-firing between armed forces and militants in Kankesanturai, 2 helicopters circle and strafe the area indiscriminately. Kandiah 53) is killed and 7 others including

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Menaka (32), Sivakumar (18) and Ragunathan (43) are injured.

According to Government media reports, 2 soldiers and 4 militants had been killed in a confrontation between the militants and the armed forces at Adampankadu, Kumburupitty on 13.3.87. In the same area, 7 soldiers are injured as they attempt to raid a LTTE camp.

Over 500 soldiers arrive at Kilinochchi from Mankulam accompanied by 76 army vehicles. Because of such movement, private vehicles proceeding towards Jaffna from other districts via Kilinochchi are stopped and journeys permitted only after the soldiers had arrived Kilinochchi safely.

In Colombo, number of Tamil youths are arrested after dusk and taken to nearest Police Stations for investigations especially from areas like Kotalana, Bambalapitiya and Wellawatte. Several young Tamil Government servants too are arrested on their way to work.

It is reliably understood that a number of Mossad Officers were brought into Palaly in special helicopters on 13.3.87.

MARCH 15

On 14.3.87 in Amparai, 3 soldiers are killed on the spot and four others injured as the armoured vehicle in which they were travelling runs off the road and topples. Two of the injured (in serious condition) admitted to Kandy hospital and the other two to Amparai hospital.

Five fishermen from Gurunagar A. Dorus (29), J. Anandarsa (28), V. Quintus (29) R. Jayarajasingam (28) and C. Mariathas (29) arrested by the navy in November 1986 in the seas between Delft and Kakkadativu released from Palaly camp on 14.3.87.

Shells are fired from Navatkuli camp towards civilian areas. LTTE guerrillas retaliate. Casualties not known.

Two houses are damaged and two persons injured due to shelling and firing from inside Vasavilan army camp. This exercise is carried out as

a plane attempts to land at Palaly Air base.

A 15-member gang of young men after a strenuous effort recover helicopter that fell into the Navanturai - Kakkaitivu seas during the latter part of 1985 and take it along in a tractor watched by the public. The incapacitated helicopter appeared to be corroded. The young men succeeded in dredging it out which the services could not tackle. It is to be mentioned here that an airman got killed and two others were rescued by fishermen when this helicopter on surveillance duty plunged into the seas due to bad weather.

Soldiers and armaments arrive in the north in 4 ships. Two ships berth at Kankasanturai and two at Karainagar. These ships are guarded by gunboats and circling helicopters whilst the soldiers embark and the armaments are unloaded.

MARCH 16

LTTE guerrillas foil attempt, by soldiers (from both Palaly and Vasavilan camps) from penetrating into residential areas bordering the camp, at about 9-30 p.m on 14.3.87 night. LTTE sources report that the soldiers who came out from these camps simultaneously were fired at by their fighters and a gun battle ensued lasting over 2 hours. It is believed that the armed forces suffered casualties and retreated into the camps. Shells are fired into civilian areas right through the night.

LTTE guerrillas fight fiercely as over a 1000 troops pour into Suthanthirapuram and Devipuram, in armoured vehicles and on foot with air cover by 6 helicopters, following bombing of these areas by 3 bomber planes. The fighting is on.

Navatkuli and Tellippalai are strafed by low flying helicopters in the morning and late in the evening. LTTE guerrillas retaliate firing at helicopter at Navatkuli and force it to return to base. In the attack at crowded Tellippalai junction, many people are injured, several houses and buildings are damaged. Incendiary bombs are dro-

pped on house tops that go ablaze. A bomb dropped in Ampanai explodes and destroys house belonging to Appudurai.

Two soldiers are injured in a landmine blast at Parappukadanthan, when over a hundred soldiers go out on search and destroy operation. Two houses are bomb

MARCH 17

Armed forces returning to Palaly army camp in armoured transport vehicles carrying arms and ammunition from Kankasanturai fire indiscriminately enroute. M. Atputhan (26) of Kankasanturai and M. Linton (18) are killed on the spot. S. Uthayakumar (26) S. Balakrishnan (19), A. Pathmanathan (37), S. Chandramohan (20) are seriously injured and admitted to Tellippalai hospital.

In Parappukadanthan, Mannar, soldiers out on search operations raid a LTTE hideout and are trapped in a bomb device set by the guerrillas before they abandoned the said hideout. Two soldiers are killed and several are injured.

LTTE guerrillas mount offensive on security forces from Palaly and Vasavilan camps who attempt to cross into Acheveli passing Tholagatti Ashram. A gun battle ensues and goes on for nearly two hours. Details of losses not available.

Ten civilians are killed as planes and helicopters bomb and strafe Visvamadu. Several houses are damaged and plantations destroyed. At about the same time, troops from Kilinochchi, Paranthan and Elephant Pass camps converge on Visvamadu from all directions and conduct search operations. A number of people are arrested. A masked individual is seen in the company of the rampaging forces.

A soldier in the Mandaitivu mini camp commits suicide by shooting himself following refusal of leave by his superior. His body airlifted to Palaly in the first instance is flown to Colombo later.

At Navatkuli, militants fire continuously and prevent a helicopter from landing within army camp.

SITUATION REPORT

Transport system on road to collapse

("WEEKEND" April, 19th 1987)

The Entire mass transportation system in the country may collapse in a few years if Government does not take suitable action to remedy the situation, a spate of surveys have revealed.

Lack of finances have hampered the import of new vehicles for transport and the state sector bus and rail transport as well as the private bus system would be seriously depleted as a result, they warn.

Of the present fleet of 7,100 buses in the state sector, nearly 2150 are over 16 years old and beyond repair, a Transport Board official told WEEKEND

As much as 2000 of the balance too, would soon be off the roads and nearly 1,000 buses, are operated at great expense, a Central Bank survey has found.

While 1177 buses were taken off during the past two years, only 383 new buses were imported in their place, the CTB spokesman added. If the government does not remedy the situation, the whole system would collapse within three years, observers warned.

But lack of funds rule out further imports of buses and no buses run to schedule, the official said. During the past five years the CTB has incurred a net loss of 2,310 millions, records show.

According to a Railway spokesman, of the 48 engines presently in service over 20 have been used for more than 20 years and are not suitable for further use. Over 75 per cent of the power sets breakdown frequently as they are long past their normal life span of five years, he said.

Though the import of power sets was approved over 15 months ago by the Cabinet no steps have yet been taken to do so, he pointed out while the amount of mileage covered is decreasing rapidly due to the poor condition of the engines and carriages the Railway Department too has incurred a net loss of Rs. 2,700 million over the past five years, "WEEKEND" learns.

The deterioration of the state transport system has resulted in 50 per cent of travellers opting for the private bus system which is facing its own problems, a Ministry of Private Transport official said.

Of the 12,000 private buses presently on the roads, 4,000 are in a totally dilapidated condition and if the government does not provide any relief measures to the industry by 1989, half the buses would have to be taken off, the official said.

At the height of imports many private buses were brought into the country but by 1985, it had dropped by 22 per cent, he explained.

President Jayewardene speaks..

(Sun, April 20, 1987)

"The Sinhala people acted foolishly by creating trouble in the country in July 1983, when some army personnel were killed. Hereafter if persons committing such acts are detected they will be sentenced to death. The whole world fell out with Sri Lanka, on account of these actions."

So said President J. R. Jayewardene while addressing a meeting of the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union in Nuwara Eliya on Saturday.

President Jayewardene said that terrorists have power nowhere in the country, except Jaffna. It is the Government that pays salaries to public sector officials in Jaffna. But the governing power is in the hands of terrorists, who hold guns in their hands.

The President continued: "We are prepared to regain that power. It will cost many lives. That is why we are trying a political solution to this problem.

He said that the government was prepared to fight the terrorist face to face. But terrorists do not follow such precepts. They hurl bombs, kill the innocent and go into hiding.

"Money spent on defence, exceeds expenditure incurred on Mahaweli. It is hoped to spend more. Guns, planes, ships and ammunition have been obtained. Soldiers have been enlisted. They have been trained.

India says that Prabhakaran will be brought to the negotiating table.

Otherwise, we also will be compelled to use guns.

"Effort and hard work are necessary to acquire leadership. It is not easily acquired. Some take to leadership in the last stages of their lives.

"Everyday you read in the newspapers about bombings and killing of human beings. Mostly these are published in newspapers. An SLFP MP has said that these are the items found in a newspaper. It is true.

"One reason for the increase of crimes in Sri Lanka, is the terrorist activity in the North and East. The Government is making every effort to stem it. This movement started during the time of Ms. Sirimavo Bandaranaike Mr. Thiagarajah of the SLFP was shot. Later Duraiappah (Mayor of Jaffna) of the same party was shot. It was Prabhakaran who shot him. Why didn't Ms. Bandaranaike take him into custody? If she is finding fault with us, we ask her why she could not do it.

"There is no need to throw political stones. We have got to solve this problem. This problem became grave unexpectedly.

"The Sinhalese people committed a foolish act by creating trouble in the country when 13 soldiers were killed in 1983. If such persons are caught in the future, they will be sent to the gallows. Innocents should not be harassed. The world went against us because of the 1983 troubles.

"There is no discrimination in the payment of salaries to males and females in the estate sector. The stateless have got citizenship. It is hoped to vest estate workers with the houses in which they are living now. The foundation has been laid to start a broad educational programme in the estates and plantations.

President of the Lanka Jathika Estate Workers Union, Land, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake said, 60,000 Tamil families of the central hills, will be settled in the Mahaweli. Followers of the Tiger movement should not be allowed, to enter the estates. Inform the President, the MP of the area or the SP, if an injustice is committed by police, he said.....

SITUATION REPORT

Obituaries

In a land where Death by violence is a common occurrence and the names of the victims rarely get obituary notices here are some "fortunate" few who passed away in to the void duly noticed by Sri Lankan newspapers :-

THIAGARAJAN, Pathnavatny - Wife of P. Thiagarajan (Rtd. Acct. C. T. B.) mother of Sellathurai, Rajathurai, Bankajam (Bangalore), Nesan, Ratnam, Ambujin Rajam and Gnanam. Burial at Madampitiya Cemetery on 12th April, 1987. 10/7, 14th Lane, Jinananda Mawatha, Kotahena.

VELUPPILLAI, Kandappu - (Rtd. Dy. Chief Acct. Ministry of Health). Husband of Mrs. Kandappu father of Wimalaraneey Jayaraneey, Sivanesan and Sriraneey. Mappanavoory, Karainagar.

REV. CHINNIH, Miss Malar Chinniah (Minister, Methodist Church). Sister of Thavam Arudpiragasam, Suhenthiram Thalayasingam, Swarnam Nallanayagam (Canada) and Thavarajah Chinniah. Funeral at Kanatte on 15th April, 1987 31/4A. Sea Avenue, Colombo - 3.

SAMUEL, Christopher Mahendran (Mahen, Flt. Steward, Ari Lanka). Son of Wille and Noble and brother of Rajen and Sharmini. Died under tragic circumstances. Interment at Jawatte Cemetery, 16, Canal Lane, Colombo - 6

NADARAJAH, Canny - Wife of Nadarajah (Rtd. Storekeeper) mother of Retnasingam, Balasingam, Rajeswari and Rajasingam. Buried at Tellippalai on 9th April, 1987. 38/2, Railway Avenue, Nugegoda.

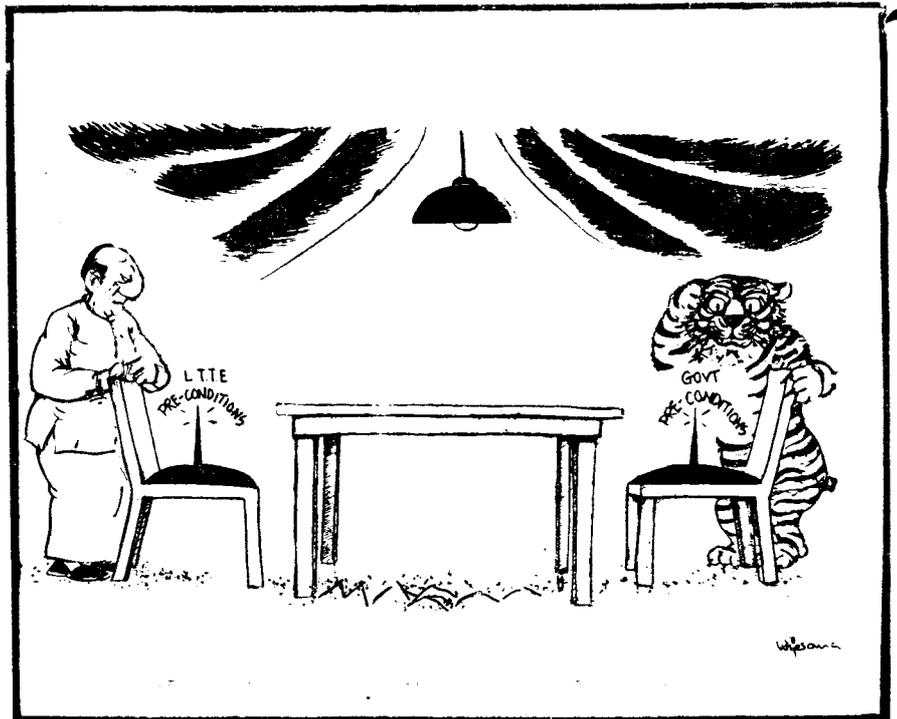
THAMBO, Mrs. Parvathypillai - Mother of Pathmavathy, Theyagarajah late Selvarajah, Maheswary, Yogeswary, Puwaneswary, Sarojini Devi, Sakunthaladevi Kamaladevi and Gunapocshani. Cremation at Kombaiyanmanal on 29th March, 1987. 2, Chetty Street Lane, Nallur, Jaffna.

KANAPATHY - Proprietor, Wootan Estate, Kotagala. Husband of Sarojini. father of Mohan, Ravindran, Siritharan Kamaladevi and Krishnaveni. Cremation on 19th April, at Wootan Estate, Kotagala.



Courtesy : HINDU

23 April 1987



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