

**SRI
LANKA**

**SITUATION
REPORT**

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தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

SITUATION REPORT

A selection of recent reports from Sri Lankan newspapers, without comment. Readers are requested to form their own conclusions.

That Airlanka plane blast in Colombo

An Airlanka Tristar plane was ripped apart by a terrorist bomb yesterday, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 41. The incident occurred at the Colombo Airport, Katunayake yesterday morning minutes before the aircraft was to take off for a Maldivian capital of Male with 128 passengers..... Forty-one passengers were reported injured but according to official statistics only 24 were receiving medical treatment in five hospitals. One Japanese passenger succumbed to his injuries soon after admission to the Colombo General Hospital. Nineteen passengers including an infant died instantaneously. Among the dead were French, British, Japanese and other European tourists bound for the Maldivian archipelago on vacation....."(Weekend-4.5.86)

LTTE Denies

A Spokesman in London for a Tamil guerrilla group seeking a separate state in Sri Lanka today reiterated that his organization was not responsible for the bombing of an Airlanka airliner at Colombo Airport on Saturday. The Sri Lankan government has blamed the blast on the Tamil rebels, but bomb investigators have still found no clues linking it to the rebels. The spokesman for Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest separatist group, said the organization had condemned the bombing of the Tristar... "We repeat what our chief spokesman, Anton Balasingham, said last night from Madras: "This was an act of pure terrorism aimed to kill innocent civilians which deserves outright condemnation," he said. The London spokesman said the government in Colombo was trying to damage the movements image. (Sun-6.5.86)

Imposter "pilot" arrested

Barely 48 hours after explosion on board Airlanka's Tristar Jet, security at Colombo Airport was breached once again yesterday when an intruder in a pilot's uniform walked on to the apron. The man who was identified as Sachithananda Sellamuttu Kumaraswamy was apprehended and handed over to CID detectives yesterday. Two Airlanka employees at the airport, alleged to have aided the suspect have also been taken in for questioning. The suspect, Kumaraswamy a resident of Colombo is learnt to have told detectives that he had been a frequent visitor to the airport and had also taken photographs..... The CID is attempting to ascertain whether this suspect had any connection in Saturday's bomb blast. This is the first arrest made by the CID since the bomb explosion, police said...." (Sun-6.5.86)

Tourist cancellations

A number of tourists due to arrive in Sri Lanka in the course of this week have cancelled their flight and hotel reservations, as a result of last Saturday's Air Lanka bomb explosion. Ceylon Tourist Board Chairman H.P. Siriwardhana told 'SUN' yesterday that he was

expecting further cancellations, but added that it was too early to foresee to what extent the cancellations would occur. Mr. Siriwardhana noted that the bomb blast was bound to adversely affect the tourist industry for another couple of months. Bigwigs of the travel trade however feel that it was a shame that the tragedy had to take place at a time when the country's tourist industry was experiencing something of a boom in the past months, compared to the depths the industry was in during late 1983 and early 1984.

Travel Agencies in Colombo say that it is too early to record a sharp increase in cancellations as the news of the blast was just beginning to trickle down to foreign lands. A senior Tourist Board official said that he had been in touch with the Board's officers in Frankfurt and Paris, and that they had reported that people had been making inquiries regarding the dead and the injured. Chairman Siriwardhana observed that the credibility of the Board was at stake as tourists had been assured that the troubled areas in the country were miles away from Colombo and that Colombo was a safe place to be in....." (Sun-7.5.86)

96 hrs. after Airlanka blast: 11 killed in C.T.O. bomb

"Eleven people died and 114 were injured in a bomb explosion which wrecked the Central Telegraph Office in Colombo yesterday morning. The bomb, which army explosives experts said would have contained at least 60 kilograms of explosive brought down two floors of the 76-year old building and caused extensive damage to the expensive equipment inside. Fifty eight people with serious injuries were admitted to the Colombo General Hospital, and 56 others were treated at the OPD and discharged, officials said. But the number of people injured was believed to have far exceeded the official figure with large numbers seeking treatment in private hospitals and clinics.

The National Security Ministry in a statement issued last night said the government believed that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were responsible for the blast....." Yesterday's bomb, which claimed the lives of eleven and injured more than 100 people caused havoc in the three storied C.T.O. building wrecking the furniture and equipment there. The bomb had been placed near the telephone counter on the second floor which is entered from Lower Chatham Street and went off at 9.23 a.m.

"I thought my ear drums had burst when the bomb exploded. The lights went out and the building started falling apart around me. I was hit by a few planks and then the room was filled with a thick dust" Ms. M. Attygalla, who was working in the telex centre said. Still suffering from shock she recalled how, pushed by some of her colleagues in a mad rush to get out, she was carried along with them and fought her way out to daylight.

The floor on which the bomb had been placed was the busiest section of the building.

People who wanted to make long distance and overseas telephone calls, to send telexes, license radio and television stamps, pay telephone bills and buy stamps were attended to here. The telex booth including the machines in it was wrecked in the blast. All the clocks in the building had stopped at 9.23 and the ceiling fans were twisted into grotesque shapes. In the floor below, a large number of people were having their breakfast when the bomb exploded, bringing the two floors above down. They were buried almost instantly. Within half an hour of the explosion more than five thousand people were milling around outside the building and the police and army personnel involved in rescue operations were seriously hampered. With volunteers, they were digging in the debris in a frantic search for the people who were buried....." (Sun-8.5.86)

What SLFP M.P.s. said in Parliament

"Anil Moonasinghe (SLFP-Matugama) stressed the need for Training Ranges and Grenade Training Bays for every district. This is the need of the moment, he said. He said that a situation has now arisen where every citizen should be given training in the handling of firearms and grenade throwing, so that the country could confidently face any threat. He said that the Ministry of Defence has so far failed to contain terrorist activities.

"Mr. Moonasinghe also said that the Minister of National Security had said on the floor of the House that the guerrillas do not have any areas under their control, but what is the position today? The LTTE controls large areas in Jaffna. The LTTE is supposed to be the most powerful among the various terrorist groups". (The Island-8.5.86)

"some people do not want the war to end"

Lakshman Jayakody (SLFP-Attanagalla) - Speaking on the regulation under Firing Ranges and Military Training Act, said that the government must purchase weapons and explosives in consultation with the Army Commander. What happens today is that most arms and grenades purchased by the Defence Ministry are not the type that the army needs. The arms and explosives purchased do not at times fulfil required standards and specifications. This is a serious matter. This is not the way to fight a battle. Many lives both in and outside the battle are lost due to this, he said.

The Attanagalla M.P. added that Major T.M. Deen who was a fine officer was killed when the grenade in his hand suddenly exploded. It was found that the grenade that exploded was not the type that should have been got down. Moreover, the victim had also not been given proper instructions regarding the use of grenades of that calibre. If this officer went down fighting, we can understand, but he was killed in vain. The government must look twice before making purchases of arms and grenades, he advised.

(Continued on page 7)

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from March 13 — March 26 were carried in Issue No. 10 of Situation Report

MARCH 27

In Jaffna, several villages in Valigamam North subjected to air attacks for the second day. The attacks continue from 8 a.m to 6 p.m intermittently. The incidents began when soldiers from Palaly army camp emerged from the airport area and through the Palaly Teachers' Training College premises and lay in ambush. Later, over 200 other soldiers emerge on foot, but accompanied by a convoy of vehicles and proceed towards kadduvan. At this stage Tamil militants launch an attack on the army convoy leaving some casualties and forcing them to withdraw to camp. The aerial attacks by helicopters begin soon after this incident leaving some civilians injured and some property damaged.

Christian priest Rev. Sahayathasan who was going from Nellyyady to Thikkam along the beach road on his motor cycle narrowly escapes when he was shot at from the army camp. The priest who was going to church in connection with the Easter celebrations sustains injuries on his hands and knees.

Over 5000 Jaffna residents including women and children join 10-mile torch light procession raising slogans against govt. terrorism. Residents on the procession route volunteer with coconut oil to keep the torch flames alive.

In Kilinochchi, following the reported escape of a Tamil youth from the army camp, residents of Vaddakachchi, Uruthirapuram, Thirunagar and other areas are subjected to surprise checks by govt. forces.

A gang of 20 armed youths are reported to have robbed the home of three residents at Karainagar yesterday.

Residents of Velvettiturai, Thondamannaru areas complain that damage is being done to agricultural crops by men of the armed forces who walk through fields and farms from adjoining army camps. Meanwhile at Thondamannaru Sellasannathy temple the daily religious rites remain suspended for the 8th day.

In Trincomalee, Citizens' Committee protest over the molesting of 4 married women by armed forces in brought daylight at Kattaiparichchan.

3 farmers injured and 4 buffaloes shot dead by armed forces at the 5th division in Eravur in Batticaloa district.

At Kilinochchi armed "commandos" in civilian attire set fire to heaps of paddy in a 10-acre

field at the 8th culvert.

Colombo newspaper "Sun" reports that the emblem "Red Army" was engraved on the cylinder which exploded at Ceylon petroleum Corporation filling station in Colombo which killed one person and injured 3 others.

LTTE guerrilla "Karthik" (Kanthaiah Jeganathan) of Mullaitivu shot dead at Paranthan when he tried to hurl a hand grenade at an army patrol in Paranthan.

MARCH 28

5 soldiers reported killed and 3 injured at Kinniya in Trincomalee district in a landmine ambush. Liberation Tigers later issue a statement stating that 9 soldiers including a lieutenant were killed and 8 others injured in the incident. The statement said the army party was going from Vilgam vihara army camp to Trincomalee, 25 of them by foot and 11 in armoured cars. One armoured car was completely destroyed. Meanwhile it is reported that practically all Tamils in Kinniya area had fled to Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Batticaloa, even before the incident.

Temporary army camp set up at Omanthai afford protection to Railway authorities engaged in salvage operations of the Yal Devi train set on fire by militants on March 25th.

Jaffna doctors go on sudden "strike", following forcible removal of Dr. Krishnarajah's car from his residence at Rasavinthotam.

In Batticaloa members of the Special Task Force go in over 15 army trucks, surround Karaithivu village in the early hours of the morning, enter homes and take away nearly 350 youths to the Kaluwanchchikudi commando camp.

According to Colombo report, two Tamil youths were arrested in Matale with sub machine guns on the 26th.

A retired officer Mr. A. Ganeshapillai (62) shot dead by firing from the Point Pedro army camp when he went with married daughter and grandchild to their home which they had evacuated earlier at Courts Road.

At Manipay the home of a brother and sister robbed last night by a gang of masked men with automatic weapons. The houses belong to the proprietor of Mallika Stores.

3 more houses near the Velvettiturai army camp and two more houses in Kadduvan blown up by govt. forces.

Vavuniya District Courts building situated

opposite the police station damaged by a bomb.

Nedunkerni residents complain to Mullaitivu Citizens' Committee of the "disappearance" of 6 of the 18 persons arrested by the armed forces recently. The other 12 are known to be detained at Vavuniya.

The villages of Ilupaikkulam and Sirupiddi in Trincomalee district come under aerial attack by a plane and a helicopter. Details of casualties not known.

MARCH 29

"Very soon the security forces will come out of camps (in Jaffna) in full strength and pursue the terrorists wherever they run and destroy them", says the National Security Ministry in a statement in Colombo. (The Island)

At Kayts, in Jaffna militants open fire on a helicopter. It is believed that the helicopter was damaged. Following this, civilian population is subjected to shelling from Kayts and Karainagar naval bases.

At Vasavilan a pillion driver on a motor bicycle shot dead by helicopter fire, while the driver escapes. Subsequently a van driver and 7 others are injured when two helicopters kept on strafing the area for nearly one hour.

Out of 3 soldiers injured by militant fire on Point Pedro army camp, one succumbs to injuries at Anuradhapura hospital.

A boat in the Point Pedro sea is attacked by a helicopter. The inmates jump into the sea and escape.

Trincomalee Citizens' Committee who protested over the absence of information regarding 23 Tamils who were arrested in Mutur towards the end of January, is told by Brigadier Harsha Gunaratne that he is not in a position to give them any information on that matter.

In Colombo, National Security Ministry announces that a mystery ship belonging to a East European country was sighted 2 miles away from Thirukovil in the east coast and when helicopters began to circle over the area the ship moved away.

At Omanthai a new army camp is set up at the old village Committee premises with 150 soldiers under the charge of a lieutenant named Weerasinghe.

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

MARCH 30

Govt. sources in Colombo claim that a naval patrol "intercepted a boat in the Palk Strait killing 11 terrorists and destroying an arms cache they were bringing into the Jaffna peninsula". The incident they say occurred in the waters of Mathagal.

175 Tamils rounded up in a search operation by armed forces at Karaithivu on the 28th are now being questioned by Special Task Force Commandos and National Intelligence Bureau, states a Defence Ministry official in Colombo.

At Vantharumoolai in Batticaloa two Tamils shot dead by govt. forces and the tractor in which they were travelling was burnt.

Jaffna doctors drop their protest and get back to work following the recovery of Dr. Krishnarajah's car.

About 100 Sinhala families who evacuated from Vavuniya district are now resettled at Aththulgama in the Mihintale electorate in Anuradhapura district.

Police wireless operator A. Gnanaprasadam who was arrested 8 days ago when travelling in a bus is sent to Vavuniya army camp for an inquiry.

Private buses are now operating between Colombo and Jaffna charging Rs. 200 per passenger.

A Senior Customs officer K.K. Subramaniam from Colombo and a Tamil trader in the south K. Markandu of Kaduwela were both kidnapped by unknown persons at their home in Karainagar.

Along the north and east coast 3 ships of unknown origin but reported to be manned by foreigners has been sighted for the past 4 days according to fishermen.

At Kadduvan a large rice mill along with Rs. 5 lakhs worth property were burnt down by over 100 army men in civils. 10 houses close to the mill were also burnt down. It is reported that Palaly army authorities are systematically destroying all houses within 1000 meters of the army camp. With helicopters providing air cover for the destruction, residents in adjoining villages say the entire Kadduvan area appeared to be enveloped in smoke.

MARCH 31

In Batticaloa at Kaluwankerni, two special Task Force commandos killed another injured and 2 Tamil militants kill themselves by swallowing cyanide in the course of a one-hour confrontation.

Elsewhere in Batticaloa, Commandos search the house of the Inquirer into Sudden Deaths Mr. T. Sivanathan, even strip his house

roof looking for hidden weapons, but the search reveals nothing.

In Mannar, nearly 250 Sinhala workers in a govt. owned grape farm are reported to have been threatened to leave the area by unidentified Tamil militants group.

10 Tamils living in areas close to Mullaitivu army camp taken away for questioning in the course of an intensive search.

Army authorities build a new road link between Mannar and Puttalam along the sea coast. This road when completed is expected to help give the armed forces more mobility in the area.

The following official report on Tamils under detention is released from Colombo: 222 Tamils in Welikade jail as on 23rd March 1986; 26 of them convicted under Prevention of Terrorism Act; 44 others detained under the PTA; another 151 served charge sheets under the PTA. 1100 in Boosa detention camp and 7 Tamil women in Negombo jail. (Uthayan-Jaffna)

One of the mystery ships sighted off the northern coast seen going up in flames last night. Several residents claim that they saw planes approaching the area.

Thousands of residents in the Palaly, Vasavilan, Kadduvan and Myliddy areas have now moved to Chunnakam as refugees.

3 Tamil civilians including a 19-year old mentally deranged youth killed in the course of a search operation by armed forces, at Vavuniya.

In Colombo, a time bomb weighing 5 kg was defused by the army bomb disposal unit at the Technical College junction. The impact of explosion created a one foot deep 4 feet wide crater at the spot and shattered window panes of buildings in the vicinity.

APRIL 1

At Palaly black uniformed commandos and hundreds of soldiers who had sneaked into ambush positions in farmlands and bushes, fire at civilians killing two and injuring 4 others. Those killed were Chellappa Rasa (48) a father of 5, and Thuraiamy (38) an onion trader. Meanwhile several houses and a prominent shop at Kadduvan junction were damaged by shelling from Palaly camp.

In Point Pedro two soldiers and one militant believed killed in a direct confrontation. Following the withdrawal to the camp by soldiers the area was shelled from the Point Pedro army camp. Among those injured: V. Sivasubramaniam (50) who was in the act of worshipping at Point Pedro Sivan temple.

At Nainathivu old abandoned Buddhist Vihara reported to have been damaged by

bomb last night and consequently there was no boat service to Nainathivu today.

In Batticaloa, Sinhalese owner of a eating house "Passara Hotel" R.M. Rajapaksa (42) his son Chandrapala (28) and another family member Vijayapala (80) were all killed when unidentified youths on two bicycles hurl hand grenades. In another grenade attack a police sentry at the police station narrowly escapes being killed.

Tension at Thondamannaru when army men who try to emerge out of the camp were repulsed by Tamil militants.

Residents in villages close to Elephant Pass move for safety to other areas.

A special bus service has been arranged from Jaffna to Anuradhapura to enable Colombo-bound passengers to take train at Anuradhapura.

Residents of Omanthai living in fear with establishment of a new army camp in the area.

In Colombo, Defence Ministry official claims that a massive arms consignment worth some 2 million rupees meant for Tamil militants was intercepted on the eastern coast.

APRIL 2

At Kokkavil near Murukandy one army officer, 2nd Lt. M.A.M.G. Mallawarachchi and 8 soldiers killed and over 15 others injured in a landmine explosion and ambush. The incident occurred when an army convoy from the Gajaba regiment was proceeding from Kilinochchi to Vavuniya. Two army vehicles were reported destroyed. It is also believed that 3 militants were killed in action. Life at Kilinochchi district gets paralysed consequent to these incidents.

3 Tamil civilians killed several others injured, and houses damaged when helicopters strafe llavalai, Senthankulam, Kalladdy, Karukampanai, Vilan and other areas for nearly 4 hours.

At Valvettiturai fishermen who set out to sea despite a ban on fishing were seized by armed soldiers who detain them in the army camp and later compel them to catch fish for them. They were released later.

Militants clash with soldiers from Valvettiturai army camp in late hours of last night. This was followed by heavy shelling from the army camp and the fleeing of residents to places for safety.

The story is told of how a young husband and his expectant wife who were travelling by bus from Jaffna to Batticaloa were parted beyond Vavuniya when the husband was taken for questioning by army commandos for no given reason. The wife continues the journey but on the way passing a Sinhala village she develops birth pains. Admitted to the local hospital, she delivers the baby but dies soon after.

Diary of Events

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Another woman passenger from Kalmunai who had travelled with her takes the infant away for safety. The husband who apparently does not know what happened to his wife continues to be detained, while the wife's dead body lies elsewhere and the child born to him is now in the care of Mrs. Amarasingham of Rest House Road, Kalmunai.

Several new armoured cars and armoured vehicles were seen at Vavuniya moving northwards.

Complaints are made by residents in the Palaly area that some kind of acid was thrown from helicopters. Two victims Vinothkumar (22) and Rajan (23) were rushed to Jaffna general hospital for emergency treatment.

Two Tamil policemen A.A. Yogarajah and N. Alagarajah both attached to Jaffna police get sudden transfer orders to Trincomalee and Colombo.

APRIL 3

Govt. launches massive "search operation" in the Kokkavil area following yesterday's army losses in the landmine explosion and ambush attack by LTTE guerrillas. Additional troops from Anuradhapura inducted into the area. More injured soldiers reported to have succumbed to their injuries. LTTE estimates total army casualties as around 25, while paying tribute to four of their guerrillas who were also killed in the attack. In Colombo, govt. sources claim that the "terrorist plan" was to set off a series of 100 grenade explosions over 600 yards simultaneously, with the grenades strung together and operated by switches, but the plan was foiled. LTTE also claims that one Saladin armoured car and two lorries in the convoy were destroyed. Two civilians also killed in army reprisal.

In the absence of Oxygen cylinders, Jaffna hospital surgeons carry out operations with the help of the Field Anaesthesia Machine brought from Colombo.

Over 50 army men were noticed emerging out of the Palaly army camp and taking cover in abandoned homes, followed by indiscriminate fire from helicopters, causing panic in adjoining villages. But no incidents reported and army men withdraw.

Two Tamils, S.Pathmaseelan and K. Manoharan who were arrested in Colombo on Feb. 5, on suspicion of possessing false passports, acquitted by Colombo magistrate when the Police informed court that they did not wish to proceed with the case.

Bomb shells with the marking: 17 - America-1985, M13 - G-M-M were discovered by residents after the aerial bombing of Keerimalai, Senthankulam, Ilavala, Alaveddy areas yesterday.

In Colombo, Police arrest a man identified only as "Bacha" who they believe is a member of PLOT and was involved in the six million rupee robbery at Nikaweratiya People's Bank last year.

APRIL 4

Indiscriminate army firing under helicopter aerial cover in the Palaly area. A helicopter which was fired at by militant rocket launchers, swiftly ascends height but not before strafing the area heavily. Residents of Kadduvan, Kurumbaciddy, and Myliddy continue to abandon their homes and flee from the area. More reports of "acid-throwing" from helicopters which leave large boils on the victims and in some cases have paralysed parts of their bodies.

Helicopters drop leaflets calling upon Valvetiturai residents to vacate the area and warning them that if Tamil militants attack the army camp they would be forced to fire back and civilian lives would be in jeopardy.

Jaffna commercial establishments close doors and road blocks are laid in protest against the robbery at New Victors at Stanley Road on the 1st.

13 Tamil families from Triyayai village, 30 miles north of Trincomalee arrive by foot in Trincomalee town, because of paucity of food and provisions in their area. They are accommodated at the refugee camp at St. Joseph's College.

Nearly 80 Tamil men, women and children from Trincomalee district who were trying to escape to India by sea, were intercepted by a Navy boat off the Chundikulam coast and taken to the Naval camp, at Trincomalee. The "boat people" who told the Naval authorities that they had lost everything they had and were living in fear of their lives, were assured that they would be looked after in refugee camps. Four of the men however were detained for further questioning, and the boats in which they travelled were set on fire and sunk by the navy men.

Nearly 5,000 poor people in the Thondamanaru area who were depending on the Selasannathy Temple for their daily food are now left starving after the non-functioning of the temple administration following the army attack on the temple. This Hindu temple has been traditionally known for its "Anathanam", where nobody who goes there for food has been known to be turned away.

APRIL 5

LTTE militants and security forces clash at Araśady chenai in Batticaloa district. Rocket launchers, guns and bombs are used in the clash. The battle erupts when convoy of army

tries to move from Karadiyanaru commando camp to Karaveddy village to conduct "search and destroy" operation. LTTE says a number of soldiers were killed, a truck and an armoured car were destroyed. LTTE member Puviraj dies in the clash.

5 businessmen from Jaffna are taken into custody by Kalmunai police commandos and after interrogation released.

Dr. Christopher Noel (26) a Homeopathy doctor from Mullaitivu who came as a refugee to Kanagapuram at Kilinochchi is reported to have been burnt alive at Ottankulam along with a Dustan van, by govt. forces.

Food shortage in Mannar. Lack of transport facilities is the cause, residents say.

Two persons branded as "anti-socials" are found shot dead and tied to lamp posts at Kiran junction in Batticaloa district.

Nineteen persons are transferred from army camp Vavuniya to Boosa in the south.

Kurumbacitty, Palaly, Vasavilan, Myliddy and Kadduvan are subjected to helicopter attack. The attack lasts an hour.

Parents and relatives of 500 persons arrested by security forces in Batticaloa complain to Mr. Sam Thambimuttu, Secretary, Citizens' Committee Batticaloa, about their anxiety regarding the fate of those taken into custody.

APRIL 6

Two soldiers injured, when militants attack army camp housed in Jaffna Dutch Fort. Govt. claims that attack was repulsed and a number of militant are killed or injured. Jaffna town in tension. Shops and boutiques remain closed.

Colombo newspaper 'The Island' reports that "Victor Marshall", LTTE commanding officer of Kilinochchi district was shot dead by security forces in the course of the Kokkavil attack on the 2nd.

Lt. Gen. Cyril Ranatunga, advises civilians around four security camps in the north, Point Pedro, Valvetiturai, Palaly and Thondamanaru to vacate their homes because militants are pounding army camps with mortars and rockets. Warning leaflets are air dropped from helicopters.

Villagers of Neerveli protest against robberies by blocking all approaches to their village after unknown persons entered a house and robbed cash and jewellery and articles worth Rs. 150, 000.

One dead and two injured in a trade union clash in Maha Uva estate managed by Janata Estate Development Board.

Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization in a Press-Release in Madras claims responsibility for the sea mine which destroyed a Sri Lankan navy gun-boat yesterday.

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Fishermen who ventured to fish in the Valvettiturai sea are attacked by the navy and their boats and nets damaged. Murali (25), Tharmu (40), Vinayagamoorthy (50), Periyathambi (36), Somu (32), Puthiraseegamany (28), Rasu (32) are the victims.

Jaffna town under attack by bombs and shells. Two persons are killed and 10 injured. Shops, hotels and houses damaged. When army tried to come out of the Jaffna fortress, militants attack them with hand grenades. Army relatives Manuel Anthonipillai (30) father of 4 children and Xavier Sahayarusan (26) father of a child killed. Those injured are Winslaus Rajeswari (26) and mother of 4 children. Alphonseus Sahadevi (30), Nagendran Judekumar (26) all of Gurunagar. Cyril papa (14), Shanmugarasa (16) of Thirunelveli, Pathmanathan Suganthan (17) of Ariyalai, A. Sundari (30) Alexander Francis (26) both of Gurunagar. N. Yogeswaran (19) of Jaffna.

Air force men conduct search in helicopters for a mystery ship detected in the sea off Batticaloa.

Two soldiers injured when militants shell Jaffna fort army camp. The injured are flown to Colombo.

APRIL 7

Following the robberies at Neerveli and Kon-davil, the public for the second day continue to demonstrate by blocking the Point Pedro and Palaly roads with stones and trees. They say that they would demonstrate until the robbed articles and cash are returned.

In a confrontation between govt. troops and militants this afternoon at Thambiluwela a number of casualties is reported.

Rs. 24,000 is robbed from the Petrol Shed run by the co-operative depot in Vavuniya district. Two armed persons dressed in shirt and sarong threatened five employees of the depot and robbed the cash.

Food items from the Jaffna railway station stores is robbed for the second time today.

Ambalavanar Gnaprakasam (38) of Karainagar, who was taken into custody for questioning by the Oddusuddan police is released today but his identity card is retained by the police.

Omanthai sub-post office has been closed following the opening of an army camp. People desert the place in fear, hence the closure.

Karunakaran, who tried to cross the Batticaloa lagoon, during a search by armed forces at Navatkuli dies of shooting by the latter.

Tension is reported when armed forces march forcibly about 150 civilians from Palaly

camp to Kankesanthurai camp as protective cover for them from militant attack: they are later released at Vasavilan. Helicopter attacks at Myliddy, Thaiyiddy and Oorani areas but no casualties reported.

Highway robbers halt a RTB bus and two lorries in Elpitiya and Make off with valuables worth Rs. 20,000.

APRIL 8

Al Haj M.M.A. Azeez (53) Muslim principal of Kathankudi govt. mixed school is assaulted by 20 Muslim Home Guards. He is admitted to the Batticaloa hospital with a fractured arm.

Gun fire is heard at Batticaloa for about fifteen minutes from 7 p.m.

The commander of the armed forces in Nainathivu order residents of Nainathivu not to step out of their homes after 8 p.m. and if they do so they will be shot at. The residents are frightened by the new order.

Passengers are stopped at Vavuniya Kachcheri army camp and searched. They are put into much inconvenience by this act.

Kilinochchi area is in tension when the bursting of a bomb is heard from the direction of the army camp.

About 400 persons march to the residence of the Junior Minister and M.P. for Sammanthurai and plead for protection from the armed forces who are harassing the people under the guise of searching.

A newly recruited soldier tries to shoot himself in an attempt to commit suicide at Kilinochchi army camp but is saved by his colleagues.

APRIL 9

Decomposed bodies of 3 farmers arrested by the Home Guards at Pattikudiyiruppu in Batticaloa district is found but the fate of the fourth farmer arrested along with them is not known. The Home Guards and soldiers summoned the villagers while they were participating in a temple festival at Pattikudiyiruppu. These farmers arrived from Kumulamunai with Rs. 7000 to purchase cattle. They were arrested by the Home Guards.

Armed forces from a helicopter shoot at youths playing cricket in a field at Irupalai in Kopya electorate in Jaffna.

Postal peons travelling in a CTB bus from Mankulam to Jaffna with mail bags are mercilessly assaulted by the armed forces while checking the passengers at Mankulam.

Inspector Parakrama Perera, Constable Piyasena and a civilian were killed by landmine while travelling from Talaimannar in a jeep says a govt. report.

Co-ordinating officer for Vavuniya proclaims forests in the Vavuniya district as prohibited zone and movement of persons in these forests are forbidden. Those who violate this order could be arrested by the armed forces.

250 sovereigns worth of jewels, including 125 sovereigns belonging to Vaddukoddai temple is robbed by unknown persons.

A home-made bomb fell from the waist of a person taken to the police station for inquiry injures him, a policeman and two others. This incident occurred at the Dematagoda police station, in Colombo.

5 Buddhist priests start a fast into death in front of the Buddha statue at Bambalapitiya, Colombo. Protesting at the govt. attitude towards the nurses strike.

A helicopter attacks a van at Irupalai. 5 houses and 2 shops are damaged. The van collides with a tractor.

Polonaruwa police arrest a group of four armed youths, who according to them are on the rampage in the village of Ellewewa, in the Maduru Oya settlement. The police claim that these youths are "terrorists"

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2 soldiers killed and 4 injured in a landmine explosion near Sirimapura settlement at Nilaveli in Trincomalee district. The dead soldiers are identified as Corporal H.M.Cyril from Kandy and Lance Corporal Sunil Kumar Gunasighe of Galewala.

In Colombo, govt. claims that elsewhere, at Kokkilai, 3 "terrorists" were killed in an encounter with the army.

In 2 army camps in Jaffna Peninsula, at Navatkuli and at Valvettiturai, attempts by army units to emerge and spread out, are foiled by militant fire and grenade attacks.

7 Buddhist priests who were observing a fast to death in front of a Buddha statue at Bambalapitiya protesting against govt. indifference to the nurses' strike are abducted by a gang of unknown persons in jeeps and trucks.

The famed Sellasannathy Hindu temple suffers heavy damage by army shelling from the nearby Thondamanaru army camp. The temple tower, the temple belfry and other parts of the temple complex are damaged.

3,000 estate workers at Talawakelle launch a strike protesting the arrest of a worker Ramasamy Sinnathamby of Agrapatana.

A 29-year old Tamil woman, mother of 2 children, who was allegedly raped by army men at Chenai village in Muttur, is admitted to Trincomalee hospital. Trincomalee Citizens' Committee to take up the matter with army authorities.

(Continued from page 2)

"Israeli boats obsolete"

The Attanagalla M.P. charged that one-third of the boats bought from Israel had been found to be unseaworthy within two years. A large sum of money was expended for the purchase of these boats from Israel.

Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya: "How do you say that they are unseaworthy?"

Mr. Jayakody: I will tell you. I did not want to divulge the number of boats purchased because it could give the enemy our fire power. Because you have asked I say that six boats purchased between 1983 and 1984 are obsolete and unseaworthy.

Mr. Jayasuriya: You make a broad statement charging that the boats purchased are obsolete.

It is unfair to make statements of that nature. If you want to know more about these boats, ask the person involved and find out without making broad statements like this.

Mr. Jayakody: I don't like to come out with all that I know. I don't want the enemy to be aware of the fire power.

Deputy Speaker: In discussing a matter like this we must bear in mind the security of the country.

Mr. Jayakody said that one can understand if the naval authorities had said "yes" to the purchase of these boats. Equipment for the army must be selected and approved by the Army Commander before purchasing. The government is purchasing equipment from

Israel. Is the government prepared to send local personnel to Israel for training to handle this equipment despite the fact that Sri Lanka is a non-aligned country.

Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Denzil Fernando raising a point of order asked what boats had to do with the regulation under discussion. You can't raise all this without giving notice.

Mr. Jayakody: The National Security Minister is not here. That is not my fault. There has been a bomb explosion at the C.T.O. this morning. What is happening? There were some people - the commission agents - who did not want the ongoing war to end. They make massive commissions on arms purchases.... (The Island-8.5.86)

A Lone voice of Sanity in the Government ranks!

Do all Sinhala politicians and leaders support President Jayewardene in his policy of armed repression in the Tamil areas of North and East? There is at least one politician, a govt. Deputy Minister at that, who has been always thinking differently and talking differently but whose views never get reported in the English language and Sinhala language media in Sri Lanka. He is Mr. Shelton Ranarajah, Deputy Minister of Justice and MP for Sen-gadagala in President Jayewardene's own govt., but a lone voice of sanity in the government ranks.

Here is a report (translated) from the Colombo Tamil daily "Virakesari" of views expressed by Mr. Ranarajah at a seminar organised by the Central Province peace Council on the theme of restoring peace among ethnic groups. This report appeared in the Virakesari of 28th April '86:-

"Thousands of Tamils who had done no wrong to the Sinhalese were subjected to several atrocities in the years 1977 and 1983. This inevitably led to the Tamils lose trust in the Sinhala people. If that trust has to be restored it is necessary that a delegation of well-intentioned Sinhala people should visit the North and East and offer a public apology to the people there. That is the only way peace could be brought about," Mr. Ranarajah said.

Ven. Ampitiya Sri Dhammakeerthi Thera chaired the seminar, and a large number of Sinhala youths and representatives of Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Islamic institutions as well as several university academics took part in the seminar.

"Continuing, Mr. Shelton Ranarajah said, that all persons living in the country, to whichever race or creed they belong, whatever the language they spoke, were entitled to the same human rights. It is only on the acceptance of this fundamental principle, that the problem could be solved. All individual associations and institutions, who genuinely yearn for the country's progress should contribute all what they could, towards the objective of achieving an acceptable political settlement."

"The ethnic conflict could be said to have originated with the promulgation of Sinhala as the state language. The Tamils asked for equal rights and when they campaigned, they did so through the path of ahimsa. They did not take to arms in 1958. They reposed trust in the Sinhala people and entered into the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact. Because of the opposition by some political opportunities the agreement was torn up. By the year 1972, Tamil youths had come to believe that Tamils as a community were not only being deprived of educational opportunities, employment prospects, but also of land that rightly belonged to them. The Tamil political leadership which thought that the govt. of the country was systematically cheating them of their legitimate rights thought that only in a separate state could their rights be preserved."

"They placed this as a mandate before the Tamil people in 1976 and were returned to parliament on that mandate in 1977. Meanwhile, Tamil youths who had lost their faith in gaining their rights through parliament resorted to an armed struggle. The Sinhala people instead of trying to understand the root cause of the demand for a separate state, merely pushed themselves into a position where they began to view the Tamils with distrust, doubt and fear. If only the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact had been honoured in 1958, there would not have been any ethnic conflict now...."

"When in 1983 thousands of Tamils people who had lived together with the Sinhalese for generations in the south were attacked and their property destroyed, many of us went to their help. Many of us felt sorry for them. But how many of those who were involved in the atrocities were identified or punished? Why were they not brought under the process of the law? Several thousands of homes belonging to Tamils were set on fire. What had been done to compensate for that? Hurt and humiliated by the treatment given to them the Tamils naturally lost faith in us. We have to win back that trust...."

"Today, the non-participation of Tamils in our administrative and public life is a loss to

our society. Tamil intellectuals, Tamil doctors, Tamil engineers and Tamil professionals in many walks of life have left this country and are lending their services to foreign countries. I have met several of them in the course of my travels in many parts of the world, and they all yearn to get back and work in their own ancestral soil, if only conditions could be created for them to come back and live with equal rights and dignity and honour...."

"In 1948, when we got independence, Tamils living in the Tea and Rubber plantations were deprived of their voting rights, voting rights which they were enjoying even under foreign colonial rule! Should we have done this to those people who had laboured to make our own country prosperous? Should not people who had worked for the good of the country enjoy the same rights as the others? If we are truly guided by humanitarian reasons, how can we deny these people those basic rights? Even at this late hour when the government has under-

taken to give citizenship to those who are "stateless" there are those who are trying to make propaganda that we have bartered away Sinhala rights. Because some of our Sinhala politicians might find it difficult to win seats at elections in the plantation areas, should we therefore deprive the rights of those who are contributing to the well-being of our country? We should all be guided by reason in our very thinking. If we are going to encourage or permit ethnic strife in our country any longer, that surely is going to lead us all to doom.

"It is time we realise that problems cannot be solved through force and guns. What good does it bring if we manage to kill each other? The millions that are being spent on armaments cannot bring any benefits either to the country or to the people. Tamil organisations in various parts of the world wasting their resources on helping to purchase arms are also contributing to the same ruin. It therefore behoves on all of us to approach our problems through more tolerance to each other, and by looking at each other, and by looking at each other with more kindness...."

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 into the void, duly noticed by Sri Lankan newspapers:—

SOOSAPILLAI—Christopher, ret'd. Port Cargo Corporation. Funeral on 1st May. No. 32, Hospital Lane, Kandy.

ANNAMALAY—Mrs. Meenambal, wife of V. Annamalay, Financial Secretary, Ceylon Workers' Congress. Funeral 3rd May. Orwell Estate, Gampola.

SUBRAMANIAM—Nagammah, wife of late V. Subramaniam (ret'd. Station Master), mother of Manonmany Veerakathy, Makenthiran (Botswana), Chandrasekeran (Audit), Vamadevan (Australia) and Balakrishnan (Singapore). Funeral 1st May. Avanthi, 202, Main St. Chundikuli.

SANDIRAN—Thayanithy, wife of R. Sandiran, mother of S.G. Premakanthan (Canada), and Prabakaran (Galle Face Hotel). Cremation Kanatte, Colombo 3rd May. 04/F/18, Rad-doluwa Housing Scheme, Raddoluwa.

GNANAPRAGASAM—Lucy Nesammah, wife of the late Henry T. Gnanapragasam,

retired Postmaster. Funeral 3rd May Dehiwela. 358/1, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo.

TALAIVER—Selvam, wife of late G.B.T. Talaiwer, mother of Vincent (Oman), Lizzie, Kamala (India), and Getsy (UK). 23, Dr. E.A. Cooray Mawatte, Wellawatte.

THANGIAH—Johnson, died in Dammam. 30/2, St. Lucia's Lane, Kotahena.

NAVARATNAM—T.N., formerly of Kaduna, Nigeria, father of Raveendran (UK), Sri Ranjini, Yogendran (UK), Sri Shanthini, Muralikrishnan (University, Jaffna), Sri Re-tnambika and Namasivayam. Cremation 5th May, at Kombayanmanal Cemetery. 14, Udayar Lane, Kandaradam, Jaffna.

MUTTULINGASAMY—T.S., retired Chief Accountant, Bank of Ceylon, husband of Parvathy, father of Sarogini Devi (Cyprus), Sivarajah (UK), Arunthathi (Papua New

Guinea), and Sivakumaran (USA), father-in-law of Sundareswaran (Cyprus), Shantha (UK), Prabakaran Pararajasingham (Papua New Guinea), died in London. Funeral 10th May. 14, Midholm Road, Shirley, Croydon.

BALASUBRAMANIAM—V.T., retired Postmaster. Cremation 1st May. "Padma Vasa", Chunnakam.

RENGANATHAN—P., Attorney-at-law, Trincomalee, died under tragic circumstances. Cremation 12th May. 37, Orr's Hill, Trincomalee.

MAHESAN—Arumugam, J.P.U.M., Attorney-at-law. Cremation 18th May. 29/3, Station Road, Wellawatte.

CHITTAMBALAM—Jeganayaki, wife of the late A.M. Chittambalam, mother of Ananda, cremation 18th May. 11, Castle Lane, Colombo 4.