

**SRI
LANKA
SITUATION
REPORT**

EDITOR
S. Sivanayagam

Published by the Tamil Information & Research Unit (TIRU),
Besant Nagar, Madras, India, on behalf of Tamil Information Centre,
3rd Floor, 24-28 Clapham High St. London SW4 7UR, U.K.

பிரிப்பகம்

SITUATION REPORT

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

Bank robbery: Monk held

Police yesterday took into custody a monk and another person in connection with the Galgamuwa bank heist and established the value of cash and jewellery robbed at five million rupees. The robbers stayed at the Panakaduwa temple in Wariyapola a day before the heist, police investigations have established...

The robbers escaped with their loot last Tuesday after staging a daring daylight heist at the Galgamuwa People's Bank.

(Sun - 1st October, 1986)

Helicopter crash - lands

An SLAF helicopter gunship was damaged and one soldier injured on Tuesday evening when it was forced to crash land while investigating a terrorist attack in Mamuduwa in the Vavuniya district, that left two farmers dead.

The helicopter worth Rs. 50 million was investigating an LTTE attack on the Kalikulam settlement where two farmers a Sinhalese and a Tamil were shot dead official sources said...

(Sun - 2nd October, 1986)

Hunger strike at Welikade

The three prisoners from the Welikade prison who were admitted to hospital after going on a hunger strike have been discharged, the Commissioner of Prisons C.T. Janz told Sun yesterday. Forty five prisoners had staged the two week old hunger strike to protest against conditions at the Boosa Detention Camp.

(Sun - 2nd October, 1986)

Fasting Tamils force-fed

Prison authorities have begun force feeding hospitalised hunger strikers from the Welikade prison as the protest campaign entered its twentieth day yesterday. Eight hunger strikers who were hospitalised last week were sent back to the prison because their conditions had improved, prison authorities said.

Forty-five prisoners still continued the hunger strike demanding trials for the Boosa detainees, release of the innocent, and better food and living conditions in the camp...

(Sun - 3rd October, 1986)

"10 killed, 10 injured

Terrorists yesterday launched an offensive in the Northern and Eastern Province that left ten dead, ten injured in two landmine

explosions prompting an extensive security operation in the two provinces. The landmines within a short space of each other killed a senior government official, three civilians and one soldier in Thiriyaya and in Vavuniya reports reaching Colombo said.

In the first explosion in Vavuniya troops escorting a Transport Board bus were caught in a landmine while inspecting a culvert along the Vavuniya-Horowpatana road, these reports said.

One soldier, identified as N.J. Perera was killed and another soldier and a civilian were injured in the incident. The injured were airlifted to the Anuradhapura hospital for emergency treatment.

Shortly afterwards at the Thiriyaya junction in the Trincomalee district a jeep in which Morawewa Assistant Government Agent U.B. Wijesundera and three others were travelling exploded killing all its occupants. The others who were killed were identified as M.A. Sirisena, Mihil Silva and Renuka Gunasekera...

(Sun - 4th October, 1986)

Fierce gun battle...

One soldier was killed in Nilaweli in the Trincomalee district yesterday as a pitched gun battle between the security forces and terrorists continued here. The incident occurred near Irakkadi Bridge, four miles from the Nilaweli camp when separatist terrorist opened fire at two platoons of soldiers...

(Sun - 2nd October, 1986)

Death Fast ends, says "SUN"

Forty five terrorist suspects last night ended a three-week long death fast at the Welikade Jail after a National Security Ministry official assured that the grievances of their colleagues at Boosa were being inquired into.

The move also led to the remaining 225 terrorist suspects at Welikade calling off a 24-hour long Sathyagraha last night. They began it on Thursday evening and kept away from their cells, forcing prison authorities to step up security...

The hunger strike was called on September 12 by 45 terrorist suspects to protest what the participants called inordinate delays in releasing suspects against whom there were no charges, delays in the trials for others and bad living conditions for those detained at the Boosa camp.

Eight of the hunger strikers were admitted to hospital after their condition took a bad turn. However, they were discharged later after doctors said they were now fit. Eight others took the place of those admitted to hospital...

(Sun - 4th October, 1986)

Tamil P.T.I. murder

A member of the staff of the Teacher Training College at Talawakelle was found murdered in his room yesterday, leading to the closure of the institution while sparking off a major investigation.

Police said the body of V.T. Pathmanathan (56) a Physical Training Instructor, from Lindula Saraswathi Vidyalaya, had several stab injuries. The Education Ministry yesterday instructed the College officials to close it down temporarily, until the mystery was cleared up.

Police said the motive for the murder had not been established. The Regional Director of Education for Nuwara Eliya visited the college yesterday. He was due to despatch a report to Colombo later.

(Sun - 8th October, 1986)

Customs men protest

Reports of an imminent attack on Colombo Airport prompted stricter security measures including body checks on Customs staff, Principal Collector of Customs H.B. Dissanayake said yesterday.

Hence, Mr. Dissanayake said he had asked all categories of Customs staff to co-operate with security authorities. Mr. Dissanayake's report came as customs officers at the airport reported for duty in civvies for the second day in protest against having to undergo body checks by security staff.

Immigration officials stationed at the airport too had voiced objections about having to comply with the checks and were threatening some sort of protest yesterday an airport source said...

(Sun - 11th October, 1986)

Sexual abuse at Colombo Morgue

The alleged sexual violation of corpses of young women and robbery of jewellery at the Colombo General Hospital are being probed according to authoritative sources. This follows the discovery of the nude body of a beautiful young woman with her ears ripped off in the hospital premises and reported to the hospital committee by her relatives.

It is believed that the culprits had attempted to abuse the body sexually and had also robbed her ear-rings. A preliminary investigations by medical officials has already been carried out...

(Sun - 13th October, 1986)

(Continued on page 7)

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from August 12 - August 31 were carried in Issue No. 20 of the Situation Report

SEPTEMBER 1

Two Sinhalese soldiers desert Elephant Pass army camp, without arms, and surrender themselves to public in Kilinochchi. Having straggled through jungles, they appeared tired. The public fed them, and at the request of the two, handed them over to a militant group who assured their safety. One of them is from Kurunegala and the other from Hingurangoda.

Army men, searching for the two missing soldiers, come up to depot junction, Kilinochchi. At the junction, they open fire injuring a youth and carry him away with them.

A. Arulraj, President Pradesa Sabha, Chettikulam, arrested at Vavuniya Kachcheri barrier camp, released later on instructions from higher authorities.

Ordering passengers to alight, unknown persons set fire to C.T.B. bus at Vaharai in Kalkudah. This incident occurred following arrangements for transporting back refugees from Kathiraveli camp to Trincomalee from where they had come a year ago.

LTTE guerrillas attack police patrol party of nine, on their way from Pulmoddai to Iraivumalai at Duggin hills using "Claymore" mines. Two killed and four seriously injured.

Navy men round up fishermen at sea off the coast of Polikandy and Valvettiturai and take away 8 outboard motors and nets from them acknowledging receipt. Warned against fishing in the area and asked to call at Karainagar naval base camp with the receipts. Returning to land, the fishermen inform Citizens' Committee.

In Palaly yesterday evening, LTTE guerrillas attack a helicopter with Fifty Helifer and force it to land. As it lands on runway, it is shaken and tumbles on to a side with a thud. A reporter of a London newspaper, waiting at the Palaly airport to return to Colombo and who witnessed the incident had told his colleagues in Colombo that he was really amazed at this.

SEPTEMBER 2

Yesterday, two army columns from Palaly army camp moving into reoccupied Vasavilan Maha Vidyalayam attacked by militants and gunbattle goes on for 2 hours. As a number of civilians are held as hostages within the Maha Vidyalayam, militants refrain from firing inside the school. Shells are also fired from Palaly camp towards Kurumbacitty and Kuppilan villages and residents move out to safer areas. Parapet wall on one side of Kurumbacitty Muthu Mari Amman Temple damaged. Maheswary (40) and Kannan (23) injured. Admitted to hospital.

In Batticaloa, three civilians returning after work shot dead at bus stand by STF commandos.

LTTE guerrillas attack army contingent, on its way to Thalvupadu from Mannar Fort camp, at Eluthoor and cause severe damage to a South African made "Buffel" armoured - car. Many soldiers are feared killed.

Four bullet-proof bombers arrive at Katunayake to be engaged on "anti-terrorist" activities in North and East. According to latest reports two of them are leaving for Vavuniya piloted by foreigners.

Three (3) foreign journalists and another from a Colombo based newspaper, fly into Jaffna and are taken into the various army camps in the peninsula in helicopters. Not permitted to visit Jaffna town.

Fishermen from Valvettiturai, Polikandy, Thikkam and Sakkodai, deprived of deep sea fishing for a long time, complain of wanton damage to their nets, boats and outboard motors by unscrupulous navy men when they engage in off-shore fishing for their very subsistence.

PLA, military wing of E.P.R.L.F., in conjunction with other militant allies, using mortar shells, attack a mini camp established at a private nursing home in Kurumbacitty. Four soldiers killed. The attack took place as the army was clearing the surroundings to consolidate their position.

Six refugees from Kathiraveli camp in Batticaloa engaged in drying of fish in a "wadi" at Nadumathurai shot at by armed forces who were out on search operations. Konjumkili (60) dies on the spot. Five others including 2 boys under the age of 10 arrested.

SEPTEMBER 3

Section of causeway linking island of Mannar with the mainland bomb-blasted by militants. Gunbattle erupts in town and a police constable shot dead. Several other service personnel sustain injuries. Approach to Mannar is possible only by boats. Transport of food items, drugs and fuel into Mannar disrupted. Army camps shelled by militants.

In Mannar again, heavy shelling from Police-Army joint camp and Thallady camp destroys number of buildings and houses. Area close to the blasted culvert and adjoining villages strafed by helicopters and bombed by planes. It is reported that nearly 40 were injured and a few died in this brutal air attack on civilians.

Five Tamil youths from North, who arrive at Katunayake from Singapore, are arrested by police. Their passports are impounded. Police suspect 2 of them to have links with militant groups.

Over a hundred Tamil families arrive in Mullaitivu from Trincomalee, within the past 10 days, as refugees. Government assistance not provided as yet. Presently sustained by social organisations.

V. Lingeswaran (18), V. Jegatheeswary (14) and S. Ravimohan (24) injured in shell attack from Palaly camp. Admitted to hospital. A doctor's house in Kurumbacitty completely damaged.

Over 500 STF commandos, who surround the town area opposite Batticaloa air field, arrest more than 200 and take them to their camp for interrogation. Three civilians are killed in the firing that preceded the rounding up operations.

In Colombo, 400 Sinhalese youths arrested during the past one week for suspected links with Tamil militants.

In Kantalai, a government vehicle carrying soldiers turns turtle injuring the occupants. Nine soldiers admitted to hospital at Anuradhapura.

SEPTEMBER 4

In Batticaloa, LTTE guerrillas attack two air force planes carrying service personnel with rocket propelled grenades. One aircraft's wing damaged. The other prevented from landing. Helicopter strafes town. One STF commando injured and 2 civilians killed. Town deserted after the attack.

Security forces effect emergency repairs to Mannar causeway restoring transport.

In Colombo, two bombs explode at a Sri Lanka Mahajana Party rally held at Mt. Lavinia junction. More than 40 people are injured, 10 of them seriously.

Shelling from inside Pt. Pedro army camp, from very early hours. Udayasankar from Thambacitty injured.

Arms packages and large number of troops arrive Palaly camp by transport planes during the last 2 days. Apart from this, modern helicopters that could fly vertically too have arrived. The camp is preparing itself to enter into a second onslaught in the peninsula.

In Puttalam, two shops belonging to Tamils in Maruthankerny town set ablaze and severely damaged. Personal enmity is said to be the cause.

Army camps in Mannar continue to be shelled by militants. One woman killed and five other civilians injured in the retaliatory firing by the security forces.

Van carrying dry fish etc. hijacked by armed youth at Moontru Murippu on the Vavuniya-Kandy road. The van was on its way to Vavuniya from Puttalam. The abandoned van

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

was recovered by security forces at Vannan Sinnakulam.

Of the three women arrested at Thirugnanasambanther road, Trincomalee, Mrs. Thangaraja and Miss. Somasuntheram Pushpalatha have been released. Mrs. Thangaraja's daughter Sakunthaladevi yet in custody.

SEPTEMBER 5

Transformer at Trincomalee-Anuradhapura junction bomb-blasted last night. Kinniya, Pankulam and Velcum Vihare go under darkness. Trincomalee police investigating the explosion site detect unexploded landmine and take it to police station where it explodes causing damage to buildings. No casualties. Home Guards watching-point at this junction demolished by rocket propelled grenade. LTTE claims responsibility.

Fifty soldiers on foot marching over Iraalpaalam bridge in Kattaiparichchan attacked by LTTE guerrillas and forced to return to camp. Column in disarray. A few are believed killed.

Principal watch tower at Qddusuddan army camp badly damaged, consequent to attack by LTTE guerrillas with rocket launchers.

Damages to Vembadi Girls High School buildings in successive shell attacks from inside Jaffna Fort are estimated at Rs. 3lakhs.

In Nawalpitiya town yesterday, police arrest 4 Tamil workers returning after work from Devon Estate, in a lorry belonging to the estate. Police said that the arrest was a sequel to an incident in the said estate sometime back. In protest over 50,000 estate workers stage a strike. Estate Management get in contact with police and the arrested workers are released.

President of Nedunkerny Pradesa Sabha Mr. Peter Fontgallan petitions the Sri Lanka President over the sufferings and harrassment of the people of Vavuniya North at the hands of the security forces and Home Guards during the past few months.

SEPTEMBER 6

A masked individual has been planted in the upstairs of a row of buildings housing the newly installed bus stand in Vavuniya for the past 2 days. Public movement in the bus stand area very much restricted. Of the fifty odd shops in this block only two remain open.

Residents of Mannar road, Thornikal and Thavasikulam in Vavuniya reluctant to stay at home at nights because of army movements.

Buses belonging to Mullaitivu depot banned

from entering Engineering section of depot by the police. This is because the police station and the army camp are located close to the Engineering section. Repairs, fuelling and maintenance of vehicles handicapped and services disrupted to a large extent.

Crows and dogs are reported feeding on corpses of persons said to have been shot dead by armed forces who re-occupied Vasavilan Maha Vidyalayam. Smoke spouts out at various points within the Vidyalayam suggesting burning of dead bodies.

Mini police station, with 8 officers, functioning from a private house west of Palaly airport junction is closed down. The 8 policemen have been asked to function from Jaffna.

EPRLF removes obscene posters of English films appearing in several places in the Jaffna municipality. Mini-cinema operators severely warned that drastic action would be taken in case of repetition.

SEPTEMBER 7

Watch tower put up at Mullaitivu bus depot to provide security to the army camp attacked by LTTE guerrillas with R.P.G. rifles and is demolished. Reinforcements from army camp both on foot and armoured vehicles also attacked. Gun battle ensues for over 1½ hours.

Eight persons, including six girl students and a young girl injured in shelling from Pt. Pedro joint camp. LTTE guerrillas retaliate firing 6" mortar shells inside the army camp.

Ragavan Wimalakaran (30) of Karumankadu, working in Vavuniya market, arrested by security forces and taken to camp on nodding by masked man at the Vavuniya bus stand.

Soldiers coming out of Oddusuddan army camp, fire at militants on sentry duty near post office. Gun battle erupts and goes on for hours. Helicopter rising up from camp circles the site of confrontation and strafes the area. Details of damages not known. Tension in the area.

Last night, soldiers from Jaffna Fort camp crawl into Public Library with a view to moving out into town. Militant sentries open fire and foil the attempt and force them to withdraw. With their retreat into camp, devastating and brutal shelling from within begins towards the town. Chelliah (60) and another killed; more than twenty injured, over 35 shops, overhead electrical cables, telephone wires and several houses damaged. The blind and barbarous attack encompassed schools, hospital wards, Doctors' Quarters, churches, temples, shops, houses. Jaffna looks a war-torn town. It is estimated that over 100 shells were fired into Jaffna town and surrounding areas. Science laboratory at Central College is damaged. People living around the college are evacuating their homes and moving away. Militants

retaliate by firing into Fort. Two soldiers are killed.

Siren system installed and operated by PLOT members at various points in Jaffna town, warning imminent shell attack, saves number of lives who take shelter behind sand bag bunkers.

SEPTEMBER 8

Shelling of Jaffna town from inside Jaffna Fort continues for the second day. Shells rained over Jaffna. One that hit the hospital fell on the concrete corridor between 2 wards and burst. Because it fell on the corridor, the 45 patients in both wards escaped death miraculously. Damages caused to the buildings and a patient injured.

Doctors and staff at Jaffna hospital stage a token strike for an hour in protest against the shelling of Doctors' Quarters within the hospital causing extensive damages to the buildings.

Ditches at several places in the Jaffna bus stand square. Roofs of bus shelters and wooden doors of rows of boutiques there damaged by blasting shells.

Principals of Central College, Vembadi Girls High School, Doctors, Attorneys, Bank Officials, Citizens' Committees, Traders' Associations make representations to Govt. Agent, Jaffna to take action to stop shelling of Jaffna. They detail the damages caused and the incidents over the past 2 days in Jaffna.

In Pt. Pedro, army comes out of camp and advances to about 300 yards along Sinnapillayar temple. Militants confront them and gun battle ensues and goes on for about 2 hours. Soldiers lie on the road and take guard behind houses and fire. Militants in addition to rifle firing, attack with 6" mortars and rocket launchers. Unable to withstand the fierce attack, army retreats into camp. Following this, shelling from camp begins for the second day. Christine Sinnakkili (50) her son Christine Satish (9) and two militants F. James and K. Kanthan are killed in the shell attack. A shell landed on a house in Thambacity and 7 civilians are injured, 4 of them seriously.

In Colombo a high ranking military official says that shelling from inside Jaffna Fort will continue till the militants remove the sand bag bunkers installed by them at a number of points in Jaffna town.

Medical experts fear that inhaling air contaminated by fumes emanating from shell blasts could affect the health of the people living around in Jaffna town. It is estimated that more than 200 shells have been fired over Jaffna town during the past 3 days.

Colombo newspaper "The Island" reports that a terrorist landmine blasted an army jeep on patrol near Murunkan hospital injuring a lieutenant, five soldiers and a driver. One soldier in critical condition.

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

SEPTEMBER 9

In Valaichenai, militants fire at strafing helicopter. Slightly damaged, helicopter returns to base.

Doctors, nurses, attendants and other hospital staff take out a silent procession in protest against shelling of Jaffna hospital yesterday. Procession, led by Superintendent, Health Services, who was carrying a sharpnel from the shell that burst within the hospital, arrive at the Jaffna Secretariat in the scorching sun. They confront the GA and wanted him to contact the National Security Minister and Minister for Health and appraise them of the situation in Jaffna. Both Ministers were out. GA subsequently spoke to Rural Development Minister S. Thondaman and apprised him of the perilous situation. The processionists presented a memorandum addressed to the President demanding the closure of the Fort camp stating that they are not in a position to believe in any assurances that the hospital will not be attacked in future.

LTTE guerrillas mount 'Cannon Charge' attacks on soldiers who come out of Pt. Pedro camp. A few soldiers are killed and injured picked up by helicopter.

Two helicopters taking turns strafe Pt. Pedro for nearly 1 1/2 hours. People take shelter in pits specially dug for hiding.

SEPTEMBER 10

In a ten-hour combined operation by Army, Police and Navy, Cheivanayapuram, Anbuvalipuram and Allesthottam cordoned off and more than 400 males including those over 50 are taken to Uppuveli police station. There, they were lined up before a masked man for elimination and detention. In the rounding up operations, three persons are shot and killed. Their bodies burnt in the Hindu cemetery, Trincomalee by the forces.

Vehicles plying on public road close to Kokkavil army camp waylaid and passengers robbed of their jewels and cash by masked and armed men. It is reported that soldiers were lying in ambush in the jungles in this area.

In Batticaloa, armed forces moving along a roadway through paddy fields, fire at farmers engaged in work in the Poomarachcholai fields. Farmers take to their heels and run into adjoining jungles seeking shelter. Soldiers in ambush fire at them. Many are reported killed and few arrested.

In Mankulam, idol of Uthsavamoorthi in Mavadi Pillayar temple removed and destroyed by armed forces who raid the temple and assault the devotees when an alms giving was in progress.

Kayts shelled from Karainagar naval base early morning. A few houses damaged and number of people injured.

A mini army camp about a mile from Batticaloa airfield opened at Vavunaitivu. This is said to keep the militants away from firing at close range at aircraft landig and taking off from the air field.

With air cover by 3 helicopters, 500 soldiers proceed to Paduwanthurai village, located close to the Batticaloa airfield, and cordon it off. A temporary bridge with iron girders is put up to cross the damaged Vavunaitivu-Valaiyiravu bridge. Soldiers engaged in search operations, from morning till evening, camp at Paddy Marketing Board in Vavunaitivu. In the face of such army movements, Tamils of Vavunaitivu, Mangikattu, Salampakkorni evacuate their homes and move out in fear.

SEPTEMBER 11

LTTE guerrillas detonate pre-planted 'Cannon Charge' mine as soldiers from Pt. Pedro army camp position themselves around deserted Nadarajah Art Theatre. Casualties reported. Helicopter manoeuvring to come down and pick up the dead foiled in its attempts because of heavy firing. Navy being signalled of the impasse, fires mortar shells and artillery shells towards densely populated areas of Thumpalai, Kaladdy, Upaya Kathirkamam, Manthikai, Thambacitty and Mayakkai. Residents of these villages move interior. Details of damages not known.

A naval gunboat opens fire at LTTE motor launch sited off the coast of Karainagar. Two helicopters and a sea-plane come out and assist in the firing. LTTE motor launch fires back. Firing and counter-firing goes on for nearly 2 hours. Shells are fired from gun boat into densely populated areas. One person injured. In the strafing from helicopters, a number of houses are damaged in the coastal areas. Helicopters and sea plane return to base in the face of heavy firing.

Last night, four bombs exploded successively somewhere at 96th mile post close to Thambalakamam. Following the explosions (heard even in Trincomalee), the entire Trincomalee district - Town, China Bay, Kinniya, Nilaweli, Pulmoddai - went under darkness. Only in the morning, it came to be

known that one of the principal power transmission towers carrying power lines from Laxapana had been blown up.

In shell attack from inside Jaffna Fort on 8th, aimed at Trimmer Hall, Jaffna Y.M.C.A. and adjoining workshoip buildings, recently erected with public assistance, severely damaged. Training equipment and other utensils and furniture also damaged beyond repair. Nearly 200 girls, after college education, receive vocational training, in rotation in this institution. Canadian High Commissioner, Colacott opened this institution on his last visit to Jaffna in March this year.

Four foreign correspondents visit Boosa and Welikade. Detainees not allowed to speak to them. It is reported that girl detainees wept on seeing the journalists.

In a direct confrontation between police and militants at Thalankuda, Batticaloa, two policemen are killed on the spot. Six are seriously injured and flown to Colombo. Batticaloa town is deserted.

In Peradeniya, final year agricultural Tamil student P. Sukanthan admitted to hospital with cut injuries on his neck, sustained outside the Peradeniya University. He has told the police that he had been attacked by an unknown person.

SEPTEMBER 12

In yesterday's shelling of Pt. Pedro, several houses are damaged, palmyrah palms, coconut palms, grown trees are truncated. Velupillai Viyalammai (62) of Thumpalai is killed and S. Rajagopal (40) of Mathanai is seriously injured.

Sand bags stacked opposite a popular Saiva Hotel in Jaffna, as a measure of protection to both building and customers from shell attack from within Jaffna Fort. This hotel had been subjected to repeated attacks in the recent past.

Police arrest two Tamil youths who are said to have photographed the Wellawatte bridge and the rail track around. They are remanded by the Magistrate till 16th September.

In Colombo, eight Tamil youths sentenced to imprisonment to varying periods under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, for suppressing information, by the High Court Judge C. Vignarajah.

In a statement EPRLF says that in a direct confrontation, their guerrillas killed eight

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

policemen, injured many more and destroyed three vehicles at Puthoor on the Batticaloa-Kalmunai road. Adds that arms and walkie-talkies were captured from them.

In Batticaloa, (Paduwankarai and adjoining villages) 10,000 persons who went into hiding in jungles consequent to week-long search operations by security forces surface out and are now refugees. Almost all are starving and in desperation without food and drinking water.

SEPTEMBER 13

Navy men who remain hidden in a boat at sea off the coast of Mullaitivu open fire at militants who approach the buoying boat presuming it to be an abandoned one. Militants retaliate and firing goes on for more than an hour. Many of the militants swim ashore whilst their boat is safely veered to coast by one of the militants.

Armed forces of the Pt. Pedro camp come up to 1st cross street in an armoured car to erect a sand bag bunker. LTTE soldiers on guard duty open fire with R.P.G. rifles. Vehicle damaged. Soldiers take shelter in adjoining buildings and open fire. Reinforcements summoned from camp to recover damaged vehicle. Heavy firing by militants foil attempts. Soldiers hide themselves abandoning further attempts. A number of soldiers are reported injured.

S. Thangavadeivel (80) of Kayts is injured in shell attack from Karainagar naval base. A few buildings in this area also damaged.

In Wilpattu, Haniffa Rahamatullah, a Muslim youth arrested on suspicion of links with militants. It is suspected that he was involved in last year's Anuradhapura massacre.

In Madau, armed forces engaged in search operations shoot and kill M. Ranaweera (19), a Sinhalese youth, who runs on seeing the soldiers.

An army truck skids off the road and turns turtle at Maradankadawala in Kekirawa police area. Five soldiers are killed and ten others are injured.

Thirty-five Tamil detainees at Welikade prison commence a fast unto death on grounds of poor food, inadequate medical facilities, torture and the assurances given to them not being honoured. It is to be mentioned here that Defence Ministry officials promised to arraign these lads before the courts within a stipulated time.

SEPTEMBER 14

Unknown persons blast and destroy Sinhala Maha Vidyalayam, Mannar last night. Buildings razed to the ground and furniture reduced to firewood. No casualties.

Last night PLA, military wing of EPRLF, attacked Batticaloa police station and damaged the police mess. Many reported killed and many more injured. Militants are said to have initiated this attack to distract attention of armed forces engaged in battle in Paduwankarai, Kokkatticholai, Kannankuda and suburbs of Batticaloa.

In Trincomalee, tractor driver Senthivel Pushpanandan (27) walking along road adjoining Chelvanayakapuram army camp, summoned inside and shot dead. Body burnt by the army.

Shelling again from Karainagar naval base towards Kayts and Karainagar. In addition, coastal belt of these islands subjected to helicopter strafing, shelling from army camp and firing from gunboat. Damages at several points. Reconnaissance by helicopters, sea planes and other planes over the island intensified.

Paddiruppu bridge linking Paduwankarai and Eluvankarai blasted by unknown persons.

Security in Mannar strengthened. Large number of soldiers are camping in the buildings housing branches of various banks. Surroundings are being cleared with hundreds of sand bags stacked around the said buildings.

Ten more detainees at Welikade joint in fast unto death. Commissioner of prisons is reported to have visited them and requested

them to give up the fast. A few boys and girls at Boosa detention camp too reported to have commenced fast unto death.

SEPTEMBER 15

In a statement EPRLF says that a helicopter on surveillance over Kannankuda was shot at with "Heli 30" rifles and that it landed at the nearest army camp. It adds that the crewmen were injured and admitted to Batticaloa hospital. Extent of damage to helicopter not known.

In Colombo, a Railway official says that the Yal Devi train from Colombo would hereafter terminate at Vavuniya. He adds that it is not possible to proceed beyond Vavuniya because of balsted bridges and culverts along the Northern line.

Seven more detainees join the fast unto death at Welikade prison. The total number on fast now is 52. A committee of officials from the Defence Ministry visit the prison and see those on fast. It is learnt that the situation is being reported to the President and National Security Minister.

Planes drop bombs on Paduwankarai village where a battle is going on for the past 5 days. Many houses damaged and a number of people feared killed. Thousands have been rendered refugees from this and surrounding villages.

In Colombo, High Court Judge Wimal Wickramasuriya sentences Kanagu Uthayakumar alias Mohan to 14 months rigorous imprisonment in connection with attack on Chunnakam police station.

President and Secretary of Citizens' Committee, Batticaloa meet National Security Minister, who is on a visit to Batticaloa, and enquire about the whereabouts of the 611 Tamil youths arrested in Batticaloa and Amparai by the armed forces. The Minister carries the inquiry by saying if he is told as to what should be done to locate the missing persons, he would take action.

SITUATION REPORT

(Continued from page 2)

Eelam currency from '87

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has announced that from next year (1987), it will issue its own currency, which will be the only valid one, in Tamil Eelam. The LTTE has, in a press communique, stated that as the Liberation struggle of the Eelam Tamils has advanced very far, it is its duty to direct the course of Eelam Liberation Movement.

The LTTE has also advertised vacancies for Traffic Police to serve in the Jaffna district. The closing date for applications is 6th November.

(Saturday Review - 11th October, 1986)

Army officer on Fraud charge

An army officer is wanted for questioning for allegedly cheating Rs.50,000 from another army officer, Fraud Bureau sources said yesterday. The suspect officer has deserted his post and is evading arrest, the sources said....

(Weekend - 5th October, 1986)

'A Cultural Genocide'

The Jaffna Citizens' Committee has addressed the following memorandum to the President of Sri Lanka H.E.J.R.Jayawardene regarding wanton acts of destruction caused by the security personnel to Cultural Institutions in the North:-

We refer to our letter of 25th August '86 wherein we appealed to you for your immediate intervention to stop shelling of Vembadi Girls' High School by the State Armed Forces. In another letter to you the same date we demanded the removal of the Jaffna Fort and Mandaitivu army camps.

We now understand that there is a threat of closure of Vembadi Girls' High School and Jaffna Central College. Jaffna Citizen's Committee shares the deep grief with students of these schools past and present, well wishers, educationists and the population they serve of this shocking news.

This now brings us to the strategy involved in the establishments of these camps in such congested areas under the pretext of fighting the militant youth. At Point Pedro the army camp was established near two leading schools Hartley College and Methodist Girls' High School - the Hartley College library was completely burnt down by the state armed forces, people living closeby moved out, places of business, markets all moved out and the net result - an area of about one KM radius is deserted. This was repeated at Vaivettiturai. Now we fear this may be repeated in and around Jaffna town - a civilisation that the people of Jaffna had taken centuries to build; but the Government whose function is to govern, is following a policy of destruction a philosophy certainly

foreign to this country. It is felt locally that destruction of libraries and closure of schools in these areas has now become a Government policy. These areas probably have comparatively more 100 year-old-schools and larger number of libraries than rest of the country put together. This civilisation and culture was not built overnight.

The establishment of these camps has resulted in closure of schools and libraries such as Hartley College, Methodist Girls' High School, Chithambara College, Sithivinayagar Vidhyalaya, Palaly Training College, Vasavilan M M V and now the threat of closure of Jaffna Central College and Vembadi Girls' High School (one of the only two national schools in the Tamil areas) and destruction of the Jaffna Public Library which was reconstructed from public funds after the near total destruction in 1981 by state armed forces. These actions amounts

to cultural genocide.

(Courtesy: The Morning Star 12th September; quoted in Saturday Review, 11th October, 1986)

Soldier dropped a bomb!

A bomb explosion in the Mankulam camp during the early hours of yesterday injured 14 soldiers, two of them seriously, security sources said yesterday. The injured were airlifted to the Anuradhapura hospital immediately.

Security sources said that the bomb that exploded had been accidentally dropped by a soldier while carrying the bomb with him. Meanwhile in Jaffna these sources said terrorists attacked the Jaffna army camp with 26 mortars within a matter of 18 hours causing damage to the residential quarters within the camp....

(The Island - 13th October, 1986)

'Had I been a Tamil, I would have gone berserk'

(Excerpts from an interview with Dr. Tarzie Vittachi, former Editor of the Ceylon Observer by Rajika Wijenaikie - Sunday Observer, October 5, 1986)

Q: You have been an observer of the ethnic problem here since 1958. Would you say we are nearing a solution with the government's proposed Provincial Council system?

A: When a family is overwhelmed by the pressures of life, it is best to agree on certain fences of behaviour and action. Good fences, after all, make good neighbours. That however, depends on which side the barbed wire is. The fencing must be fair.

Q: What in your opinion, is the reason for the conflict in our society today?

A: Conflict arises when people have no identity. Conflict arises when you deny another's identity. Speaking as a member of the majority community, I think it is the fundamental duty of the majority, to respect and protect the cultural identity of the minority.

I am glad that many of the majority community today support a united Sri Lanka. But I regret that very few of the minority community speak up for Sri Lanka. I would like to see more and more of the minority talking as Sri Lankans. I think I have earned the right to say this, for I have paid my dues. I've been in involuntary self-exile with my family because some people at the time resented my speaking up for the minorities and threatened the lives of my family.

Q: There are any number of foreigners who criticize the government of Sri Lanka

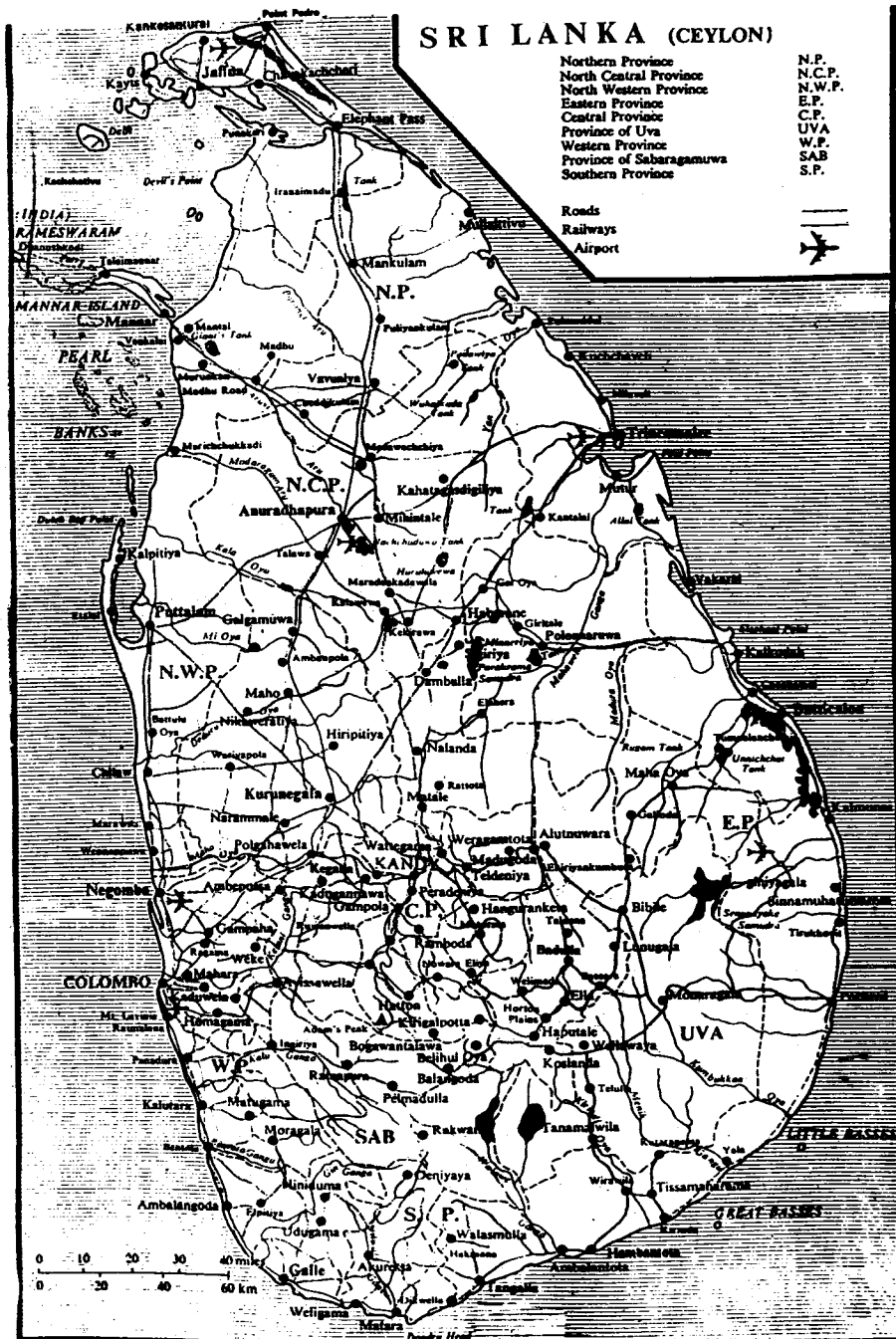
today. In your opinion, are we going in the right direction?

A: What do you mean by 'right direction' putha? Personally, I can't stand these one-day three-day types who come here and pontificate about our country. They think only they know what is good for us. I think the present government has taken many steps to undo the harm done by previous governments. I was abroad when the 'Sinhala Only' change took place. And I thought to myself that had I been a Tamil, I would have gone berserk. And they have gone berserk. The government today is slowly but surely healing the wound. The scars, however, will remain for a long time to come.

Q: Do you feel that language has any part to play?

A: It most certainly has. The abolition of English created a lost generation that was unable to communicate. With the division of people into 'streams' the Sinhalese learnt in Sinhala. Tamils learnt in Tamil. There was no bridging language to join the two - except the elite who at least had the advantage of quarelling over the language issue in English. We are a multi-racial society and we need a bridging language, or we each must learn the other's language. I think we need both. After all, if the Sinhalese can learn Botany and Physics, why can't they learn English and Tamil? You know there was a time I thought the language was just a means of communication - like 'Pass me the salt' Now I know better. Language represents one's dreams. Words are the symbols of one's mind. Find out the language a person dreams in, counts in, curses in, and you know his cultural roots...

SITUATION REPORT



Obituaries

In 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:-

SARAVANAMUTTU, Sakuntala of Green Road, Trincomalee. Wife of Mr. S. Saravanamuttu (Rtd. Asst. Supdt. of P&T), mother of Bhavani, Maheswari (Doctor, UK), Gnanambigai (Rathi, Trinco), Sulochana (Saudi Arabia) and Srikanthan (Accountant, UK). Cremation General Cemetery Kanatte, 4th October. Block F/3/3, Anderson Flats, Park Road, Colombo - 5.

SUNDARARAJAH, Mrs. Wife of V. Sundararajah (Rtd. O.A. Co-operative Provincial bank), mother of Kathiragamanathan, Umadevi, Jeyarajah, Vignarajah (Germany) and Kugarajah (UK). Funeral 9th October. No. 8, Pirapankulam Road, Jaffna.

SELLAYAH, Robert, son of Eileen and late Allan. Expired on 2nd October in London.

No. 146/2, Dutugemumu Street, Kohuwela, Dehiwela.

ARUMUGAM K. (DOCTOR), Reader at City University, London (formerly of Engineering Faculty, Peradeniya), husband of Lingeswari and father of Ponnii. Expired on 9th October in London. Cremation according to Hindu rites in London. No. 13, Altyre, Beckerham Kent, London.