

Continued Militant Activities of Sri Lankan Tamil Groups in India

9 The internecine warfare of Sri Lankan Tamil militants continued to have its repercussions in Tamil Nadu. As per the affidavit of Shri A.X. Alexander:-

Para 14 :- "..... as days rolled by, these groups started issuing pamphlets against one another; they carried tales against one another, they quarreled against one another; and eventually, they did not hesitate even to shoot one another. The following instances will amply bear this out:

On 05.03.1985, when members of PLOTE were moving at Muthupet in a propaganda van, two LTTE cadres made some disparaging remarks against them. In the altercation that ensued, and LTTE cadre opened fire. Cadres of PLOTE overpowered LTTE cadres and kidnapped them to their camp at Periakarambankottai.

ii. On 07.03.1985, at Mahalingapuram, a few LTTE cadres went to Tamil Information Centre at Mahalingapuram and opened fire against two PLOTE cadres.

iii. On 17.03.1985, a PLOTE cadre was kidnapped by LTTE cadres from the PLOTE camp at Thirumangalakottai between Chinnamanur and Cumbum.

iv. On 28.03.1985, seven members of TELA went to Pattukottai from Madurai and one of them fired a shot with his revolver to scare three cadres of TELA who had earlier defected to PLOTE and who were then collecting funds in Pattukottai bus stand.

v. On 02.04.1985, TELO cadres abducted ten members of ERCP at Rameswaram.

vi. On 23.05.1986, some TELO cadres attacked a car in Salem with an iron rod suspecting it to be an LTTE vehicle.

Para 15 :- "...the young Tamil lads in various locations did not, for long, remain peaceful, minding their own business in their settlements. Gradually, they started questioning their own leaders who were ensconced in posh residences in Madras and were enjoying wide publicity, good food and creature comforts with the money that was flowing in from expatriate Sri Lankan Tamils. Thus, among almost all groups, the voice of dissent and consequent pamphleteering and gossip-campaign could be heard. Those who controverted the leadership, were treated harshly. A few examples are cited below:

i. Pamphlets brought out by one S.A.David condemned the PLOTE leader Mukundan and Vasudevan for abduction of Vasanthan, another leader of PLOTE.

ii. Sri Sabaratnam, leader of TELO, was said to have ordered the execution of Priyadas in Sri Lanka which set off a lot of concealed commotion within the ranks, provoking considerable number of members of TELO to desert their organisation in Tamil Nadu and to defect to other groups.

iii. On 09.06.1984, Rajan and few others of TELO resorted to an indefinite fast near Gandhi statue in Madras, protesting against the opprobrious attitude of their leader Sri Sabaratnam.

iv. TELO leaders confined three dissident cadres of their organisation, two of whom later escaped and sought shelter in the room of one Dhayaparan, a Sri Lankan Tamil student in the Madras Medical College hostel.

v. Sri Sabaratnam, TELO leader, sent his boys to intimidate dissidents at Mahalingapuram and Arcot Road in Madras. Sudha, the political head of the breakaway group, organised "Martyrs' Day", independent of TELO. A few boys of Sri Sabaratnam joined Sudha, and TELO planned to settle scores with them in Jaffna.

vi. Prabhakaran and Niranjan, his quondam comrade, fell apart over the former's marriage. Nithiyanandam and Fr.Chinnarasa, one-time supporters of LTTE, quitted the organisation, as they could not continue to countenance the tactics of LTTE leader Prabhakaran.

vii. Raja @ Yoganarajah and Raghavan @ Sivakumar, military leader, weaned themselves away from the LTTE.

viii. Differences of opinion sprouted between Yogan and Bageerathan of TENA due to ill-treatment of cadres. Seventy-five cadres quitted the organisation.

ix. Douglas Devananda broke away from EPRLF and formed "Eelam Peoples' Democratic Party".

x. V.I.S. Jayapalan, a dissident leader of PLOTE, told the press on 14.05.1986 that PLOTE members in the island had held a Congress in the late March and adopted resolutions, accusing Uma Maheswaran @ Mukundan of scuttling unity, misappropriating funds to the tune of 3 million dollars and depositing them in his personal accounts in Swiss banks and indulging in licentious activities.

These internal internecine differences and consequent pamphleteering, feuds, tension and violence that erupted in the places of their settlements were resented by the people of Tamil Nadu. Many elders in the State and those expatriate Tamils who were financing the movements were worried that the youths were missing the wood for trees and deviating from their struggle for independence and repeatedly exhorted them to pull together and fight against their common

enemy, and not to fritter away their energy by engaging themselves in inter-group and intra-group rivalry and enmity.

Para 16 :- " These groups which indulged in violence within their own ranks and against rival groups, subsequently crossed swords even with those populace of Tamil Nadu, who gave them shelter, food and abundant sympathy. A few examples are cited below:-

i. On 23.12.1985, a jeep belonging to TEA dashed against girl students of Kasturba Gandhi Kanya Gurukulam at Vedaranyam while they were proceeding from their school towards a temple. The students sustained simple injuries. A case was registered. The driver was arrested. People were agitated. TEA, EPRLF and PLOTE representatives attended a condolence meeting and expressed grief. But the public were sore that the top leader of the TEA did not attend the meeting. A condemnatory procession was taken out and the TEA cadres opened fire in the air to scare away the processionists.

ii. On 23.04.1986, three LTTE cadres, who got down from a private bus at Madurai, quarreled with a porter and sprayed aerosol on his face, making him swoon."

10 While the situation in Tamil Nadu went from bad to worse owing to the continuing militant activity during this period, the refugees continue to pour in as conditions in Sri Lanka remained far from conducive. The "Annual Report" of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 1985-86 states as follows :-

"The unresolved ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka continues to be a source of great concern to the Government of India. The escalation of violence and large scale killings of Tamil civilians caused great concern throughout India. The deteriorating situation in the Northern and Eastern provinces in Sri Lanka had direct repercussions on India, most notably through the massive influx of refugees to our shores. The total number of refugees from Sri Lanka in India now stands at over 124,000. Their presence poses socio-economic burdens and has added to the strength of Indian sentiments in regard to the situation in Sri Lanka. Aggressive action by Sri Lanka Naval Forces in Palk Straits, including attacks on our fishing vessels resulting in the death of some fisherman, led to increased tension in our bilateral relations. Strong protests had to be lodged with the Sri Lankan Government in regard to these actions. A Sri Lanka naval vessels was apprehended on 11 January 1985 when it was found well within Indian waters, after it had attacked our fishermen. The vessels, along with its crew, was later handed over to the Sri Lanka authorities. Some Indian fishermen who had been under detention since October 1984, were released by Sri Lanka."

This shows that while the refugee population in India of Sri Lankan Tamils continued to swell keeping alive in India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, the sympathy

factor for the suffering minorities of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Tamil militants based in India continued to indulge in criminal activities.

KIDNAPPING OF THE ALLENS

11 A case of kidnapping of an American couple Allens in Sri Lanka had its own fallout in Tamil Nadu. Rohana Gunaratne has described the incident in his book entitled "Indian Intervention in Sri Lanka" as follows :-

Page 146 :- "The Allens Episode"

"Contrary to the opinion of the public as well as that of the Sri Lankan intelligence community, the EPRLF was not all that pro- Indian even during the time they received considerable Indian military and financial support. This was clearly demonstrated when an American couple, the Allens, was kidnapped about the same time as George Bush, a former CIA director and the then Vice President of the United States, was visiting New Delhi. Stanley and Mary Allen, working on a development project in Jaffna, were abducted on May 10, 1984 by militants belonging to the EPRLF. They were branded as CIA agents by the EPRLF. In order to release the Allens the EPRLF demanded Rs. 50 million in gold, to be paid to the Tamil Nadu Government, and the release of 20 EPRLF cadres. The actual plan of the EPRLF, which has been kept a secret by their leadership to date, was to seek the release of only one of their Central Committee members who was mentioned in that list of 20 cadres. The EPRLF leaders did not wish to let Colombo know who their key man was, hence the demand was made for the release of 20, almost all held under the P.T.A.

After Colombo's attempts to secure the release of the Allens, New Delhi repeatedly appealed to the EPRLF leadership, also without any success. Even though Sri Lankan intelligence reported that 'The Tamil Nadu Police arrested the EPRLF leadership and the Allens were released five days after,' what really happened has been kept a secret. This is what really happened: IB and RAW had threatened Padmanabha, who was then in Madras, that if the Allens were not released, he would be deported. Under such intimidation, Padmanabha agreed to release the Allens. Later, perhaps under pressure from US, Indira Gandhi wrote a personal letter to Padmanabha urging him to release Allens as this would pose a problem to India and assured India's continued support for their struggle. The Allens were promptly released."

11.1 The first hand account of what transpired at Madras which ultimately led to the release of the Allens in Jaffna has been provided by Shri K. Mohandas, former Director General of Police (Intelligence) of Tamil Nadu in his deposition before the Commission on 2nd. January, 1996. His account is as follows :-

"One night I was sleeping in my house. I got a call from the US Consul General from Madras at 11 PM. He told me frantically that Mr. and Mrs. Allen, who are

working as water resources experts in Jaffna had been kidnapped by militants. He wanted my assistance to rescue them. I told him how could I help him for the incident that had happened in Jaffna. He pressed that the President of the United States of America was interested. The Consul General said that a large amount of gold and six or so militants in Sri Lankan custody must be released. This must be done within 48 hours or else Mr. and Mrs. Allens would be shot dead. Then something struck me and I asked the Consul General to find out the names of the militants whom they were asking for release. Then as soon as I placed the phone down, I got a call from G. Parthasarthy from Delhi repeating the same request. I rang up MGR and took his permission to take up this matter. I immediately proceeded to office calling all my principal officers to come to the office. As soon as I reached the office, I got a call from the US Consul General revealing the names of the militants whose release the kidnappers had wanted. My officers immediately said that they were from the EPRLF. So the hunt began to find out whether there are any important EPRLF fellows in Madras. After about 24 hours, we got 3 or 4 of them sleeping in a house. There were also two women who were released. The catch was very important. Among the people we caught were one Mr. Padmanabha who was later massacred by LTTE. Then, two, Varadharaja Perumal, the subsequent Chief Minister installed by the IPKF in East Sri Lanka, and three, General Douglas, self styled, who was the chief of militant wing of the EPRLF. I asked my officers to take the three to a five star hotel. It was at about 2.00 A.M. with a lot of security, the officers started questioning. But upto 6.00 A.M. they did not budge. So I went there with two commandos with loaded revolver. I made the three fellows stand. I placed my revolver on the table and made the commandos aim with their AK-47 at them. There was silence for two minutes. I looked at them straight and said: 'It is your people who have made ransom demand on Mr. Allens. I will not allow you to open your mouth. Whatever happens to Allens will happen to you three right in this room.' After five minutes, General Douglas said that he would speak to his people in Jaffna to release Allens. I said 'Mind you, nothing in return; no gold; no release of their comrades.' General Douglas contacted Jaffna and got the release of Mr. and Mrs. Allens and, within four hours, Mr. and Mrs. Allens were released at the residence of Bishop of Jaffna with their eyes blindfolded. There were kidnappings and counter kidnappings within the Sri Lankan militant groups in Tamil Nadu."

INTERNECINE WARFARE BETWEEN LTTE AND PLOTE

12 The Pondy Bazaar incident of 1982 was repeated in March 1985, and at this time, it appears, that the Police did not even register a criminal case. This incident has been described in the book "Tigers of Lanka" by M.R. Narayanswamy as follows :-

"On March 7th, 1985, a group of Tigers barged into the office of the Tamil Information Centre in Madras and fired at some PLOTE members there injuring two. One of them was Kannan who had been with Uma during the 1982 Madras shootout with Prabhakaran. The PLOTE told the Police that Kannan had been

taken to Besant Nagar in Madras where the LTTE had an office. Although Tamil Nadu Police rescued him, it wanted Uma to register a case of kidnapping against unknown persons. Uma refused and insisted that he would name the LTTE in his complaint. This led to violent arguments with the senior police officials."

ACTIVITIES OF EPRLF MILITANTS

13 During 1985, the EPRLF was also engaged actively in arms smuggling. As per the affidavit no. 170/93-JCI of T.V. Venkataraman, former Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu, (page 46, item no. 1),:-

"Mandapam PS cr. no. 58/85 dt. 26.03.85 u/s 5(3)(b) of the Indian Explosives Act and Sec. 14. of the Indian Arms Act and Sec. 6 (a) Indian Passports Act

Facts:- On 26.03.85 at 1630 hrs. one Albert s/o Chandram and 11 Sri Lankan militants of EPRLF were found entering the high seas of Rameswaram and the Coast Guard apprehended them. They took Albert and Sivanandam in their boat and directed others to follow them at Mandapam, but the boat with 10 occupants disappeared on closing inland. Two boxes of dynamite detonators, machine gun etc. were seized from the militants.

SEIZURE OF ARMS AT MADRAS HARBOUR

14 In 1985, seizure of a large cache of arms at the Madras Harbour by the Indian Customs revealed that Tamil militant groups were involved in organised arms smuggling at a large scale. This incident has been described by M.R. Narayanaswamy in his book "Tigers of Lanka" page 180 as follows :-

"On April 2nd., 1985 Customs officials seized a container as big as a train car that was unloaded from a ship at the Madras Port. When they examined it they were in for a rude shock. It contained at least 1,400 rifles of 1945 model, 300 sten guns, 5 wireless sets of Japanese origin and an electronic radio set with an amplifier. The Captain and the crew had no idea about the contents in the container, which had been marked "used newspapers". The arms bought for 3 lakhs US Dollars from a Taiwanese Arms agent were meant for the PLOT."

14.1 As per Rohana Gunaratna, in his book entitled "Indian Intervention in Sri Lanka, page 155 :-

"The Indians controlled the growth of PLOTE by allowing the Indian Customs to seize four containers of military hardware documented as carrying waste paper which had arrived in Madras from Singapore on April 2nd., 1985."

INTERNECINE WARFARE - BLAST AT LTTE LEADER ANTON BALASINGHAM'S HOUSE

15 Another incident occurred on 23th December, 1985, indicating the ongoing internecine warfare between the rival Sri Lankan militant groups operating in Tamil Nadu. As per the affidavit no. 187/94-JCI of M. Karunanidhi, (page 05, para 05) :-

"Four militant groups namely Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam(LTTE). Eelam People Revolutionary Liberation Front(EPRLF) & Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Tamil (ERO) joined together to form a front called EELAM NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (ENLF) during November 1985. In December, 1985 the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and TELO developed mis- understanding among themselves and fought each other both in Sri Lanka and India. There was a bomb explosion at the residence of Thiru. Balasingam the Spokesmen of LTTE, at Madras. The Police suspected the involvement of TELO Group. Photographs about the damages caused to the house and the news item appeared in all the newspapers dated 24.12.1985. "

15.1 M.R. Narayanaswamy, in his book entitled "Tigers of Lanka" narrates the incident as follows :-

(page 168) " Before the year came to a close, Balasingham, now back in Madras, once again became the centre of attention once a mysterious blast rocked his house at Besant Nagar, a plush Madras suburb. On December 23rd., 1985, shortly before dawn, a bomb with a timer device went off in the open terrace above the bedroom where Balasingham's nephew was sleeping...Balasingham and his Australian wife Adele were in another room and escaped with injuries..Balasingham said he suspected Sri Lankan agents. The TULF and PLOTE blamed MOSSAD."

16 While the Sri Lankan Tamil militancy continued to have its repercussions in Tamil Nadu, the Government of India went ahead in its ongoing efforts to use its good offices to bring about a peaceful solution to this problem. However, the task was not easy and various efforts of Government of India met with only limited success. The Annual Report of the Ministry of External Affairs for the period 1985 - 86 has summarised these efforts. Relevant extracts are reproduced below :-

"Negotiations between the Sri Lanka Government and the Sri Lanka Tamil groups were arranged with India's assistance and while these have not yet brought about a solution, efforts at bringing the two sides closer through a process of direct and indirect negotiations are continuing.

The Sri Lankan Minister for National Security paid a short visit to India in February 1985 and held talks with the Prime Minister and other leaders. The Foreign Secretary visited Sri Lanka in March 1985 in pursuance of the Prime Minister's initiative to improve relations with neighboring countries. During the meeting with President Jayewardene and other leaders, the basis for a renewed dialogue for resolving the Tamil problem was discussed further. The Foreign

Secretary visited Sri Lanka again in the last week of May to prepare the ground for a two- day visit to India by President Jayewardene. President Jayewardene had detailed discussions with the Prime Minister during his stay in New Delhi from 1-3 June 1985.

It was agreed that immediate steps should be taken to defuse the situation and create a proper climate for a political settlement. The Government of Sri Lanka announced cessation of hostilities for three months from 18 June, 1985. The climate was thus created for talks which were held in Thimpu, with the assistance of the royal Government of Bhutan, in July and August 1985. The Thimpu talks broke down in mid-August because of renewed violence, and the continuing gap between what the Sri Lanka Government was prepared to offer by way of a political solution, and the minimum demand of the Tamils. However, the negotiations were continued indirectly through Indian efforts....

Dr.H.W.Jayewardene, who led the Sri Lankan delegation to the Thimpu talks was invited to stop over in Delhi, along with other Sri Lanka officials, at the end of August, 1985. Following discussions with the Foreign Secretary, the Sri Lanka side prepared a fresh set of proposals in a Working Paper, which, it was agreed, could serve as a basis for further negotiations. Representatives of the Tamil militant groups and the Tamil United Liberation Front later met in Delhi to discuss the Working Paper and matters relating to the maintenance of the Ceasefire, beyond the 3 month period. The Ceasefire was further extended, and a Monitoring Committee was set up by the Sri Lanka Government to monitor the working of the ceasefire. The proposals put forward by the government of Sri Lanka were not, however, found acceptable to the Tamil groups. In response to the Prime Minister's suggestion, the TULF later put forward a set of proposals in December 1985. These proposals were conveyed to the Government of Sri Lanka. The Prime Minister met President Jayewardene at the SAARC Summit in Dhaka in December, 1985. At these meetings, the Prime Minister conveyed India's concern over the situation in Sri Lanka however, reiterated India's continued willingness to assist in the quest for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The Government of India have also expressed concern over reports that suggest that Sri Lanka is attempting a military solution to the crisis. The rapid increase in the Sri Lanka defence spending and reports of an escalation in the violence towards the end of the year have been viewed with disquiet. The Government of India are seriously concerned at the activities of the foreign security and intelligence organisations in Sri Lanka. There are reports of Israeli intelligence organisations and British Security experts being involved with the Sri Lanka, following President Jayewardene's visit to Pakistan in April 1985 and the visit of the President of Pakistan to Sri Lanka in December, 1985 is being viewed with some concern.

While the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka remained unresolved, an important positive development in the bilateral relationship between the two countries was the

agreement in January, 1986 to end once and all the long-standing problem of statelessness of persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka. The Government of India agreed to grant citizenship and accept the repatriation of the balance of 94,000 remaining applicants for Indian citizenship together with their natural increase. The Sri Lanka Government for its part undertook to accord citizenship to the remaining stateless persons whose applications were pending together with their natural increase. It is hoped that this process will be completed expeditiously."

TALKS AT THIMPU - DEPORTATION OF CHANDRAHASAN AND OTHERS

17 Thimpu Talks were held at the Capital of Bhutan in July and August, 1985. During these talks, another opportunity was made use of by bringing the representatives of the Sri Lankan Government and various Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups to the negotiating table; however, these efforts too, could not succeed. Details of the talks have been dealt with in another Chapter.

K. Srinivasan, Foreign Secretary of India, in his affidavit no. affidavit No 202/94-JCI has spoken about the Talks as follows :-

Page 2 of Annexure.

Para 6: "The next phase of India's efforts to find a solution to the ethnic issue commenced soon after the election of Shri Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister. With Shri Romesh Bhandari, the then Foreign Secretary acting as a mediator, the Tamil parties met representatives of SLG at Thimpu in July- August 1985. The proposals submitted by SLG at Thimpu talks did not address the basic principles outlined by the Tamil groups. This coupled with ceasefire violations by the Sri Lankan Army and the killing of Tamil civilians in Vavuniya led to the Tamil groups walking out of the talks."

18 The Thimpu talks have also been spoken about by Shri M. Karunanidhi in his affidavit no. 187/94-JCI as follows :-

"Various Tamil militant groups were recognised by the government of India and were invited for several rounds of talks by the authorities of the Indian Government. There was peace talk held in Thimpu, Bhutan in 1985 in the presence of Thiru. Romesh Bandari the Secretary for external Affairs, Government of India. Various militant groups including the LTTE represented by Thiru V.Prabhakaran participated in the Thimpu talks. After the meetings the leaders met the then Prime Minister Thiru Rajiv Gandhi on 17.08.1985. This was published in the Hindu dated 18.08.1985."

19 Consequent to the failure of Thimpu talks, three Sri Lankan Tamil leaders were ordered to be deported from India as their role was perceived to be obstructionist with regard to the efforts being made by the Government to find a

solution. One of the leaders ordered to be deported was S.C. Chandrahasan. According to him (deposition dated August 22, 1996) :-

" Prabhakaran was in India at the time of the two rounds of Thimpu talks but he was not a member of the Delegation. All the Tamil militant groups and the TULF were party to the Thimpu talks. I did not go to Thimpu. I had my own skepticism about the talks. So I was not associated with it. TULF was represented by Shri Amirthalingam and Shri Sivasithamparam. Three persons, myself, Balasingham and Satyendra, lawyer representing TELO were ordered to be deported by the Indian Govt. after the Thimpu talks. Satyendra was on his way out. So he left before deportation. Balasingham and myself were taken to U.K. by Air India Flight. Balasingham got down at UK. He was having a UK Passport. I was taken to USA. When I was asked by the Emigration authorities as to why I had come, I said I have not come on my own will. Then they ordered that the flight might take me back to India."

19.1 During this period, the hostile activities of Pro- LTTE Tamil chauvinist groups were equally a cause for concern. The Intelligence Bureau reports highlighted several instances of the use of explosive devices by pro-LTTE Tamil chauvinists in Tamil Nadu. On January 29, 1986 an explosion carried out by Tamil Nadu Liberation Army, damaged one of the parapet walls of a bridge on Thanjavur Tiruvaiyur road. This incident assumes importance due to the fact that the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, during his visit to Tamil Nadu, was scheduled to proceed by that route the very next day. (Annexure T-8)

MASS MURDER BY PLOTE NEAR RAMESWARAM

20 In a particularly brutal incident 9 Tamils were shot dead in cold blood near Rameswaram by PLOTE. The mention of this gruesome incident has been made by T.V. Venkataraman, former Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu, in his affidavit no. 152/93-JCI, he states :-

(page 47, item no. 4) "Rameswaram PS 129/86 u/s 307, 302 IPC r/w 396 IPC dt. 23.03.86.

FACTS :- On 23.03.86 at about 1800 hrs., one Thangavelu s/o Velliah Thevar of Kancheerankulam now at Rameswaram, alongwith 8 others were resting in the sixth sand dune, since the plastic boat in which they had travelled from Sri Lanka towards Dhanuskodi developed some trouble. At that time 20 PLOTE Sri Lankan Tamil activists came there in a plastic boat, dropped Victor, Bhaskaran and Chellakili and left towards Sri Lanka. Bhaskaran and Chellakili enquired Thangavelu and others, lined them up and shot the 9 members with sten guns and rifle. They left for Sri Lanka, taking the contrabands of Thangavelu and others which included 15 VCRs and 150 video cassettes. The said Thangavelu who did not die due to the gunshots came to Rameswaram P.S. and lodged the complaint.

SMUGGLING BY LTTE

21 Among several instances of smuggling, the following two instances of 1986 have been narrated by officers who have filed affidavits before the Commission :-

21.1 In his affidavit no. 081/92-JCI, R.D. Negi, Under Secretary, Department of Revenue, has stated as follows :- (Page 07,para 04)

"On 20.04.86 the Inspector of Central Excise, Customs Mobile Party, Thindivanam, were conducting road patrol at Choonampedu Cross on GST Road, intercepted one van TDA 6778 which was found to contain smuggled goods such as TV, VCR, Telecommunication equipments, revolver, pistol, ammunition and other consumer goods, valued at Rs. 14,24,000/-. Five persons who were occupying the van in their voluntary statements admitted that they were members of LTTE and that the smuggled goods were being transported from Madurai to Madras."

21.2 Another case of smuggling during this period has been narrated as follows in the affidavit of A.X. Alexander, Inspector-General of Police, (Intelligence), CID, Tamil Nadu :- (page 11, para 18)

"On 23.04.86, a van was intercepted at Dindivanam and 3 9mm. pistols, 1000 cartridges, 40 walkie talkie sets, telecommunication equipment etc. worth Rs. 14,24,310/- were seized. 5 LTTE cadres were arrested."

21.3 The situation in Tamil Nadu, as it prevailed at that time, has been comprehensively narrated by Shri K. Mohandas, the then Director General of Police (Intelligence) in a letter written to the then Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu, Shri A.K. Antony on 8th February, 1986. The correspondence is reproduced below :-

TOP SECRET D.O.

C.11.No. 1634/M

Dear Thiru Antony,

I enclose a note on the activities of Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups in Tamil Nadu.

2. Particulars regarding the number and strength of camps run by them and the weapons reported to be in their possession are given in the Annexure.

3. Most of the groups are now reported to be facing paucity of funds. It is likely that, ere long, they may resort to bank and temple robberies here, as is their

wont in Sri Lanka. In this context the latest report of an armed robbery in Bangalore involving Sri Lankan Tamils is of significance.

Yours sincerely

--sd--

(K. MOHANDAS)

Encl : One

To
Thiru T.V. Antony, IAS
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George,
Madras-600 009