


Year	Date	Photo	Event
AD 1908			The local people set up the Low Country Producers' Association (LCPA), as a counter to the European-controlled Chamber of Commerce.
AD 1911			The Legislative Council is enlarged to include "unofficial" Ceylonese members and with it a new platform emerges for the articulation of demands for further participation. With this political advance, the Sinhalese and Tamil elite come together as equal partners on a vague platform of proto-nationalism engendered by class interest and not on the basis of anti-colonialism or a desire for political liberation. Their separate ethnic loyalties and identities are nevertheless held intact but are temporarily subsumed by the desire for political consolidation.
			The high rising inter-Sinhalese class rivalry contributes to leadership roles falling into the hands of Tamils. As the <i>Karava</i> caste Sinhalese remain economically and politically dominant, the <i>Goygama</i> caste Sinhalese are hell-bent on ending such <i>Karava</i> dominance, at least politically.
			In the election to the Legislative Council, the <i>Goygama</i> elite support Sir P Ramanathan, against Sir Marcus Fernando, a <i>Karava</i> Sinhalese, and Ramanathan is elected.
AD 1916			Rioting Sinhalese attack Muslims in the Kandyan areas. The colonial government, mistaking the Sinhalese-Muslim riots for an insurrection, declares martial law, resorting to repression and imprison Sinhalese political leaders including Sir Don Baron Jayatilaka, Don Stephen Senanayake and W A de Silva. Sir Pon Ramanathan, as a member of the Legislative Council blames the government for over-reacting and successfully obtains their release and lifting of martial law. This strengthens their unity leading to the founding of the Ceylon National Congress (CNC) in 1919.
AD 1919			Pon Ramanathan's brother, Sir P Arunachalam, is elected as the first president of the Ceylon National Congress (CNC). CNC dominates Sri Lanka's politics as a conservative political organisation until independence.
			With political advance and economic consolidation, the interests of the local businessmen come into conflict with their European counterparts. Their spokesmen allege that they are denied equal facilities in commerce, banking and business. The Tamil politician K Balasingham advocates protectionist tariff policies.

<b>AD 1920</b>		<p>The British colonial government's constitutional reform introduces territorially-elected representation and enlarges the Legislative Council to 23 members, with an unofficial majority, for the Sinhalese. The Sinhalese leadership is accused of going back on an earlier pledge given to the Tamils "to actively support a provision for the reservation of a seat to the Tamils in the Western province", and denying nomination to Tamil leader P Arunachalam for the Colombo Town seat in the 1920 election. In consequence, the Tamil leadership, viewing their counterpart as unworthy and dishonourable political allies, leaves the Ceylon National Congress and forms a segregated political pressure group – The Tamil Mahajana Sabha.</p>
		<p>The Kandyan Sinhalese, suspicious of the low-country Sinhalese and the Congress, form the Kandyan Association and assert the distinctiveness of "the Kandyan nationality".</p>
		<p>The prestigious civil service, the apex of the colonial administrative structure hitherto the preserve of foreigners and the privileged, opens up to local people.</p>
<b>AD 1922</b>		<p>Munidasa Cumaratunga, referred to as Guru Devi (The Teacher-God) and reverently called Cumaratunga Muni (Cumaratunga the Sage) attacks the de-nationalised character of the Sinhalese leaders and presses the need to use Sinhalese in the affairs of state and declares:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“If people whom we send to the legislature cannot come into our midst and speak to us in our language about what is needed for the development of our own country, we will never be able to enjoy the benefits of self-government. At the next general election let us adopt a new policy; let us say beforehand that we shall not vote for a person who will not pledge himself to speak exclusively in Sinhalese in the Council.”</p> <p>On account of these attacks, some Sinhalese politicians hasten to discover their forgotten past. They begin to learn the Sinhala language, abandon Christianity, re-embrace Buddhism, discard Western attire and don local attire, calling it the “Aryan-Sinhalese” dress.</p>
		<p>Muththu Thambipillai publishes “<i>Ealamandalap Pulavar Saritham</i>”, the first history book of Ealam Tamil poets.</p>
<b>AD 1924</b>		<p>Ceylon National Congress elects C E Corea, a Sinhalese moderate politician, as a proof of Congress's desire to secure unity and co-operation with the Tamils and</p>

			Kandyan Sinhalese.
<b>AD 1925</b>			The Kandyan Association describing the constitutional reforms proposed by Ceylon National Congress as one that “threatens to destroy the position of the Kandyans” urges Kandyans to leave the Congress and found their own political organisation – the Kandyan National Assembly.
			Solomon West Ridgeway (named after British Governor Sir Joseph West Ridgeway) Dias Bandaranaike, returns to Ceylon from Oxford. He apologises to a delegation of his Walauwa (manor) for not being able to speak to them in Sinhalese and being a member of a Westernised family which had converted to Christianity, soon begins to learn Sinhalese, re-embrace Buddhism and adopt the local dress.
<b>AD 1926</b>			The 1920-24 constitutional reforms, cumulatively referred to as the Manning Constitution, create a Sri Lankan majority in the legislative council and bring about confrontation between the legislature and the executive. Pressure mounts on British civil servants and attack on government policies increase resulting in a deadlock, paralysing the administration. The Governor Sir Hugh Clifford openly announces that “it is impossible for the government to carry on its administrative duties” and requests the Colonial Office to send a special commission to recommend changes to the constitutional structure.
			The Tamil politician A Mahadeva calls to promote and protect the Ceylonese interest and attacks the European economic domination. Mahadeva says in the State Council:  “something should be done to develop and promote our interests, and also to adopt some system of protection for the Ceylonese.  “... How much of the enormous profits do we share? What proportion of it goes out of the island.... The profits are mostly distributed among absentee landlords and absentee shareholders. We are unable, in the face of local monopoly that is actually in the hands of the European merchants and the European mercantile community, to contest or wrest from them any share in the commercial development of the island, or any share in the profits. The profits of accumulating capital are

<p><b>AD 1927</b></p>		<p>entirely and jealously guarded by the European ring.”</p> <p>A special commission, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Donoughmore, arrives in Ceylon in November with terms of reference to:</p> <p>“visit Ceylon and report on the working of the existing constitution and on any difficulties of administration which may have arisen in connection with it; to consider any proposals for the revision of the constitution that may be put forward, and to report what, if any, amendments of the Order-in-Council now in force should be made.”</p> <p>Many organisations and public figures send memoranda and make representations before the commission. The Ceylon National Congress urges the extension of territorial representation and asks for full responsible government, but opposes the introduction of adult franchise, which the commission proposes. The Tamil leadership, on the other hand, press for the continuation of communal representation, introduced in 1923, which brought Sinhalese and Tamil representations in the legislative council to 2:1. The Kandyan National Assembly requests a federal system of government. Its memorandum states:</p> <p>“Ours is..... a claim of a nation to live its own life and realise its own destiny.... We suggest the creation of a Federal State as in the United states of America.... A Federal system..... will enable the respective territories to build up their own nationality.”</p> <p>Many public figures, both Sinhalese and Tamils, go before the Commission and declare that their respective castes, creeds and communities would perish if their rights are not safeguarded by special representation in the legislature. The Kandyans and the Tamils in particular, want British rule as a necessary safeguard against any possible low-country Sinhalese domination.</p>
<p><b>AD 1928</b></p>		<p>Donoughmore Commission Report: The Donoughmore Commission makes many recommendations of far-reaching significance. It recommends the abolition of representation on ethnic and communal lines and an extension of territorial representation. In doing so the commission reports:</p> <p>“Territorial electorates, drawn with no eye to the</p>

			<p>distribution of communities, mean rule by the majority community with no safeguard for the minorities, while safeguards for the minorities inevitably deepen the division of the nation on communal lines.</p> <p>“In surveying the situation in Ceylon, we have come unhesitatingly to the conclusion that communal representation is, as it were, a canker in the body politic, eating deeper and deeper into the vital energies of the people, breeding self-interest, suspicion and animosity, poisoning the new growth of political consciousness and effectively preventing the development of a nation or corporate spirit... There can be no hope of binding together the diverse elements of the population in a realisation of their common kinship and an acknowledgement of common obligation to the country of which they are all citizens so long as the system of communal representation, with all its disintegrating influences, remains a distinctive feature of the constitution.”</p> <p>The Legislative Council approves the Donoughmore Commission Report by a narrow majority of two votes. Almost every low-country Sinhalese member vote for it, while all the Tamils and most Kandyan members vote against.</p>
			A E Goonesinha forms the Ceylon Labour Party which is essentially a trade union.
			Jaffna Youth Congress: The Jaffna Youth Congress led by Handy Perinpanayagam demands independence for the people of Ceylon.
<b>AD 1931</b>			Self-government: The Donoughmore Constitution grants limited internal self-government. Under the new constitution, the Legislative Council is dissolved and elections to the state council fixed for May 1931.
			State Council elections: Ceylon becomes the first Asian country to exercise adult franchise. When election is announced, the Youth Congress, which stands for a free united Sri Lanka and opposed to communal politics of both the Sinhalese and Tamil leadership of the time, calls for national boycott of the election. The Tamil leaders decide not to stand and there is no election for four Tamil

		<p>seats in the northern province. The Jaffna election boycott is hailed in the Sinhalese areas as a great act of protest. The <i>Ceylon Daily News</i> writes:</p> <p>“Public opinion in Jaffna is a potent thing. Those who defy it do so at their peril. Ever the home of virile politics, Jaffna is determined to see that the public spirit of her citizens is equal to any crisis.”</p> <p>The All-Ceylon Liberal League expresses support for the boycott and sends a telegram to the Youth Congress which reads –</p> <p>“Congratulate Jaffna heartily on her brilliant achievement and deplore failure to act likewise here for want of unity and a sufficiently strong public opinion. Endeavouring to mobilise public opinion to attain the common object by best means available.”</p>
<b>AD 1932</b>		<p>Two-Languages Resolution of the State Council: G K W Perera moves two resolutions in the state council calling for the use of Sinhala and Tamil in Judicial and civil administration.</p>
<b>AD 1934</b>		<p>Call for the language of the government to be in Tamil and Sinhalese: G K W Perera re-iterates the importance of the languages of the government to be Tamil and Sinhala. At the annual meeting of the Ceylon National Congress, he says:</p> <p>“One of the greatest handicaps the people suffer from is the language of government. It is most absurd for us to fight for rights on behalf of the large majority.... When we deny ourselves the right of conducting our government in the people’s languages.”</p>
<b>AD 1935</b>		<p>Founding of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party: The trotskyte Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) is founded by Colvin R de Silva, N M Perera and S A Wickremasinghe.</p>
<b>AD 1936</b>		<p>Tamils contest the elections in the northern constituencies and enter the second State Council. The election brings into the State Council G G Ponnambalam, the emerging Tamil leader, and Philip Gunawardena and Dr N M Perera, two Marxist socialists from the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP).</p>
		<p>Governor Caldecott calls for a new delimitation committee to increase Tamil representation in the State Council. He also favours abolishing the three officers of State, who retain control over public service, law and</p>

			finance, and transferring these functions to the elected ministers, and, above all, for a cabinet government in place of the board of ministers and the executive committee system.
			A seven-member Board of Ministers is constituted, avowedly to agree on steps to advance to full self-government. The political leadership comes under D S Senanayake, a cautious conservative politician committed to building a united Ceylon.
<b>AD 1937</b>			<p>S W R D Bandaranaike establishes the Sinhala Maha Sabha (the Great Council of the Sinhalese). Bandaranaike states the rationale for its founding as:</p> <p>“We [the Sinhala Maha Sabha] saw differences amongst our own people – caste distinctions, up-country and low country distinctions, religious distinctions and various other distinctions – and we therefore felt that we should achieve unity, which is the goal of us all. Surely, the best method was to start from the lower rungs: firstly, unity among the Sinhalese; and secondly, whilst uniting the Sinhalese, to work for higher unity, the unity of all communities.”</p> <p>Philip Gunawardena of the LSSP moves a resolution in the State Council calling for the use of the Sinhala and Tamil languages in recording complaints at police stations and in lower court proceedings.</p>
<b>AD 1939</b>			The Ceylon National Congress demands that Sinhala and Tamil be introduced as official languages. British government’s delay in giving approval to the consensus package on constitutional reform presented by Governor Caldecott leads to considerable disappointment and results in a spate of strikes in 1940.
			Formation of Ceylon Indian Congress: The Ceylon Indian Congress (CIC) is formed in July to protect the rights of the Tamils of Indian origin in Ceylon.
<b>AD 1940</b>			The British colonial rulers advocate a Royal Commission, before any further constitutional dispensation, reject the consensus package and suggest that the Governor convene a conference of the ministers and representatives of the Tamil minority to negotiate a settlement of existing differences.
			State council election due in 1940 is put off due to the Second World War. The progress of constitutional reform proposals between the governor and the ministers comes to an end. With Japan’s entry into the war, Lord

			Mountbatten establishes his headquarters for the South-East Asia Command in Sri Lanka. The country becomes a “strategical base and a source of essential war materials, in particular rubber”.
			The United Socialist Party is formed and calls for “the achievement of complete independence”.
<b>AD 1942</b>			Inspired by the call for “the achievement of complete national independence by the LSSP and the United Socialist Party, Dudley Senanayake and J R Jayewardene and few others in the Ceylon National Congress set sight on Independence and in the 1942 Annual session vote for “complete independence”.
			In order to placate and get the wholehearted support and co-operation of the Ceylon government and politicians for the imperial war effort, the British War Cabinet declares that it would provide for the constitutional objective for self-governing institutions in Ceylon within the Commonwealth. This the ministers feel “too indefinite” and Governor Caldecott, agreeing with the ministers, suggests that Whitehall withdraw it and substitute another declaration, committing Britain to the offer of “full responsibility for government under the Crown in all matters of civil administration”. When it is pointed out by the Colonial Office that a more specific constitutional goal might result in the loss of minority support for the war effort, Governor Caldecott replies:  “It must be realised that the minority communities are just as keen to be released from Whitehall apron strings as the majority, and that their disagreement with the latter is solely in regard to the allocation of Council seats and share of Government appointments, etc. i.e. in regard to the machinery and not the essential characteristics of the administration which all agree to keep national.”
<b>AD 1943</b>			The May 1943 declaration envisages a stage of constitutional advance short of dominion status. In July the Colonial Office clarifies the declaration as requiring the formulation of a draft constitution by the Board of Ministers, on condition that, when approved by the Colonial Office, it must receive a three-fourths vote in the State Council, with a view to seek a national consensus for the provisions of the new constitution. The Colonial Office also included a reservation that a constitution so formulated would be examined by “a suitable commission or conference” once victory had been achieved.




			The draft constitution, prepared by the Board of Ministers, allocates 57 seats for the Sinhalese, 15 for Ceylon Tamils, 14 for Indian Tamils and eight for Muslims.
			The Ceylon Communist Party (CP) is formed:
<b>AD 1944</b>			The draft Constitution reaches Whitehall in March 1944 and in July the British Secretary of State, Oliver Stanley, announces in the House of Commons that a constitutional commission would be appointed to visit Sri Lanka to examine the draft constitution and to consult with various minority interests. The ministers make objections to this on the grounds that the May 1943 declaration requiring a three-fourths majority of the State Council for the adoption of the constitution is sufficient protection of the interests of minorities.
			The Constitutional Commission, with Lord Soulbury as its chairman arrives from the UK on 20 September 1944 to examine the draft constitution and with a specific term of reference "to consult with various interests, including the minority communities, concerned with the subject of constitutional reform in Ceylon".
			The All Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC) led by G G Ponnambalam is established. A proposal of "balanced representation" - that the Sinhalese should receive half the seats in the proposed House of Representatives and the minorities - Indian Tamils, Ceylon Tamils, Muslims, Burghers and Europeans should control the other half, to prevent non-domination of one community over other, (which came to be known as "the Fifty - Fifty proposal") ably argued before the Commission by Tamil leader G.G. Ponnambalam, was however rejected on the ground that it would amount to communal representation.
			The Commission holds that there had been no proven acts of administrative discrimination against the Tamils and is optimistic that there are not likely to be any in the future. However, to prevent discriminatory laws being enacted, the commission provides a safeguard prohibiting the enactment of any law which would make persons of any community or religion liable to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of other communities or religions are not made liable, or confer advantages or privileges on persons of any community or religion which are not conferred on persons of other communities or religions. This provision becomes Section 29(2) of the Soulbury Constitution in 1947.
			The State Council of Ceylon passes a resolution

			recognising Sinhala and Tamil as the official languages in May 1944. The resolution is moved by J R Jeyewardene. This is followed up by S W R D Bandaranaike, who on 20 September 1945 proposes that steps be taken to effect the transition from English to Sinhala and Tamil.
			The Ceylon Communist Party defines the Sinhalese and Tamil people as distinct nationalities, and recognises their right of self-determination, including “the right, if ever they so desired, to form their own independent state”. In order to “unify the different nationalities in the period of the general national movement for freedom”, the Communist Party advocates a federal structure of government for independent Sri Lanka.
<b>AD 1945</b>			Dominion Status: Leader of the State Council D S Senanayake visits London in July and meets the Secretary of State G Hall and presses for immediate granting of dominion status and returns with the assurance that “His Majesty’s Government will co-operate with the people of Ceylon in such manner that such status be given in a short time.”
			The Solbury Constitution is presented as a White Paper in October for acceptance by the State council, with a contingent promise of dominion status if the new constitution works successfully. The white paper is regarded as the first signal of an early transfer of power and independence.
			The State Council debates the new constitution on 8-9 November. In the debate President of the Ceylon National Congress and leader of the State Council D S Senanayake urges the Tamils and minority communities to accept the constitution by assuring them:  “Do you want to be governed from London or do you want, as Ceylonese, to help govern Ceylon?.... On behalf of the Congress and on my own behalf, I give the minority communities the sincere assurance that no harm need you fear at our hands in a free Lanka”.  The Tamils accept this assurance, and all the Ceylon Tamil members unanimously vote for the acceptance of the Solbury constitution. The motion is passed in the State Council by 51 votes to three. Two Indian Tamils and a Sinhalese vote against.
			State Council appoints a Select Committee to look into the recognition of Sinhala and Tamil as official languages.



			In October 1945 the State Council resolves to introduce “free education” and accepts, in principle, that education should be in a person’s mother tongue.
<b>AD 1946</b>			Ceylon, which had remained a British Crown Colony since 1802, assumes full responsibility for all internal affairs. Under the new constitution, passed by the King in Privy Council, on 15 May 1946, and based on the recommendations of the Soulbury Commission, which was sent to Ceylon in December, 1944, Britain retains control of Defence and External Affairs. The Parliament of Ceylon is to consist of two Chambers, a Senate and a House of Representatives, with a Prime Minister and Cabinet having collective responsibility to Parliament. On the demand by D S Senanayake and the Board of Ministers, for the immediate grant of Dominion Status, the British Government says:-.... It is, therefore, the hope of His Majesty's Government that the new constitution will be accepted by the people of Ceylon with a determination so to work it that in a comparatively short space of time such Dominion Status will be evolved. The actual length of time occupied by this evolutionary process must depend upon the experience gained under the new constitution by the people of Ceylon..."
			The Ceylon National Congress (CNC) is converted into the United National Party (UNP), with D S Senanayake as its leader. The UNP included Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim “notables” of the CNC.
			A Select Committee of the State Council appointed in 1945 to report on "the steps necessary to effect the transition from English to Sinhala and Tamil as the official languages" recommends that English be dropped as the language of administration in ten years; that a Commissioner of National Languages be appointed; a Department of National Languages be set up; a Translation Bureau and a Research Institute be established; and that the laws of the country be codified in Sinhala and Tamil.
			Working-class agitation and Marxist-inspired labour unrest culminates in the general strike of 1946, in which, for the first time, government employees takes a leading part.
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<b>AD 1947</b>		<p>Ceylon has a population of 6,276,000, according to the Bulletin of Statistics issued by the Statistical Office of the United Nations.</p>
		<p>While the leader of the United National Party, D S Senanayake, and the war-time Civil Defence Commissioner Sir Oliver Goonetilleke continue to press for transfer of power from the British Government, working class agitation grows in intensity in May-June. D S Senanayake persuades the British to land British troops in Colombo at the time of the General Strike in May, and accordingly British troops do a route march through the streets of Colombo.</p>
	<b>Jun. 5</b>	<p>Tamil Trade Union activist S Kandasamy is shot dead by</p>

		Police while walking at the head of a procession led by LSSP leader Dr. N M Perera, who it is believed was the actual target of the Police attack. Widespread protest follows.
<b>Jun. 18</b>		The Governor, Sir Henry Monck-Mason Moore in his address to the State Council of Ceylon announces that no constitutional changes could be brought about before a new government of Ceylon is established under the Soulbury constitution. The announcement says: "Agreement will then have to be negotiated on a number of subjects. When such agreements have been concluded on terms satisfactory to His Majesty's government and to the Ceylon Government, immediate steps will be taken to amend the Constitution so as to confer upon Ceylon fully responsible status within the British Commonwealth of Nations..."
		The Secretary of State makes the announcement in the House of Commons in London in July 1947 that, upon the signing of "agreements on defence and external affairs" between the two governments, Sri Lanka would be granted fully responsible status within the Commonwealth. Following this, a general election for a new House of Representatives is announced.
<b>Aug. 23– Sept. 20</b>		General Elections under the Soulbury Constitution to the House of Representatives is held. Of the total of 101 seats in the House, elections are held for 95, the other 6 to be filled by the Governor to give representation to special groups, which would go unrepresented otherwise. The 95 electorates are carved out under a delimitation formula taking into account 'area' as well as 'population'. Thus, one seat assigned to a population of 75,000 and one seat for every 1,000 sq.miles would, it is believed, give the Muslim and Tamil minorities living in the scattered communities of the Dry Zone a higher number of seats than they would receive on the basis of population alone.
		The Soulbury Commissioners while accepting the essentials of the proposals put forward by the Ceylonese Ministers in 1944, in the framing of the Constitution, had added a Second Chamber - a Senate - to be filled by 15 members elected by the House of Representatives and 15 to be nominated by the Governor General.
		Over 1,500,000 people go to the polls, which are peaceful. As anticipated by the British Government, the (United National Party led by D S Senanayake, obtains a working majority. The final results of the elections are:

			UNP- 42; Independents (unattached) - 21; Samasamaja Party (Trotskyist)-10; Ceylon Tamil Congress - 7; Ceylon Indian Congress - 6; Bolshevist-Leninist Party (also Totskyist) - 5; Communist (Stalinist) - 3; Labour Party - 1.
			Leader the UNP, Don Stephen Senanayake forms the government. Of the 14 Ministers in the Cabinet, 11 are Sinhalese, 2 are Tamils, and 1 Moslem. By religion, 10 are Buddhists, 2 are Hindus, 1 Moslem and 1 Christian. The two Tamil Ministers are C. Suntheralingam. [retired Professor of Mathematics] (Commerce) and C Sittampalam (Posts), both elected as Independents. A future Governor General and three future Prime Ministers are in the Cabinet: Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, (Home Affairs), J.R.Jayewardene, (Finance), Dudley Senanayake, the Prime Minister's son (Agriculture) and S W R D Bandaranaike (Health and Local Government).
	<b>Oct. 14</b>		The House of Representatives meets and elects A F Molamure as Speaker and S W R D Bandaranaike as Leader of the House.
	<b>Nov. 11</b>		The D.S. Senanayake Government signs three agreements with the government of the United Kingdom - a Defence Agreement, an External Affairs Agreement and a Public Affairs Agreement. Article II of the Defence Agreement gives the British the right to run their military establishments as it was during the colonial days. The Article says: "The Government of Ceylon will grant to the Government of the United Kingdom all the necessary facilities for the objects mentioned in Article I as may be mutually agreed. These facilities will include the use of naval and air bases and ports and military establishments and the use of telecommunication facilities, and the right of service courts and authorities to exercise such control and jurisdiction over members of the said forces as they exercise at present."
			The Public Affairs Agreement is designed to safeguard the rights of the British officials who are in the "service of Ceylon" and casts an obligation on the Ceylon government even for the payment of pensions and gratuities when necessary. The Agreement however does not make any stipulations concerning the thousands of estate Tamil workers who were brought into the island under British rule.
	<b>Nov. 13</b>		In the British House of Commons, Colonial Secretary Creech Jones presents the Ceylon Independence Bill in

			the British Parliament conferring on Ceylon "fully responsible status within the British Commonwealth of Nations". The Bill also incorporates the three Agreements of 11 November. The Bill is passed unopposed in both Houses and is enacted on 10 December.
			It is announced that 4 February 1948 will be the appointed day for the formal attainment by Ceylon of Dominion Status.
			The debate on the Governor's speech delivered at the Parliament of Ceylon on 25 November occasions severe criticism of the Agreements signed on 11 November. One member goes to the extent of referring to D S Senanayake as "Asia's traitor No.1".
			H Sri Nissanka, M.P. for Kurunegala argues that there is no need for Ceylon to enter into a defence agreement because she had no enemy to be afraid of and that the Defence Agreement is mostly in the interests of Britain.
			Ceylon and India exchange High Commissioners. Indian Representative in Colombo V.V. Giri (who 22 years later is to become President of India) is appointed Indian High Commissioner.
			The state committee appointed to prepare technical terms in Tamil publishes the glossary of "Technical and Scientific Terms".
<b>AD 1948</b>	<b>Jan.</b>		The question of Ceylon's national flag becomes a contentious issue. A resolution is moved in Parliament that the Lion Flag be accepted as the official flag for the new state. The ACTC MPs resolutely opposes the motion. S J V Chelvanayakam moves an amendment in Parliament on 16 January that the official national flag of Ceylon should be the Lion flag of the Sinhalese, the Nandi flag of the Tamils and the crescent and star flag of the Muslims. Eventually the matter is referred to a select committee by the Prime Minister.
	<b>Jan. 27</b>		Prime Minister D S Senanayake announces in the House of Representatives that the British Union Jack would continue to be the national flag until a design for a new flag is decided by a Parliamentary Select Committee; that when a National Flag is agreed upon, it would be used together with the Union Jack; and that the Lion Flag of former Sinhalese kings (the standard of the Kandyan dynasty which ended in 1815), would be flown at the Independence celebrations of 4 February.

	<b>Feb. 4</b>		<p>Ceylon officially becomes a Dominion of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Governor General Sir Henry Moore takes the oath of office in the presence of the Cabinet and the Under Secretary of the British Commonwealth Relations Office, Gordon Walker, represent the British Government. In a broadcast, the Prime Minister declares that "whatever disagreements we may have had with the British in the past, we are grateful for their goodwill and co-operation which have culminated in our freedom", expressing the hope that "the seed of voluntary renunciation which they have sown will grow into a stately tree of mutual and perpetual friendship".</p>
	<b>Feb. 10</b>		<p>The new Dominion Parliament is opened by the Duke of Gloucester representing the British monarch. In his Speech from the Throne, the Duke congratulates the people of Ceylon for achieving "independence as a fully responsible member of the British commonwealth", and expresses the King's satisfaction that Ceylon had gained her freedom by constitutional and peaceful means in collaboration with the UK Government. Among those present at the ceremony is Lord Soulbury, who presided over the Commission that led to the conferment of Dominion Status on Ceylon.</p>



<b>AD 1951</b>			S W R D Bandaranaike resigns as Minister of Health and Local Government from the cabinet and from the UNP and forms the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and disbands Sinhala Maha Sabha (SMS).
			The SLFP which elects two Tamils as Vice-Presidents issues a manifesto which includes the following, under the heading of "National Languages":-  "It is most essential that Sinhalese and Tamil be adopted as official languages immediately, so that the people of this country may cease to be aliens in their own land, so that an end may be put to the inequity of condemning those educated in Sinhalese and Tamil to occupy the lowliest walks of life, and above all that society may have the full benefit of the skills and talents of the people. The administration of the government must be carried on in Sinhalese and Tamil."
			The Federal Party (FP) holds its first convention, and declares its intention to campaign for regional autonomy for Sri Lankan Tamils living in the North and East.
<b>AD 1952</b>	<b>Feb. 23– Mar. 23</b>		A Colombo Plan Exhibition is organised by the Colombo Plan countries in Colombo.
	<b>Mar. 22</b>		Prime Minister, D S Senanayake (68) dies in hospital, from injuries sustained the previous day after falling off a horse.
	<b>Mar. 26</b>		The Governor General Lord Soulbury calls on the dead Premier's son Dudley Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture in his father's Cabinet, to form the government. Dudley Senanayake, accepts the invitation after some hesitation and pledges himself to carry on the administration "so that everyone, whatever language he speaks, whatever religion he professes, and whatever race he belongs to, may live and move on terms of absolute equality." With Dudley Senanayake's assumption of office, Ceylon becomes the first Commonwealth country to have had a father and son as successive Prime Ministers.
	<b>Mar. 29</b>		The late Prime Minister Stephen Senanayake is cremated with Buddhist rites in Independence Square in Colombo.
			Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake's calls a snap election and Parliament is dissolved on 8 April.
	<b>May</b>		General Elections, the first since Ceylon attained


<b>24-30</b>		Dominion Status, results in a UNP victory.
<b>Jun. 1</b>		The General Elections results, announced in Colombo are as follows: UNP - 54, Tamil Congress - 4, Labour Party - 1, Sri Lanka Freedom Party - 9; Lanka Sama Samaja Party - 9; Communist Party - 3; Federal Party - 2; independents - 11; and Viplavakari Sama Samaja Party and People's Republican Party, one each. The Ceylon Indian Congress which held 7 seats in the previous Parliament boycotts the elections as a protest against elections being held on the basis of the 1950 electoral registers. Federal Party leader S J V Chelvanayakam fails to get returned.
<b>Jun. 2</b>		Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake announces his cabinet. G G Ponnambalam retained as Minister of Industries and Fisheries and V Nalliah, inducted as Minister of Posts and Information are the two Tamils in the 14-member Cabinet. J R Jayewardene continues as Minister of Finance. S W R D Bandaranaike is elected as Leader of the Opposition. The exclusion of the great majority of the Tamils of Indian origin from the 1950 electoral registers, leads to a civil disobedience campaign by the Ceylon Indian Congress and an exchange of Notes between the Ceylonese and Indian governments.
<b>Jun. 9</b>		Police forcibly disperse the Congress volunteers, including former Members of Parliament, engaged in non-violent <i>Satyagraha</i> (non-violent sit-in protest popularised by Mahatma Gandhi), beginning on 28 April, outside the House of Representatives, and the offices of the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Justice, Home Affairs, and Food. Congress volunteers "squatting" outside the Indian High Commissioner's Office are attacked and five are taken to hospital with injuries.
		J.R.Jayewardene, Finance Minister, speaking on 4 May, blames the Ceylon Indian Congress leaders, whom he accuses of acting under Communist influence, for the disenfranchisement of Indian Tamils. After having treated the offer of Ceylonese citizenship "with contempt", he declares, "they suddenly decided to call off their boycott and to apply for citizenship. Applications began to pour on at a rate with which no Government Department could cope....."
<b>No. 13</b>		Ceylon enters into a Rubber-Rice Pact with Communist China. Prime Minister announces that following a Trade


			Mission to China headed by Minister of Commerce and Trade R G Senanayake, a short-term contract had been concluded for supply by China to Ceylon of 80,000 metric tons of rice, and that the Ceylon government had agreed in principle to proposals relating to trade in Ceylonese rubber for Chinese rice over the next five years.
	<b>Dec. 18</b>		The five year trade agreement is later signed in Peking.
<b>AD 1953</b>	<b>Mar. 20</b>		The Census shows that the population of Ceylon is 8,103,648 as compared with 6,657,339 at the 1946 census, an increase of 21.7%. The population of the four largest towns are as follows: Colombo- 424,816; Jaffna - 76,664; Kandy - 57,013; and Gall - 55,825.
			Finance Minister Jayewardene presenting his Budget, says: "We are faced with the collapse of the boom, heavy fall in our export prices, and rising import prices. A combination of all these factors could contribute to the downfall of the economy.... I know the solution lay largely in the elimination of the overall deficit but it was not possible to take this step, without removing as well the subsidy on food". In August the government abolishes the subsidy on rice, increases the price of sugar, abolishes the free mid-day meal to schoolchildren and increases rail fares measures which hurt the working and lower middle classes.
	<b>Aug. 12</b>		The indignation explodes in the first mass agitation and the general protest strike in independent Ceylon, followed by countrywide, disturbances. A state of Emergency is declared, the army is called in and a number of people are killed by army firing.
	<b>Oct. 12</b>		Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake, already in poor health, resigns.
			Sir John Kotelawala, (57) Minister of Transport and Works and Leader of the House is called upon by Lord Soulbury to form a government. J R Jayewardene who held the portfolio of Finance in the three previous Cabinets is assigned instead the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and becomes Leader of the House. Sir Oliver Goonetilleke takes over Finance. With the induction of Sir Kanthiah Vaithianathan into the new Ministry of Housing and Social Services and S.Natesan as Minister of Posts and Broadcasting, and the retention of G G Ponnambalam, there are three Tamils in the 14-member Cabinet. But within four days of the announcement of

			the Cabinet, G.G. Ponnambalam and Minister of Justice Sir Lalita Rajapakse are dropped from the Cabinet. The Tamil Congress withdraws from the Government.
			While renewing the 5-year Rubber-Rice Trade agreement with China, Ceylon enters into a 4-year agreement with Burma for the purchase of Burmese rice. The rice subsidy is in the meantime restored.
			The Ceylon Bank rate, which was 2 1/2% since the creation of the Central Bank, is raised to 3%.
	<b>Oct. 29</b>		The government issues an official directive stating that only the National Anthem of Ceylon the Sinhala (Namo Namo Matha) would now on be played at official functions and that only the national flag would be flown on these occasions; that since Queen Elizabeth II had been proclaimed Queen of Ceylon, there was no need for the use of the Union Jack or British National Anthem.
<b>AD 1954</b>	<b>Jan. 18</b>		Prime Minister Sir John Kotelawala and Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru sign a pact in New Delhi, agreeing to suppress illicit immigration and to place those plantation Tamils granted citizenship on a separate electoral register.
	<b>Apr. 11</b>		Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive in Ceylon on a ten-day visit.
	<b>Apr. 12</b>		The Queen opens a joint session of both Houses of Parliament at Independence Hall, which is boycotted by the Opposition led by S W R D Bandaranaike. Only one Opposition member, C. Suntharalingam, is present. The Queen visits Polonnaruwa, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Peradeniya.
			It is announced in Colombo soon after the Queen leaves Ceylon that Her Majesty had approved the appointment of Sir Oliver Goonetilleke (61) Minister of Finance and Leader of the Senate, as the Governor General of Ceylon in succession to Lord Soulbury.
	<b>Apr. 28</b>		Colombo Conference of South-East Asian Prime Ministers opens and is extended for two more days on May 1 and 2 in Kandy. Leaders who meet are Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Mohamed Ali of Pakistan, Dr Sastroamidjojo of Indonesia, Thakin Nu of Burma, and Sir John Kotelawala of the host country. One of the resolutions, sponsored by Ceylon and supported by Pakistan, declaring that international communism is the greatest potential danger in South and South-East Asia, and recommending that the governments participating at the conference reaffirm their faith in democracy and

		take measures to prevent Communist interference in their affairs, is opposed by Jawaharlal Nehru as being inconsistent with India's policy of non-alignment and also opposed by Dr. Sastroamidjojo, and is dropped.
		Ceylon Indian Congress changes its name to Ceylon Democratic Congress.
		Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon C C Desai expresses concern over the slow process of registration of citizens under the Indian and Pakistani Citizenship Act, and emphasizes that persons whose applications are rejected cannot become Indian nationals unless they satisfy Section 8 of the Indian constitution which requires evidence of birth of the applicant or his/her parents or one of the grand parents in India.
	<b>Jul. 17</b>	Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, the first Ceylonese Governor General, assumes office.
	<b>Sept.</b>	Sir John Kotelawala visits Jaffna, a visit that is to prove costly to his political fortunes subsequently. In response to an appeal at a public function by the veteran nationalist and Principal of Kokkuvil Hindu College, S Handy Perinbanayagam, Sir John gives the assurance that the Constitution would be amended to provide for both Sinhala and Tamil as official languages of the country. Although he asserts later that he had been misreported, campaigners for "Sinhala only" make an issue of it in the south.
		Pressures grow from various Sinhala-Buddhist groups to make Sinhala as the only official language. The Tri Sinhala Peramuna engages in open anti-Tamil propaganda in the Kandy District.
		All Ceylon Buddhist Congress appoints a Buddhist Committee of Inquiry to "inquire into the present state of Buddhism in Ceylon and to report on the conditions necessary to improve and strengthen the position of Buddhism....."
		Prime Minister Sir John Kotalawela, declares intention to amend the constitution giving "parity of status" to Sinhala and Tamil as official languages.
	<b>Oct. 27</b>	G G Ponnambalam introduces the concept of 'parity status' for the two languages. In a speech at Trincomalee, he says that 'Tamil and Sinhala should be given equal status and ... be the official languages throughout the island'. He adds that a constitutional amendment to this effect would not suffice 'unless.... implemented in the day-to-day administration of the country.

<b>AD 1955</b>		<p>The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) changes its line on the language issue, and in its annual sessions in December formally advocates that Sinhala alone should be the official language and that Tamil be made the language of administration in Tamil areas. A Trotskyite group under Philip Gunawardene also comes out in favour of making Sinhala the sole official language, while the main Left parties, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) and the Communist Party continue to support the policy of parity of both languages.</p> <p>Senator Cyril de Zoysa is elected President of the Senate (24 January), in succession to Sir Nicholas Attygalle, who had resigned in order to become Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon in succession to Sir Ivor Jennings.</p>
	<b>Jan. 31</b>	Col. Anton Muttukumaru (a Tamil) becomes the first Ceylonese Head of the Army with the rank of Brigadier, succeeding Brigadier F.S.Reid.
	<b>Jul. 18</b>	Second 6-year Plan for Economic Development is introduced in the House of Representatives.
	<b>Aug. 17</b>	Independent Tamil M.P. for Vavuniya, C.Suntharalingam, announces that he would voluntarily vacate his seat in order to force a by-election, because of the "discriminatory treatment" which he alleges, had been meted out by the Government to the Tamils.
	<b>Oct. 15</b>	A crowd of over 5,000 people attack a meeting at the Colombo Town Hall, arranged by the LSSP advocating the retention of equal status for Sinhala and Tamil.
	<b>Oct. 19</b>	A motion for the amendment of Ceylon Constitution Order-in-Council to give parity of status to Sinhala and Tamil, introduced by the Sinhalese LSSP leader Dr N M.Perera, is opposed in Parliament by the Prime Minister.
	<b>Dec. 15</b>	Ceylon is admitted to the United Nations, after a 7-year wait, along with 15 other nations.
		S W R D Bandaranaike announces SLFP's language policy as Sinhala with "reasonable use of Tamil". "Sinhala-only" enthusiasts led by Mettananda and Kularatne hold protests and demonstrations.
		The Department of <i>Swabasha</i> (vernacular) publishes its own scientific nomenclature for use by Ceylon Tamils - Glossaries of Technical Terms.
<b>AD 1956</b>	<b>Jan. 12- 20</b>	All Tamil MPs resign from the ruling United National Party and the government. Deputy Minister V. Kumaraswamy resigns on 12 January. Minister of Posts


			<p>S. Natesan, Mr Kumaraswamy and 5 other Tamil-speaking MPs resign from the UNP on 19 January, after the Committee appointed to draft the agenda for the party conference decides to exclude resolutions on minority rights and parity of status for Tamil presented by both these MPs. All seven members who resigned, together with Tamil-speaking members of the Opposition, announce on 20 January that they had formed a “united front” to defend the Tamil language and culture and to “carry on the struggle for the creation of a Tamil state which will offer to federate with the Sinhalese state on terms of complete equality, if acceptable to both nations, or elect to remain independent”.</p>
	<b>Feb. 4</b>		<p>The Buddhist Committee of Inquiry publishes its report calling for strong State support of various kinds to come to “the rescue of Buddhism.” Titled “Betrayal of Buddhism” it is an aggressive documentation of perceived Buddhist grievances.</p>
	<b>Feb. 13</b>		<p>Former Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake announces that he would resign from the ruling United National Party and retire from active politics when the present Parliament is dissolved.</p>
	<b>Feb. 14</b>		<p>In the by-election at Vavuniya, fought largely on the language question, C. Suntharalingam is elected, polling 8,995 votes against 2,003 for the UNP candidate.</p>
	<b>Feb. 16-18</b>		<p>UNP Annual Conference meets at Kelaniya. The Conference unanimously approves a resolution recommending that Sinhala should be recognised as the country’s only official language, thereby introducing a fundamental change in the policy hitherto pursued by successive Ceylonese governments under which Sinhala and Tamil had equal status as official languages in place of English. In view of this policy change, the Governor General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke dissolves Parliament on 18 February and orders general elections to be held between 4 and 11 April in order that the Government might obtain a mandate for the new language policy.</p>
	<b>Apr. 5-10</b>		<p>At general elections, UNP suffers severe defeat, losing 46 of the 54 seats, which it held in the previous</p>

		Parliament. The SLFP-led coalition - the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) wins an absolute majority. Eight members of the previous Cabinet, including JR Jayewardene lose their seats
		Sir John retains his seat with a largely reduced majority. MEP leader S W R D Bandaranaike is returned by a majority of 41,997 votes, the largest ever recorded in an election. In the North and East, the Federal Party under the leadership of SJV Chelvanayakam wins 10 out of the 14 seats it contested. For the first and only time, a Tamil constituency - Point Pedro - returns a left candidate, P. Kandiah of the Communist Party. The results, as announced on 11 April, are as follows:  MEP - 51; LSSP – 14; FP – 10; UNP - 8; Communist Party - 3; Tamil Congress -1; Tamil Resistance Front -1; and Independents - 7.
<b>Apr. 11</b>		Sir John Kotelawala tenders his resignation. SLFP and MEP coalition leader SWRD Bandaranaike is called upon to form a government.
<b>Apr. 12</b>		Mr Bandaranaike announces a 13-member Cabinet, without any Tamil members.
<b>Apr. 18</b>		R G Senanayake who contested two seats as an Independent and won both (defeating J R Jayewardene at Kelaniya) joins the Cabinet, announcing at the same time that he had joined the SLFP.
<b>Apr. 20</b>		New Parliament opens. The Speech from the Throne outlining Government policy says legislation for adoption of Sinhala as the official language would be introduced as early as possible, but assures all religious, racial and other minorities that they need have no fear of injustice or discrimination in the carrying out of government policies.
<b>May</b>		Buddha Jayanti celebrations, the anniversary marking 2,500 years of Buddhism, begin and continue for an year.
<b>Jun. 6</b>		The Official Language Bill declaring Sinhala as the sole Official language, is introduced in the House of Representatives by Prime Minister Bandaranaike. Outside, on the Galle Face Green overlooking the Parliament building, over 200 Tamil volunteers led by 12 Members of Parliament who were staging a silent protest (Satyagraha) are set upon by a Sinhalese mob and stoned and assaulted, while the Police look on. It is later alleged that they were under government orders not to interfere. Rioting spreads in the city with Tamils



		<p>being manhandled in buses, trains and on the streets. Among the victims were two Tamil lawyers, A.C.Nadaraja and S.Sharvananda (later Chief Justice of Sri Lanka –1986). They are pulled out of the car in which they were travelling and attacked by a mob. Indian Tamil shops are attacked and looted. More serious disturbances occur in the Eastern Province, in Batticaloa, Trincomalee and in Gal Oya valley, where a large number of deaths are reported. In 10 days of sporadic rioting, an estimated 150 persons are killed, the majority of the victims being Tamils. This marks the beginning of the phase in the island's history when Tamils are subject to physical violence.</p>
<b>Jun. 15</b>		<p>S J V Chelvanayakam during the second reading stage of the (Sinhala) Official Language Bill in Parliament denies the charge that federalism implied the division of the country. He explains his concept of federalism to Parliament as:</p> <p>“ A federal constitution can be and has been worked under a democratic set-up and it does not mean a division of the country at all. The division of a country will be a division of it into two sovereign states. But under one central government, irreconcilable units of the country have to be resolved and a compromise brought about, and that can only be by the adoption of federalism. No doubt it will mean a division of the powers, which the central government exclusively enjoys, into some powers to be exercised by the federating unit and some powers by the central federal government.</p> <p>“It will be a complete misnomer to call federalism a separation; federalism is a union. Under a federal set-up, the preservation and the maintenance of the integrity of smaller units can be assured without in any way taking away the sovereignty of the central government of the country.”</p>
<b>Jun. 15</b>		<p>The Sinhala Only Bill is adopted by 66 votes to 29. All Tamil members vote against the Bill and the Left-wing MPs belonging to the LSSP and the Communist Party, all of whom are Sinhalese, join in opposing the Bill.</p>
		<p>The Federal Party announces that it regards the Bill as unconstitutional and would test its validity in the Courts. At a meeting soon after, it confirms the objective of establishing an “autonomous Tamil linguistic state within a Federal Union of Ceylon” as the</p>

			only way of protecting the “cultural freedom and identity of the Tamil-speaking people”. It also urges all Tamils to refuse to learn Sinhala and to transact all their business in Tamil, or if necessary in English.
	<b>Aug.</b>		The Federal Party holds its national convention in the naval port of Trincomalee in the Eastern Province, and warns that unless the government took measures to constitute a Federal union in Ceylon within a year, the Federal Party would undertake a campaign of non-violent direct action (Satyagraha) in August 1957 to achieve its objectives.
	<b>Sep.</b>		It is announced in Colombo that Ceylon will establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with Soviet Russia and China, “as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made”, it is announced in Colombo.
	<b>Dec.</b>		UNP surprises by winning 18 out of the 31 seats at the Colombo Municipal Council elections and secures an overall majority (15 December).
			The Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) splits and a new trade union, Democratic Workers Congress (DWC) is formed.
			Tamil professionals in large number emigrate to Britain, the United States of America, Canada and Australia. Half the Burgher population emigrates to mainly Australia after dethronement of English by the Sinhala-Only Act, and others begin to learn Sinhala.
<b>AD 1957</b>	<b>Jan.</b>		There is tension between the Sinhalese and Tamil communities following the passing of the Official Language Act and mob attacks on Tamils becomes increasingly acute. The situation is worsened by a Government order introducing the Sinhala letter “Sri” in the number plates of newly registered motor vehicles. The order is openly defied in the Tamil areas in North and East where the Tamil letter for Sri is substituted for the Sinhala letter. Government decides to overlook the offence.
	<b>Feb. 3-5</b>		Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai visits Ceylon and attends the Independence Day rally on 4 February.
			While Independence Day is celebrated among Sinhalese in the south, Tamils in the north and east observe it as a day of mourning. Demonstrations are organised at which copies of the Official Language Act are publicly burned. In Trincomalee, where there is a majority of Tamil-speaking population, the hoisting of the Sinhala Lion Flag in the market place leads to disorders in

			which one person is killed. Troops are sent to restore order.
<b>Apr.</b>			Nearly one year after the original language legislation, Mr Bandaranaike declares that steps would be taken to ensure the “reasonable use of Tamil” and to give it a proper place in the country’s affairs. But the Federal Party continues its preparations for the August Satyagraha, stating that such verbal assurances hitherto given by the Prime Minister are insufficient, in the absence of any concrete action.
<b>May 17-20</b>			Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru visits Ceylon at the invitation of Mr Bandaranaike to participate at the Buddha Jayanti celebrations.
<b>May 27</b>			the Working Committee of the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party decides to recruit a volunteer force of 100,000 to help maintain order in the event of the Federal party carrying out its threat of starting a non-violent Satyagraha campaign in the north and east in August. This move is strongly criticised by the Press and even by some members of the Government.
<b>May 28-31</b>			Japanese Prime Minister Nobosuke Kishi visits Ceylon in the course of an Asian tour.
<b>Jun. 1</b>			The Ceylonese and British governments issue a joint statement in Colombo saying that the British Naval base at Trincomalee and the RAF station at Katunayake are to be formally transferred to Ceylonese control on 15 October, 1957 and 1 November, 1957, respectively. The withdrawal of the establishments “will be in the main completed within a period of 3 years”, according to the announcement.
			Five Cabinet Ministers led by Finance Minister Stanley de Zoysa are on a visit to Mannar, are stoned by the public.
<b>Jun. 5</b>			Mr Bandaranaike states at a Press Conference: “...I have already announced in Parliament three measures which should meet any reasonable demands of the minorities. These are the establishment of Regional Councils to decentralise the administration; the amendment of the Constitution to guarantee among other matters fundamental rights to all citizens; and steps to enable reasonable use of the Tamil language at official levels”. In these circumstances he appeals to the Federal Party to abandon the “criminal folly” of its Satyagraha campaign, which is likely to result in

		“untold misery and sufferings for many thousands of people”.
<b>Jun 13</b>		New session of Parliament opens, and FP members withdraw in protest from the opening ceremony, because the Governor General Sir Oliver reads the speech from the Throne in Sinhala and English, but not in Tamil.
<b>Jun. 19</b>		The Tamil Resistance Front MP, C Suntharalingam, who had boycotted Parliament at the time of the passing of the Official Language Act, is suspended for a fortnight when he protests against the Speaker’s refusal to allow him to speak in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. On refusing to leave the Chamber he is forcibly removed by the police, and as he refuses to move from the pavement where he had been deposited, he is taken to a police station where he remains until 24 June, refusing either to go home or to pay for his food. The police then forcibly remove him to his home, but he squats in the centre of the highway refusing to move. A hostile Sinhalese crowd begins to stone him, at which point his family members and relatives forcibly carry him to his house.
<b>Jun. 26</b>		With the threatened Satyagraha campaign in August approaching, talks begin between Prime Minister Bandaranaike and Tamil leaders SJV Chelvanayakam and C Vanniasingham, which were described as “friendly and satisfactory”.
<b>Jul. 26</b>		The one-month old talks between the Prime Minister and the Federal Party concludes with a compromise settlement which later comes to be referred to as the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam (B-C) pact. The settlement envisages provision for the recognition of Tamil as the language of a national minority of Ceylon without infringing on the position of the Official Language Act, provision for Tamil as the language of administration in the Northern and Eastern provinces, and the setting up of Regional Councils with powers in agriculture, education and selection of candidates for colonization schemes. The Prime Minister also registers his promise to give “early consideration” to the revision of the Citizenship Act that had disenfranchised Tamils in the Plantations.
		The UNP comes out in opposition to the B-C pact, declaring that the agreement would disrupt the unity of the country.
<b>Jul.</b>		The Federal Party meets at an emergency convention in

<b>28</b>		Batticaloa and unanimously decides to accept the agreement with the Prime Minister as an “interim adjustment” and ratifies the decision to call off the proposed Satyagraha campaign in August.
<b>Jul. 29</b>		C Suntharalingam of the Tamil Resistance Front holds a meeting, also at Batticaloa, denouncing the agreement as a betrayal of Tamil rights, and is rescued from an angry crowd by the police.
<b>Aug.</b>		Sinhala opinion builds up against the implementation of the B-C pact. The two members of the Bandaranaike cabinet belonging to the Revolutionary Socialist Party - Philip Gunawardene and William de Silva - also object to what they call “wide powers” proposed to be granted to the Regional Councils.
<b>Aug. 4</b>		a number of Sinhala Buddhist organisations led by Buddhist monks warn the Prime Minister that unless the agreement is repudiated by October 1, they would launch a civil disobedience movement in the Sinhala areas.
<b>Aug. 12</b>		Mr Bandaranaike seeks to mollify Sinhala opinion by saying, inter alia, that the Regional Councils would be controlled by Parliament and would handle only minor colonisation schemes, and that anyone corresponding with the government after 1960 would receive replies only in Sinhala.
<b>Aug. 13</b>		The Federal Party General Secretary Dr E M V Naganathan commenting on the Prime Minister’s interpretation, says that “the policy of political agreement by negotiation appears to be futile because the government cannot be depended upon” and adds that “the possibility of carrying on our freedom struggle through civil disobedience may be deemed necessary again”.
<b>Aug. 15-16</b>		Further talks between the Prime Minister and Mr Chelvanayakam result in a joint statement, which says that “there were no substantial differences of opinion on the few points on which some misunderstanding has arisen”.
<b>Aug. 22</b>		Minister of Education W. Dahanayake announces that a three-man Commission would inquire into the affairs of the University of Ceylon, the Commission to be headed by Professor Joseph Needham, FRS, and assisted by Chintaman Deshmukh, Chairman of the Indian University Grants Committee and formerly Minister of Finance. The third member who is to be a Ceylonese is not named.

	<b>Sep. 7</b>		Mrs. Kusuma Rajaratne, who along with her husband K.M.P.Rajaratne was known to be an anti-Tamil campaigner, is returned to Parliament at a by-election at Welimada, a predominantly Sinhala electorate.
			It is announced in Jerusalem that Israel and Ceylon had agreed to establish diplomatic relations. Ceylon is the sixth Asian country to enter into diplomatic relations with Israel the others being Burma, Laos, Japan, the Philippines and Siam.
	<b>Sep. 19</b>		A new five-year trade and payments agreement between Ceylon and China is signed in Peking. It is also announced in Colombo that the Chinese government has offered to set-up a textile factory in Ceylon at a cost of Rs.70 million (£5,250,000) as a gift to the Ceylonese government. When this gift is made, China will become the second largest donor of economic aid to Ceylon, the first being the USA.
	<b>Oct. 4</b>		The threatened civil disobedience campaign by Buddhist monks fails to materialize, but J.R.Jayewardene of the UNP leads a march to Kandy “to invoke the blessings of the <i>devas</i> (the gods)” for his campaign against the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam agreement. At Imbulgoda on the way, the march is thwarted by SLFP MP S.D.Bandaranayake, who with his supporters blocks the way, and the Police fearing a breach of peace, stop the march.
			It is announced in Colombo that Ceylon and Yugoslavia to establish diplomatic relations at Legation level.
	<b>Nov. 1</b>		The RAF base at Katunayake, 20 miles north of Colombo, is formally transferred to Ceylonese control from British hands.
	<b>Dec. 21- 31</b>		The year ends with a major disaster. Ceylon’s worst floods for many years causes 288 deaths and renders over 300,000 people homeless in the Northern, North Central, North Western and Eastern provinces. The floods are estimated to have inundated over 650,000 acres of paddy land, destroying 400,000 tons of rice (three-quarters of Ceylon’s total rice crop) and causing damage amounting to £25 million.
			Prevention of Social Disabilities Act is enacted banning discrimination in public against lower castes.
<b>AD 1958</b>	<b>Feb.- Apr.</b>		Anti-Sinhala ‘Sri’ campaign in north and east is launched following government action in sending a fleet of new Government-owned buses with the Sinhala symbol ‘Sri’ on number plates. In the absence of the promised legislation to make Tamil the language of

		administration in the north and east, the Federal Party leaders launch a campaign opposing the use of the Sinhala letter. Volunteers stop buses, deface the Sinhala lettering and substitute the Tamil letter instead.
<b>Feb. 24</b>		Over a hundred taxi cars using Tamil 'Sri' in breach of the law go in procession through the streets of Jaffna and then to Kachcheri defying the government orders to use Sinhala 'Sri' on number plates and in support of the satyagraha campaign and against violence inflicted by police on the satyagrahis. The taxi procession evokes considerable interest and attract large crowds as it is a direct challenge to the implementation of the "Sinhala Only".
<b>Feb. 25</b>		A gang of men lie across the rail track holding up an "office train" to Colombo, and refusing to disperse until their friends who had been taken into custody for travelling in a first class compartment with 3rd class tickets are released. The Prime Minister orders the men to be released and rebukes the railway management for not providing sufficient 3rd class accommodation.
		The first contingent of Sinhalese including women in Jaffna participates in the <i>satyagraha</i> . Besides participating in the <i>satyagraha</i> , a good many of them serve the <i>satyagrahis</i> with thousands of lunch packets, fruits and soft drinks. Many Sinhalese also give donations to the Tamil movement.
<b>Mar. 1-2</b>		At the annual session of the ruling SLFP held at Kelaniya, the Prime Minister defends the B-C. Pact as a "honourable solution" in keeping with the highest tenets of Buddhism.
<b>Mar. 13</b>		The Brahmins of the All Ceylon Bramin Priests' Association, their wives and children come out in procession singing Hindu vedic hymns, accompanied by a number of musicians in support of the <i>satyagrahis</i> in front of Jaffna Kachcheri. The Brahmins bless the Tamil movement and the <i>satyagrahis</i> . Later in April, the Brahmin priests of North Ceylon assemble at Pungudutivu island, west of Jaffna peninsula and perform a 'Yagam' for five days at the Sithivinayagar Hindu Temple.
<b>Mar. 30</b>		Sir John Kotelawala (61) the former Prime Minister announces his resignation from the leadership of the United National Party, which he helped to form in 1946. Dudley Senanayake who had earlier withdrawn from politics but later agreed to re-enter active politics, re-assumes the party leadership.

	<b>Apr.</b>		Sinhalese mobs begin to retaliate in Colombo and in Sinhalese areas by smearing tar over Tamil letterings on road signs and on shops owned by Tamils, and in some cases smashing up Tamil-owned shops and assaulting Tamils. Police take no action and are slow to restore order unsure of the backing they would receive from the government, in view of past vehement criticism directed against the police by certain cabinet ministers.
	<b>Apr. 2</b>		Tamil demonstrators stone the police station at Bogawantalawa in the plantation district, whereupon the police open fire and kill two Tamil plantation workers. Their funeral is attended by nearly 80,000 plantation workers and on April 5, Tamils in the north and east observe "hartal" (complete stoppage of work) in sympathy.
			In Ratnapura, 60 miles south-east from Colombo, a Sinhalese-Tamil clash results in two deaths and injuries to several persons.
	<b>Apr. 8</b>		Speaking in Parliament, Mr.Bandaranaike states that the Tamil language and Regional Councils Bills were delayed only by the preparation of the schedule to the latter on the divisions of powers between the Councils and the Government. As for use of the Sinhala symbol "Sri" it was not even raised during discussions by the FP leaders. He says the government would not however allow what had happened to stand in the way of just action towards the minorities, although the position had been made much more difficult and embarrassing.
	<b>Apr. 9</b>		Within 24 hours of his indication in Parliament that the government would go through with the Regional Councils legislation, the Prime Minister publicly abrogates the Pact. About 200 Buddhist monks accompanied by 300 others squat opposite the Prime Minister's residence from 9 am. The Prime Minister who is away, returns in the afternoon accompanied by some Ministers and listens to the denunciation of the monks. After a quick consultation with his colleagues, Mr.Bandaranaike announces that the pact would be abrogated. But on the monks' insistence on a written pledge, Mr.Bandaranaike goes into the house and Minister of Health Mrs. Vimala Wijewardene returns bringing the Prime Minister's written pledge.
			The same night, the Prime Minister in a broadcast to the nation, says that the Federalists' illegal act in defacing the Sinhala 'Sri' symbol in state-owned buses has



		"created a new situation". He continues, "While assuring the Tamil people that the Government will do what it always intended to do in justice to them, I must say that this recent action on the part of the Federal Party has not made it possible to proceed with the implementation of the agreement as contemplated, in view of the feeling created in the country by the Federal Party's action ....."
		UNP leader Dudley Senanayake supports the abrogation of the Pact.
	<b>Apr. 10</b>	The Federal Party issues a statement calling upon all Tamil speaking people to embark on a non-violent civil disobedience movement. It accuses the government of surrendering to pressure from the Buddhist monks and failure to prevent or control Sinhala hooliganism. It declares that the only alternatives before the Tamils were to "fight back for sheer survival or to be forever content to remain a subject race".
	<b>Apr. 10-14</b>	Some 100 Tamils, including S J V Chelvanayakam, seven other MPs, a Senator and the wives of two MPs are arrested for defacing the number plates of buses and violating the Motor Traffic Act and charged in the Batticaloa magistrate court and sentenced to one week's imprisonment.
		The Ceylon Workers Congress and the Democratic Workers Congress, which together represent 1,000,000 Tamil, do not join the civil disobedience campaign.
		At Padaviya, where the government had set-up a Sinhalese colony, the colonists threaten violence against the proposed settling of 400 Tamil families who had been displaced by the closure of the Royal Navy dockyards in Trincomalee. In the face of this threat, the Ministry of Lands and Land Development cancels the settlement plans.
		In Colombo, thugs believed to have Government support, beat up strikers of the Communist-led Public Service Workers' Trade Union Federation.
		Following a rally at Hyde Park, Colombo, organised by the Left parties, a mob goes berserk smashing up shop windows, stoning passing cars and setting fire to parked vehicles. Police arrive at the scene after 40 minutes and restore order.
	<b>May 22</b>	Anti-Tamil riots break out, on a scale unparalleled in the island's history. The disorders begin on 22 May, when a Sinhalese mob stops a train taking delegates to the Federal Party Convention (May 23-25) at Vavuniya

		(160 miles north of Colombo), murders four of them, assaults and robs the rest. Another train believed to be carrying delegates is derailed on 23 May as a result of sabotage, two policemen and a railway worker are killed (two of them later discovered to be Sinhalese - Police Sergeant Appuhamy and porter Victor Fernando)- and 15 passengers are seriously injured. Tamils in the Eastern province retaliate by assaulting passing Sinhalese motorists and migrant Sinhalese fishermen.
		During the next few days the riots spread to many parts of the North Central and Eastern provinces, and on 25 May the police admit that in some places the situation is "completely out of hand". Bands of Sinhalese colonists from irrigation and land development schemes, armed with guns and swords, attack Tamil villages and set fire to houses. Police and army with limited weapons and resources confront mobs, in some areas more than 1,000 strong. Some of the worst excesses occur in Polonnaruwa and Hingurakgoda, where Tamils are cut down with home-made swords, grass-cutting knives or clubbed to death or burnt alive. Nearly a 100 believed killed in Polonnaruwa alone on the night of 25 May.
	<b>May 25</b>	The Federal Party convention at Vavuniya decides to launch a civil disobedience campaign from 20 August.
	<b>May 26</b>	The rioting spreads to Colombo. Tamils are beaten, robbed, sometimes stripped naked in the streets, while Tamil-owned shops and houses are set on fire. The evidence of planned organization of the riots is particularly strong in Colombo. The rioting in each area is carried on by hooligans from other parts of the city, who are carried to and from the scene, in lorries and private cars with Tamil-owned buildings carefully marked beforehand for destruction. The Army and Police, which had received strict instruction not to fire on the rioters, are powerless to restore order.
		The same day, Prime Minister Bandaranaike makes a "Call to the Nation" broadcast which has the effect of aggravating the situation. He says: "An unfortunate situation has arisen resulting in communal tension. Certain incidents in the Batticaloa district where some people lost their lives, including Mr D A Seneviratne, a former Mayor of Nuwara Eliya, have resulted in various acts of violence and lawlessness in other areas - for example, Polonnaruwa ....." This "substituting the effect for the cause" results in more violence in hitherto non-disturbed areas.

	<b>May 28</b>	<p>Riots spread to all parts of the island. At Panadura, south of Colombo, a mob attacks a Hindu Sivan Temple, pulls out the officiating Brahmin priest, pours petrol on him, and burns him alive. Elsewhere in Colombo, the rioting gets worse.</p> <p>Following appeals by foreign embassies and a deputation of leading citizens, and a threat by the Left-wing Lanka Sama Samaja Party to call on the people to defend themselves, the Government at last stirs to action, and has the Governor General declare a State of Emergency throughout the island. A curfew is imposed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Armed forces are called in and a Press censorship is announced. The Federal Party, the main Tamil Party, whose convention at Vavuniya had decided on 25 May to launch a civil disobedience campaign from 20 August, is declared illegal, and a Sinhalese communal organisation –“Jatika Vimukti Peramuna” (National Liberation Front) - is likewise proscribed.</p>
	<b>May 29</b>	<p>The Governor General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, although only a constitutional head of the State, assumes direct charge of affairs. But, despite the Army and Navy opening fire in several instances, mob violence continues, on 29 May and 30 May.</p>
		<p>Violence in the Tamil majority areas rise in intensity after the full force of Sinhalese aggression has been disclosed and news of ‘horrors’ inflicted on Tamils is received.</p> <p>A number of attacks occur on Sinhalese residents in Batticaloa. Migrant Sinhalese fishermen are killed or driven out to sea by Tamil fishermen. Many Sinhalese living as a minority in the area flee their homes, which are put to the torch. Official reports list 56 cases of arson and 11 murders.</p>
		<p>All persons possessing firearms in Batticaloa District (a Tamil majority area) are ordered to surrender the guns to the Police. A similar order is issued in the Jaffna peninsula on 2 June, following attacks on government property. A permanent Army unit is stationed in Jaffna, under the command of Col. F.C.de Saram.</p>
	<b>May 30</b>	<p>The offshore Buddhist temple at Nainativu, long recorded as a sacred place of pilgrimage among the Buddhists is attacked and levelled and the Buddha statue shattered.</p>
		<p>A major rioting at Anuradhapura, organised by a large labour force from Padaviya, is averted in time by</p>

		committed Army, Police and civil administrators.
<b>Jun. 2</b>		The government requisitions five British ships and a French ship to take 9,426 Tamil refugees from Colombo to Jaffna, out of an estimated 12,000 men, women and children herded in temporary refugee camps. The operation, directed by the Ceylon Navy, is carried out in two stages during the nights of June 2-3 and 5-6, under conditions of complete secrecy. Around 2,100 Sinhalese are similarly transferred by sea from Jaffna to Colombo on 3 June in a requisitioned Japanese ship, despite the fact that no attempt is made to do bodily harm to the Sinhalese in Jaffna. The government claims that it is a precautionary measure. With order being gradually restored by 3 June, the government Parliamentary group meets that day, and Prime Minister faces hostile criticism by party backbenchers, with some of them demanding the arrest of Tamil leaders.
<b>Jun. 4</b>		The House of Representatives meets at emergency session. The Prime Minister reviewing the riots, apportions a good share of the blame on the Federal Party leaders. He also says that in parts of the Northern and Eastern provinces there appears to be a "movement against the State and the Government". The House adjourns around 10 p.m. and the same night, several Tamil MPs including Federal Party leader Chelvanayakam are placed under house arrest.
<b>Jun. 5-9</b>		Nearly 150 Party leaders at District levels, including some Muslims, are detained under Emergency regulations. One Sinhalese, K M P Rajaratne, is also detained.
<b>Jun. 9</b>		Normalcy is restored, despite underlying communal tensions, but the State of Emergency continues.
<b>Jun. 24</b>		A joint session of Parliament is held, without participation by FP MPs who are in detention. The Speech from the Throne promises "early legislation for the reasonable use of Tamil language". C Suntharalingam of the Tamil Resistance Front moves an amendment calling for the formation of a Tamil state as a separate Dominion within the British Commonwealth. He asserts that "the de facto separation of Ceylon has now taken place and should be given <i>de jure</i> recognition" and adding that partition was the only logical, historical, cultural and economic way out of the problem of Tamil-Sinhala conflict. His amendment is ruled out of order by the Speaker.
<b>Jul.</b>		The Prime Minister says that Emergency powers could

<b>4</b>		now be eased but not completely lifted. He says there is no question of releasing the Federal Party leaders at this stage.
<b>Jul. 17</b>		Prime Minister Bandaranaike introduces the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Bill in the House after he had submitted it to a conference of Buddhists priests for approval. A request by Opposition leader Dr N M Perera that all FP MPs be released to enable them to participate in the proceedings is turned down. Mr Bandaranaike's offer to permit MPs to attend the debate under police escort is turned down by Mr Chelvanayakam who says that would be an affront to the dignity of the House.
<b>Aug. 5</b>		When the second reading of the Bill is taken up, all Opposition MPs walk out, except two – S D Bandaranayake and Mrs K P Rajaratne. Dealing with the provisions of the Bill, Mr Bandaranaike emphasizes that the only meaning of an "official language" was that, that language was "recognised for necessary official acts" - i.e. in due course official records and similar documents would be kept in the official language and documents recognised by a court would also have to be in that language, though there might be a translation for purposes of convenience. As regards the regulations to be made under the Bill concerning correspondence, he points out that under the Official Language Act the status quo would be preserved until 31 December 1960; after that date any Tamil would have the right to correspond in the Tamil language, although the position of Sinhala as the official language would be preserved. Thus, a Tamil could be sent a reply in Sinhala, but for his convenience a Tamil translation or a Tamil version of the substance of the reply would be attached. With regard to the use of Tamil for certain administrative purposes in the Northern and Eastern provinces, Mr. Bandaranaike defends the concession on the ground that there is a very large number of Tamil citizens living in those areas. The Bill is passed by 46 votes to three.
<b>Aug. 27</b>		The government extends the State of Emergency for a further monthly period.
<b>Sep. 3</b>		The Senate passes the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Bill.
<b>Sep. 5</b>		58 Federal Party leaders who had been under house detention from early June are released along with K.M.P.Rajaratne.
<b>Sep.</b>		China signs an agreement in Colombo to grant Ceylon a

	<b>17</b>		loan of Rs.50 million in four annual instalments, to be effected through delivery of industrial equipment, materials etc.
	<b>Sep. 27</b>		The State of Emergency is extended for a further unspecified period, and the ban on the Federal Party remains.
	<b>Dec.</b>		Ceylon's first Paper factory at Valaichchenai in the Eastern Province goes into production.
<b>AD 1959</b>	<b>Jan. 8</b>		The House of Representatives by 78 votes to 7, approves a Government-sponsored Constitution Amendment Bill, which among other things, provides for the abolition of the system of separate electoral lists and representation for registered Ceylonese citizens of Indian origin in Parliament. Federal Party members cast negative votes and Independent MP, C.Suntharalingam, who fears that under the proposed delimitation, the proportion of representation for the Tamil community as a whole might be reduced.
	<b>Jan. 21-25</b>		Yugoslav President Marshal Tito, accompanied by his wife pays an official visit to Ceylon in the course of a three-month tour of Asian and African states.
	<b>Jan. 22</b>		The State of Emergency imposed in May 1958 to quell race riots is extended for the eighth time. Under the Constitution, an emergency decree has to be renewed monthly by Parliament.
	<b>Jan. 28</b>		Sri Lanka ratifies Geneva Conventions I, II, III and IV (1949).
	<b>Feb. 1</b>		The SLFP's Executive meets and decides not to have any truck with "Leftist" political parties. For the first time since the party was elected to power, "Right wingers" who were noted anti-Communists are elected to all key posts.
	<b>Feb. 3</b>		Government decides to drop the enquiry into an alleged attempt to organise a coup d' etat. Deputy Inspector General of Police Sidney de Zoysa against whom the allegation is made by Food Minister Philip Gunawardene, resumes duties.
	<b>Feb. 4</b>		While the country celebrates the 11th anniversary of Independence with an impressive military parade in Colombo, Tamils in the north and east, observe it as a day of mourning.
	<b>Feb. 12</b>		Amidst tension and scenes of disorder, the House of Representatives adopts a Bill to amend the Public Security Ordinance arming the Government with greater executive powers to deal with civil disorder. Leader of the Opposition Dr N M Perera and eight other LSSP

		MPs are forcibly ejected. The Speaker suspends the House 12 times within three hours to enable the police to remove the protesting MPs Dr Perera becomes the first Leader of the Opposition to be named or removed from the House. The FP and Communist Party MPs walk out and the Bill is passed by a depleted House by 51 votes to 3.
		It is reported from Colombo on 12 February Ceylon will set- up her first Iron and Steel mill with Soviet aid,
	<b>Mar. 3</b>	One-day token strike is staged to protest against the recent amendment to the Public Security Ordinance. The strike called by the Trotskyite L.S.S.P. involves 12 major Trade Unions including those of plantation workers and white-collar workers.
	<b>Mar. 12</b>	The House of Representatives enacts a law, among other things, to lower the age of eligibility for voting from 21 to 18.
	<b>Mar. 13</b>	The 10-month old State of Emergency is lifted.
	<b>May 6</b>	Right wing Ministers write to the Prime Minister asking for the expulsion of Food Minister Philip Gunawardene. They announce that they would abstain from attending Cabinet meetings as long as Mr.Gunawardene remained a Minister. The Cabinet meeting is hurriedly cancelled.
	<b>May 15</b>	Mr.Bandaranaike announces re-allocation of ministerial duties under which Philip Gunawardene would cease to be in charge of Food and Co-operative Development, and assigned the portfolio of Agriculture and Fisheries. Mr.Gunawardene conveys his objection.
	<b>May 18</b>	Mr.Gunawardene resigns, along with the second Marxist member of the Cabinet P.H.W. de Silva, Minister of Industries.
	<b>May 19</b>	Seven Members of Mr.Bandaranaike's own party, SLFP, including three Parliamentary Secretaries, resign from the party, reducing the party's strength to 45 in a House of 101.
	<b>May 23</b>	The Governor General issues a proclamation, proroguing Parliament up to June 30.
	<b>Jun. 1</b>	The Ceylon Communist Party withdraws its policy of "critical support" that it had till then offered in relation to the three-year old Bandaranaike government.
	<b>Jun. 9</b>	An enlarged and re-shuffled one-party Cabinet is sworn in.
	<b>Jun. 13</b>	Ceylon renews its seven-year old Rubber-Rice barter agreement with China.
	<b>Jun.</b>	Indian President Dr.Rajendra Prasad pays a goodwill

<b>16-22</b>		visit to Ceylon. On 17 June he inaugurates the Vidyalankara University for higher Buddhist ecclesiastical studies at Kelaniya, eight miles north-east of Colombo, and on the same day lays the foundation stone of a building to house the International Cultural Institute of Ramakrishna Mission Centre at Wellawatte.
<b>Jun. 24</b>		The Governor General promulgates an Order raising the number of elective seats in the House of Representatives from 101 to 151.
<b>Jul. 8</b>		An Opposition move to censure the government fails. The government manages to muster its full strength of 50 in the 101-member House, as against the combined Opposition's 41.
<b>Aug. 4</b>		A new organisation to prevent "entry" of illegal immigrants into Ceylon from South India is to be set-up with headquarters in Jaffna in the Tamil-speaking northern province. The decision is taken at a high-level conference in Colombo attended among others by Chiefs of the Armed Services and the Police.
<b>Aug. 6</b>		The Prime Minister announces in the House of Representatives that the country would shortly add 12 jet bombers of the latest type, armed with rockets, to her defence forces. The planes are expected to be delivered by 30 September. He also says that two frigates are expected to join the two mine-sweepers that are already in the Navy. Fast motor boats would also be bought, and tenders had been called.
<b>Sep. 25</b>		Prime Minister S W R D Bandaranaike is shot by a Buddhist monk.
<b>Sep. 26</b>		The Prime Minister Bandaranaike (60) dies of bullet injuries inflicted on him by an assassin the previous day. The assassin is identified as a Buddhist monk, Somarama Thera, a lecturer in the College of Indigenous Medicine and an "eye specialist". He had fired four shots at close range at the Prime Minister after a brief meeting with him at his private residence. After a 5-hour operation and 22 hours after the shooting, Mr. Bandaranaike dies in his sleep. Following the shooting, the Governor General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke declares a State of Emergency.
		the Minister of Education Wijayananda Dahanayake is sworn in as Prime Minister. Meanwhile the public indignation aroused by the murder leads to a number of acts of hostility against Buddhist monks who appeal to the government for protection.
<b>Sep.</b>		Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike appeals to the people to








27		allow the Buddhist clergy to take part in the funeral rites of her husband. After lying in state for two days in Parliament House, where nearly a million people, file past the bier, Mr. Bandaranaike's body is taken on September 30 to his ancestral home at Horogalla, 20 miles north-east of Colombo, and interred in the presence of a vast crowd.
Oct. 3		It is announced that the Cabinet had decided to repeal the Suspension of the Death Penalty Act passed by the late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike's government in 1956.
		Government imposes censorship on the press with effect from the midnight. A gazette notification says that among the subjects covered by the censorship would be "matters relating to any proceedings or investigation conducted in connection with the death of the late Mr S W R D Bandaranaike".
Oct. 8		As a protest against the rigorous censorship, all daily newspapers are published with their leading article columns left blank.
Oct. 14		the High Priest of the Kelaniya Buddhist temple, Buddharakkhita Thero, H P Jayawardene, a publisher, and A A Carolis Arnerasinghe, a physician, all three prominent members of the SLFP, are arrested in connection with the killing of the late Prime Minister.
Oct. 20		Minister of Local Government and Housing Mrs. Vimala Wijewardene is removed from office after she refuses to resign; - this follows her known association with the three men who were arrested.
Oct. 21		A Police officer, Inspector W A Newton Perera is arrested on a charge of supplying the revolver used in the killing of Mr Bandaranaike to Somarama Thero.
Oct. 28-29		Allegations that Prime Minister W. Dahanayake and Minister of Finance Stanley de Zoysa themselves were involved in the conspiracy to murder the late Prime Minister, are made by Opposition members in the House of Representatives, and are vehemently denied by both.
Oct. 30		A motion of no-confidence on the government, introduced by the Leader of the Opposition Dr N M Perera, is narrowly defeated by 48 votes to 43, with the help of 6 Nominated members.
Nov. 2		Deputy Inspector General of Police Sidney de Zoysa, a brother of Finance Minister Stanley de Zoysa, issues a Press statement denying that he had sought to influence officers investigating Mr. Bandaranaike's murder, and declares there was no evidence to justify the arrest of Mrs Vimala Wijewardene. On 4 November, the Cabinet

		forbids the attendance of Mr. Sidney de Zoysa at any police conference about the investigation. Mrs Vimala Wijewardene and Richard de Zoysa are arrested after a statement made by the assassin Somarama Thero are placed before the Cabinet on 19 November.
<b>Nov. 21</b>		Finance Minister Stanley de Zoysa resigns from the Cabinet.
<b>Nov. 26</b>		The Government Parliamentary Group unanimously adopts a motion asking that DIG Sidney de Zoysa be compulsorily retired. On 27 November, it is announced that the Public Service Commission had decided to send Mr de Zoysa on leave with immediate effect, and to retire him as from 1 March 1960.
<b>Dec. 5</b>		On the Prime Minister's advice, the Governor General dissolves Parliament, and orders General Elections for March 19, 1960.
<b>Dec. 7</b>		Mr. Dahanayake announces that he had resigned from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and would form a party to contest the coming General Elections.
<b>Dec. 8</b>		The Working Committee of the SLFP refuses to accept Mr. Dahanayake's resignation and expels him from the party, together with 13 others. After Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike declines to accept the presidency of the party, the working committee elects C P de Silva, the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, as party president. The split in the SLFP is followed later the same day by the dismissal of six Ministers and one Parliamentary Secretary from Mr. Dahanayake's government and the recall of Stanley de Zoysa as Minister of Health and Home Affairs.
<b>Dec. 13</b>		Mr C P de Silva resigns from the Cabinet.
<b>Dec. 14</b>		The hearing of the Bandaranaike case opens before the Chief Magistrate, Colombo. The seven accused of murder and conspiracy to murder are- Mapitigama Buddharakkhita Thero, H P Jayawardene, P. Anura de Silva (a motor mechanic who had been arrested on November 21), Talduwe Somarama Thero, Inspector Newton Perera, Mrs. Vimala Wijewardene and A A Carolis Arnerasinghe. No charges are preferred against Richard de Zoysa who is released.
<b>Dec. 19</b>		The UNP wins, a sweeping victory at the Colombo Municipal elections, under the leadership of Mr. Dudley Senanayake, obtaining 23 of the 37 seats. The LSSP wins 8 seats, the SLFP and CP one each and Independents win 4. The Mahajana Eksath Peramuna,

			led by Philip Gunawardene contests 18 seats but fails to win any.
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<b>AD 1961</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b>	Sinhala becomes the sole official and administrative language of Ceylon, under the terms of the Official Language Act of 1956.
	<b>Jan. 2</b>	A hartal (complete stoppage of work) organised by the Federal Party takes place throughout the northern and eastern provinces to protest against the manner in which the government had sought to implement the language policy, which Tamil leader S J V Chelvanayakam characterises as a "betrayal of assurances" given by the late Premier S W R D Bandaranaike.
	<b>Jan. 22</b>	The Federal Party, at its party convention, adopts a resolution calling on the Tamil population of the two provinces to launch a direct action campaign by picketing government offices, refusing to co-operate with officials conducting business in Sinhala, and resisting the teaching of Sinhala in schools in Tamil areas.
	<b>Jan. 23</b>	In Madras, Finance Minister C Subramaniam admits in the State Legislative Assembly that the ownership of Kachchativu, a small islet off Rameswaram was in dispute between India and Ceylon, and that he hoped it would be settled when other issues between the two countries are also settled. When asked about reports of harassment of Indian fishermen at the hands of the Ceylon Police, he confirms the reports, and says that the State government had taken "proper steps" in the matter through the Government of India.
	<b>Jan. 30</b>	The Federal Party campaign begins, with volunteers distributing leaflets appealing to government employees not to co-operate in the implementation of the Official Language Act.
	<b>Feb. 1</b>	The first English language tabloid newspaper, " <i>Ceylon Daily Mirror</i> ", is launched in Colombo, published by the Times of Ceylon Ltd. and edited by Fred de Silva.
	<b>Feb. 20</b>	The <i>Satyagraha</i> campaign, the second phase of the non-violent agitation begins in Tamil areas - soon to encompass the entire population in the North and East, including Muslims, and in some instances even Sinhalese living in these areas. The <i>Satyagraha</i> proper is limited to approved volunteers of the Federal Party who are strictly forbidden from any form of violence either by deed or word, even under grave provocation; but the tremendous enthusiasm generated by this resistance movement among all sections of the people, gives the impression of a popular uprising, resulting in an initial sharp reaction from the government. On the morning of the 20th at 7.30 am, when around 200 volunteers led by Federal Party leader S J V

			Chelvanayakam, squat opposite all entrances to the Jaffna <i>Kachcheri</i> (the provincial secretariat), a huge crowd gathers filling the streets, pavements and all approaches.
			In order to clear a path for the Government Agent (M Sri Kantha), the police, wearing boots, trample on the volunteers, pull them by their hands and feet, lift some of them and hurl them away, while attacking them with batons. While several persons in the crowd rush to the gates and replace the dislodged <i>Satyagrahis</i> , some others, enraged by the Police violence hurl stones at the police jeeps and trucks. The police then use tear gas to disperse the crowd, which falls back for a while, but keeps surging forward again. Picketing of the secretariat continues with more volunteers pouring in. In the face of the swelling numbers, police abandon their attempt to create a pathway. The <i>Kachcheri</i> does not function. Among scores of people injured and bruised, are five MPs - Dr E M V Naganathan (a Police baton used on him breaks, and he holds up a broken piece), V A Kandiah, A Amirthalingam, V Dharmalingam and K Thurairatnam.
	<b>Feb. 21</b>		On the second day, the <i>Satyagraha</i> is led by A Amirthalingam, the MP for Vaddukottai electorate. Although there is a Police party present armed with shields, batons and helmets, there is marked restraint in their behaviour.
	<b>Feb. 22</b>		The Police arrive at the secretariat at dawn and take up positions trying to prevent volunteers from blocking the entrances, but a party of 300 volunteers led by MP for Kayts, V A Kandiah move up despite the brandishing of batons and a half-hearted use of force. In Colombo, there is sharp criticism by Opposition MPs over the manner in which the Police acted on the first day. <i>The Times of Ceylon</i> (the evening daily) in its editorial, refers to a similar sit-in, headed by philosopher Earl Russell at the entrance to the Defence Ministry in London along with 6,000 supporters. It comments: "It is noteworthy that Earl Russell's and Federal Party's were both non-violent demonstrators, but the significant difference was that while Russell and his followers had to deal with the disciplined London Police, the Federal Party had to reckon with Ceylon Police".
	<b>Feb. 23</b>		On the 4th day, women join the <i>Satyagraha</i> movement. Out of 500 <i>Satyagrahis</i> led by the MP for Chavakachcheri, V N Navaratnam, around 80 are women who take up positions at the main entrance, led by Mrs Rajapoopathy Arunachalam, President of the Federal Party Women's Front. On the same day, it is decided to convert the FP movement into an all-

		party one. The sole Tamil Congress MP M Sivasithamparam (later to become the President of the Tamil United Liberation Front), LSSP activists, the Mayor of Jaffna, T S Durairajah and leading Muslims meet and decide 'to throw their weight with the movement'.
<b>Feb. 24</b>		The <i>Satyagraha</i> campaign spreads to Mullaitivu, Mannar and the Eastern Province.
<b>Feb. 25</b>		A large procession of Muslims led by Muslim lawyers and businessmen joins the <i>Satyagrahis</i> in Jaffna.
<b>Feb. 26</b>		Nominated MP, S Thondaman warns against suppression of the FP campaign and alerts plantation Tamils to store food and provisions for three months, should a struggle for Tamil rights becomes necessary.
<b>Feb. 27</b>		<i>Satyagraha</i> and picketing is launched in Batticaloa, the capital of the Eastern Province, and administration is brought to a standstill in both north and east.
<b>Feb. 28</b>		An Opposition suggestion in the House of Representatives in Colombo, to initiate talks for a settlement of the problems that had provoked the Federal Party agitation, is rejected summarily by Finance Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike who says the government is not prepared to negotiate under pressure.
<b>Mar. 1</b>		Troops and naval personnel commanded by Sinhalese officers, are sent to Jaffna and Batticaloa, where they parade through the streets with fixed bayonets, in a massive show of strength. This measure, which is deeply resented by the Tamil population, is followed by an intensification of the anti-government campaign. At Jaffna, troops and police blockade the pickets outside the secretariat to prevent food and water from reaching them. A large crowd of demonstrators, however, in turn blockades the troops, cutting them off from outside contact, and in consequence, the troops had to lift their blockade after 48 hours.
<b>Mar. 2</b>		A <i>hartal</i> (general strike) is observed throughout Jaffna and trains are held up by about 100 volunteers who lay down on the railway lines. Jaffna gets an acting Government Agent, Nissanka Wijeyeratne, a Sinhalese, who is quoted in the newspapers the next day as saying: "The <i>Satyagrahis</i> are very well behaved gentlemen". In Batticaloa, Muslim MP for Kalmunai, M.C.Ahamed exhorts Muslims to join the civil disobedience campaign.  The army attacks the <i>Satyagrahis</i> again with batons and rifle butts near the Jaffna <i>Kachcheri</i> . Many are injured, including Dr E M V Naganathan, a Member of Parliament.
<b>Mar.</b>		Postal services in Jaffna are paralysed by a strike of postal

3		workers. In Batticaloa, thousands of Muslims led by the second MP for Batticaloa, Marcan Markar, participate in the campaign. In the evening of the same day, all naval personnel are withdrawn from Jaffna and Batticaloa. In Colombo, nine Trade Union organisations protest to the Prime Minister against the use of troops on <i>Satyagrahis</i> .
Mar. 4		Picketing is launched at Trincomalee, led by MP for Trincomalee, N R Rajavarothayam and MP for Muthur, T A Ehamparam, and the latter is among those seriously injured by police baton charging.
		<p>Some highlights of the campaign during the first fortnight are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The complete identification of the Muslim community with the <i>Satyagraha</i> movement, both in the north and east;</li> <li>* The large-scale participation of women, who in many instances, slip or brake through army and police cordons when men volunteers are prevented from approaching the secretariat in Jaffna;</li> <li>* The Jaffna Government Agent M Sri Kantha goes on a month's leave after reportedly pleading with the government. The transfer of Batticaloa GA B R Devarajan, who is suspected by the government of having shown open sympathy with the <i>Satyagrahis</i> and his replacement by a Sinhalese GA, D Liyanage.</li> <li>* The incident opposite the Jaffna secretariat on 2 March, involving the Senior Asst. Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, N Q Dias, which brought a touch of comic relief to the thousands of volunteers and onlookers: troops and police personnel in their anxiety to help Mr Dias gain access into the secretariat compound, carry him high in an undignified position, stumble against the <i>Satyagrahis</i>, some of them standing with upraised hands, and drop him heavily with a thud on the inner side of the wall, tearing his clothes in the process!</li> </ul>
Mar. 4		Prime Minister Mrs Bandaranaike leaves for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London; a few hours before her departure, she makes a broadcast appeal to the Federal Party to call off its civil disobedience campaign, while accusing the <i>Satyagrahis</i> of violence. She says, "It is said that non-violence is the essence of any

		<p><i>Satyagraha</i> movement. But the so-called <i>Satyagraha</i> movement carried on by the Federal Party is by no means non-violent. Last Thursday, a Federal Party MP and his associates had attempted by use of force (she was referring to the N Q Dias incident) to prevent a highly placed Government official entering the <i>Kachcheri</i> premises. Last night, I saw for myself the torn clothes of this official."</p>
<b>Mar. 11</b>		<p>The government adopts a policy of refusing to issue permits to 'wholesale dealers' to buy government distributed and subsidised rations of rice and flour, except through the picketed secretariats, with the result that food distribution in the Tamil provinces breaks down. This is to some extent counteracted by local purchases by the co-operative societies, which are supporting the campaign, and by the assistance of the peasantry who bring stocks of food into the towns.</p>
<b>Mar. 14</b>		<p>The Government's policy is strongly criticised in both Houses of Parliament as a deliberate attempt to "starve out" the Tamils, especially in view of the fact that other permits were being issued outside the secretariats.</p>
		<p>Appeals for a compromise settlement are made during Mrs Bandaranaike's absence by a number of prominent public figures, including leading government supporters. After visiting Jaffna to see the situation on the spot, S D Bandaranayake, a government MP who had previously been strongly critical of the Tamil claims, states (March 12), "It is the duty of patriotic Sinhalese people to grant the Tamils in the northern and eastern areas their rightful place in the use of the Tamil language", after commenting on the peaceful way in which the campaign was being conducted, and on the complete unity of the Tamil population irrespective of party or class, he warns that "the only alternative to a settlement is division of the country like what has happened in Korea, Vietnam and the Congo".</p>
		<p>The agitation meanwhile continues to spread, and in some areas picketing is extended to excise warehouses (a development which acting head of the government, C P de Silva describes as a deliberate attempt to deprive the government of revenue), to other government offices and law courts.</p>
<b>Mar. 20</b>		<p>Picketing of the secretariat at Mannar begins with the support of the Town Council, the Ceylon Workers Congress and the Muslim population.</p>
<b>Mar. 23</b>		<p>Prime Minister returns to the island after an absence of 18 days, and two days later she again appeals to the Tamil leaders to call off their campaign, and warns that the</p>




		<p>government might use “other means” to restore order. Mrs Bandaranaike says that there is “room for grave concern as to whether certain political organisations in the north and east are not in fact endeavouring to paralyse the administration in these places with a view to establishing a separate state”. The government, she declares had acted with “commendable restraint” whilst the Sinhalese population had shown “remarkable patience and forbearance”. She concludes, “Should the government be compelled to restore law and order by other means at its disposal, the supporters of the <i>Satyagraha</i> movement must take full responsibility for the consequences that must necessarily follow”.</p>
		<p>Commenting on the Prime Minister's broadcast, President of the Federal Party, S M Rasamanickam says that there was no question of withdrawing the <i>Satyagraha</i> campaign, which had been launched only as a last resort after exploring every possibility for a negotiated settlement. He says that Mrs Bandaranaike's speech seemed to encourage extremist Sinhalese elements, and observes that similar unguarded words by the late Mr Bandaranaike had unleashed the first communal riots in 1956. The Tamil people, he adds, are “not prepared for any more disappointments” and wants the government to do “something concrete” before they withdrew the campaign.</p>
<b>Mar. 26</b>		<p>Replying the Prime Minister, Mr Chelvanayakam says: “At no time did we underrate the might of the Prime Minister’s government. We are quite aware that she has powers enough to turn her armed forces against us. We were and are aware that when the Prime Minister’s forces turn their guns against us, we would be as helpless against her armed killers as her late husband was powerless when he faced the gun-shots of his assassin on that fateful day in 1959. The Prime Minister has made a radio speech touching on the <i>Satyagraha</i>. That speech is more befitting an imperial dictator speaking to his subjects rather than a speech made by a democratic leader to her people. In fact, the manner and contents of her speech correctly depicts the true status of the Tamil-speaking people in Ceylon. The rule over them is indeed a colonial imperialism. It is noteworthy that the Prime Minister’s speeches touching on the struggle for freedom of the Tamil-Speaking people even adopt the cheap techniques of imperialism. In her radio speech just before her departure to Great Britain, she made an appeal to those whom she called reasonable Tamils to disown the actions of the mischief-makers, viz. the Federalists. This is</p>

		exactly how the British imperialists replied to the struggle for freedom of the Indian patriots. The factual situation is that there is no section of the Tamil-speaking people, certainly in the Northern and Eastern provinces, which does not fervently support the <i>Satyagraha</i> movement”.
	<b>Mar. 28</b>	A bomb and stones are thrown at the <i>Satyagrahis</i> in front of the Jaffna <i>Kachcheri</i> causing severe injuries to them.
	<b>Apr. 5</b>	<p>The government deposes Minister of Justice Sam P C Fernando to have “informal” talks with Federal Party leaders. Negotiations between the government and Mr Chelvanayakam begin on April 5, but break down two days later. Mr Chelvanayakam proposes that Tamil should be used for all administrative purposes and in the courts in the Northern and Eastern provinces, and also makes representations regarding the setting-up of Regional Councils and the position of Tamil-speaking persons outside the North and East. The government refuses to consider his proposals on the ground that they conflict with the Official Language Act.</p> <p>Following this deadlock, the Federal Party decides to strengthen the movement. Presiding over a mass rally at the Jaffna esplanade, on 12 April, Mr. Chelvanayakam says: As the political parties in south Ceylon treat the Tamil question as a suitable issue to play upon the emotions of the Sinhalese voters and enthrone themselves on the seats of power, these parties or their politicians refuse, or are unable to, see the justice of our demands.</p>
	<b>Apr. 14</b>	The Federal Party launches a civil disobedience campaign which takes the form of openly defying the law in order to court arrest; it inaugurates its own Postal service. 2,500 stamps, 2,500 stamped envelopes and 3,000 Post Cards are reported to have been sold out in a little more than an hour. It is also rumoured that the party is planning to form its own Police force and take over Crown lands for distribution among landless peasants. As part of the campaign, Tamil passengers on the nationalised bus service refuse to purchase tickets; 55 people are arrested for this offence in Batticaloa on April 17. On the same day, the postal service is extended at Kankesanthurai.
	<b>Apr. 17</b>	On the morning of the 17th, the Ministers meet at “Temple Trees, the Prime Minister's official residence in Colombo, and discuss the situation in the Northern and Eastern provinces. Despite lack of unanimity in the Cabinet, it is decided to impose a State of Emergency. The Minister of Finance and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of

		<p>Defence and External Affairs, Felix Dias Bandaranaike holds a series of conferences with army, navy and police chiefs. In the evening, the Governor General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke proclaims a state of emergency throughout Ceylon and assumes powers to maintain essential services, ban political parties, and impose a Press censorship. The Federal Party is proscribed; all public meetings and processions in the Northern and Eastern provinces are forbidden; and a 48- hour curfew is imposed in Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya, and four other areas in the Northern province. Detention orders are issued against 68 persons, including Mr.Chelvanayakam and 14 other Members of Parliament. That same evening a special train carrying about 350 soldiers and 15 officers leaves for Jaffna, many of them from the Sinha Regiment, exclusively composed of Sinhalese, and formed during SLFP rule.</p>
<b>Apr. 18</b>		<p>The special train carrying the soldiers arrives in Jaffna at 2.30 am, and the troops are promptly moved into the sprawling secretariat grounds through the rear, while about 200 <i>Satyagrahis</i>, nearly 90 of them women, unaware of developments, tired from the day's fasting and prayers in the hot sun, are yet squatting or stretched out at the <i>Kachcheri</i> entrances. Some of them are in deep slumber. While usually there are thousands of supporters fringing the <i>Satyagrahis</i> during the day, there are hardly any at that hour of the night.</p>
		<p>The crackdown begins. Some police officers emerge first, approach two MPs A Amirthalingam and V Dharmalingam, who had been keeping watch, and inform them that they had been instructed to take them into custody under the Emergency Regulations. The MPs submit without protest and Mrs Amirthalingam is also taken into custody. Thereafter, an estimated 500 army men, some of them carrying rifles, swoop on the passive <i>Satyagrahis</i>, attack them with rifle butts, belts and clubs. The sleeping volunteers wake up groaning and writhing in pain. They are trampled with boots, kicked, and dragged away from the entrances. Proctor S Nadarajah, one of the joint secretaries of the Federal Party sustains head and shoulder injuries, his clothes drenched in blood. Another Congress MP for Udupiddy, M Sivasithamparam who, fearing assault on the women <i>Satyagrahis</i>, stands with his arms stretched out and is himself attacked and sustains injuries on his face, shoulders and arms. The soldiers go berserk and attack everything on sight. They pull down the Federal Party "Post office" structure, smash up cars and bicycles parked in the</p>

			vicinity, ripping tyres with the bayonets, and ramming the windscreens.
			As the hospital, a mile away, gets filled with injured persons, news of the ravage spreads, and thousands of people surge on the secretariat area. Meanwhile, as several injured <i>Satyagrahis</i> lie helpless within the military cordon, trucks are brought in and the women volunteers are herded in. Restless youths and students who show signs of violence are kept under restraint by repeated appeals from party leaders and elders.
			The troops fan out, attacking everyone in sight, and enforce the 45-hour curfew.
			In a broadcast, Mrs Bandaranaike declares that Mr Chelvanayakam's demands had been “so unreasonable that they could not be even considered by the government”, and asserts that the “Federal Party has by its actions made it abundantly clear that their real objective is to establish a separate state”. After saying that the government had acted “with the greatest restraint and patience”, she goes on to say – “the patience and goodwill shown by the government has met with no response” and the government is now left with no other alternative but to use all the forces at its command to establish law and order. She says, “It is not unlikely that a number of innocent people will suffer in various ways in consequence of these measures. It is precisely for this reason that the Government delayed taking stern action. For any unfortunate happenings the Tamil leaders must take the entire blame”.
			Although all news from the Northern and Eastern provinces are strictly censored, government statements allege that resistance continued in these province and that it sometimes took violent forms, whereas in fact strict non-violence is observed by the Tamils before the proclamation of the Emergency.
			The international community begins to express misgivings at the government’s handling of the <i>Satyagaraha</i> . Members of Mrs Bandaranaike’s cabinet are themselves divided on what to be done in such an explosive situation. Two senior ministers, Felix Dias Bandaranaike and Sam P C Fernando (both professed members of the church of Sri Lanka) urge the cabinet to remain obdurate, a posture which their colleagues see arising from anxiety to prove genuine dedication to the Sinhala Buddhist claims, whilst independent Trotskyist MP, Edmond Samarakody raises his concerns over the behaviour of the army in the Parliamentary debate. He says, referring to the Tamils, that

			“a proud people are being humbled”.
<b>Apr. 20</b>			When the curfew expires, a new 12-hour curfew from 6am to 6 pm is substituted. Army patrols fire twice on hostile crowds that defy the curfew order in the Jaffna area, killing a man and wounding three others.
<b>Apr. 24</b>			All persons in the district possessing firearms are ordered to surrender them to the police or face rigorous imprisonment after summary trial, after a patrol had been fired on and two soldiers wounded in the Jaffna area.
			Fifty-nine of the 68 persons, including Mr Chelvanayakam and 14 other MPs are under arrest. Although the Tamil Congress MP, M Sivasithamparam had along with his constituents taken an active role in the <i>Satyagraha</i> , only Federal Party leaders and activists are detained.
			The Ceylon Workers Congress and the Ceylon Democratic Congress together representing about a million plantation Tamil workers, inform the Government that unless the detained Federal Party leaders are released and their linguistic demands granted, the estate workers would come out on strike. In consequence new Emergency Regulations are issued the same day, declaring strikes and lockouts in essential services illegal, and adding ‘banking’ to the list of essential services. Nevertheless, on April 25, plantation workers go on strike.
<b>Apr. 26</b>			Plantation workers return to work after talks between S Thondaman (leader of the Ceylon Workers Congress and a Government-nominated MP) and Mrs Bandaranaike. A Bank clerks' strike in support of wage demands, which had been in progress since 4 April, continues in defiance of the Government order.
<b>Apr. 25</b>			The Governor General orders the mobilisation of nine units of the Army volunteer force, the Navy volunteer force, the Navy reserve and the Home Guard to prevent or suppress any disturbances and to maintain essential supplies and services. New Emergency regulations, applying to the whole country, are issued making arson, sabotage, looting, trespass, unlawful assembly punishable by death or life imprisonment, and prescribing lesser penalties for possessing offensive weapons, making speeches likely to cause a breach of the peace, affixing posters etc.
			Communication links from Jaffna to the rest of the island (and the outside world) are cut off. Postal, telegraphic, telephonic, and train, bus and air services are suspended. A general blackout (both figuratively and literally) is imposed along with the curfew. With military vehicles, trucks and jeeps, plying constantly and at high speed, towns and streets

		<p>are deserted and become devoid of civilian population. Tamil areas, both in north and east, come under military terror. Undisciplined army men shoot dead and injure persons outside curfew hours on the pretence of maintaining curfew. Shops are robbed of soft drinks, cigarettes and eatables, and meek requests for payment from shopkeepers are met with the amused taunt: 'Get the money from Chelvanayakam!'. Troops make fun of passing cyclists, harass and humiliate pedestrians, and attempt to molest women even within homes, at the point of a gun. During curfew hours, residents are ordered to put out all lights. (When later, complaints about this were made by opposition MPs in Parliament, Leader of the House, C P de Silva is credited with the laconic remark: - 'Possibly some soldiers misunderstood the curfew for a blackout!'). Several instances of deaths and suffering of the sick and expectant mothers occur, for want of medical attention, because of arbitrary implementation of curfew orders. Cases are reported that even persons armed with Police-issued curfew passes were shot at on sight.</p>
		<p>With the Federal Party leaders incarcerated at Panagoda in the South, communications are gradually restored, but people in the north and east continue to live in fear. The Point Pedro Magistrate, S N Rajadurai, who asked the Police to remand a soldier who had shot dead a deaf and mute washerman on the road, is promptly transferred to Kurunegala in the south. Many cases in which military personnel are accused, are transferred to courts in Colombo, on government orders, thereby rendering a full-scale hearing impossible, with witnesses sometimes poor villagers, called upon to travel 250 miles away from the places where the alleged offences were committed.</p>
	<b>May 2</b>	<p>The conduct of the armed forces in the North and East comes in for strong criticism during debates in both Houses of Parliament. Specific criticisms are made by Edmund Samarakkody (Lanka Sama Samaja Party), M Sivasithambaram (Tamil Congress) and Senator S Nadesan. Mr Nadesan alleges in the Senate that the military had been "let loose on the Northern and Eastern Provinces, and from all accounts are behaving, at any rate so far as the Jaffna Peninsula is concerned, as if they were a conquering army in occupation of enemy territory".</p>
	<b>May 12</b>	<p>The 'Bandaranaike assassination' trial before Justice T S Fernando and a jury of seven, comes to a climax with death sentences being passed on three of the accused - the ex-High Priest of the Kelaniya Buddhist Temple,</p>

		Buddharakkhita, the assassin priest Somarama and H P Jayawardene. Two others who were on trial – P Anura de Silva and ex-Police Inspector Newton Perera are acquitted. An examining Magistrate earlier discharged Mrs Vimala Wijewardene, (who was a Minister in the Bandaranaike Cabinet) on July 15, 1960.
<b>May 17</b>		The State of Emergency is extended. The same day, a Bill is passed for setting up a “Peoples’ Bank” which would provide relief to peasants in distress.
<b>Jun. 1</b>		The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is established; the Corporation will import and sell oil in competition with British and American oil companies working in Ceylon. N E Weeresooria, QC, is appointed Chairman.
<b>Jun. 3</b>		Government appoints a six-man Committee, consisting six high-ranking officials, three Tamils and three Sinhalese, - headed by Bribery Commissioner A W H Abeysundera, to report on the administrative problems and hardships to citizens ignorant of the Sinhala language arising from the government’s linguistic policy.
<b>Jun. 8</b>		The Visa Tax comes into force. The Immigration Department is empowered to collect a tax of Rs.400/- from every non-Ceylonese (affecting mostly Indian nationals) holding a visa for over three months, with retrospective effect from September 1960.
<b>Jul. 4</b>		A Ceylon-USSR contract is signed in Colombo for the supply of equipment for the first stage of the proposed ‘Iron and Steel mill’ to be set up in Ceylon with Soviet aid.
		Tamil leader S J V Chelvanayakam who is under detention is permitted to leave for UK for medical treatment.
<b>Jul. 22</b>		Curfew (hours reduced from time to time) is finally lifted in the north and east.
<b>Sep. 19</b>		The Emergency is extended for the sixth month. Press censorship and detention of Federal Party leaders continue. The Prime Minister tells the Senate that the police and army had information that secret attempts are still being made in the north and east, to create fresh trouble.
<b>Oct. 4</b>		Fifteen Tamil members of Parliament under detention since April are released. Emergency is extended for a further month from October 17.
<b>Oct. 17</b>		In New Delhi, an Indo-Ceylon Friendship Association is inaugurated by Prof Humayun Kabir, Central Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, in the presence of Ceylon's Minister of Commerce, Trade and Shipping, T.B Ilangaratne.
<b>Dec. 2</b>		The ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party holds its 10th annual meeting at Ratnapura, 56 miles south-east of Colombo.

<b>AD 1962</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b>	The nationalised Life Insurance Corporation is formally inaugurated. A wave of strikes by both public and private sector employees, demanding wage increase, which began the previous month (December 1961) continues throughout the month.
	<b>Jan. 15</b>	The Supreme Court presided over by Chief Justice H H Basanayake dismisses the appeal of Somarama Thero against the sentence of death in the Bandaranaike murder trial. The appeals of Buddharakkhita Thero and H P Jayawardene are also dismissed, but death sentences, passed on them are commuted to life imprisonment; the court holds that the legislation restoring the death penalty with retrospective effect, covered only actual murder, but not abetment of murder or conspiracy to murder.
	<b>Jan. 18</b>	The Government introduces the Capital Punishment (Special Provisions) Bill, covering abetment and conspiracy to murder with retrospective effect, thereby validating all three death sentences and making null and void the commutation of the sentences by the Court. The Bill is strongly criticised by Opposition members, the legal profession and by the "Times of Ceylon" which commented (Jan. 19) that the Bill sought to "clothe in the habiliments of legality an act of the crudest vengeance". Opposition Members also refer to the Bill as "murder by statute" and a "stinking piece of legislation". On 24 January, a cabinet statement says, "No legal technicality will be allowed by this Government to stand in the way of justice being meted out to the persons found guilty of the crime."
	<b>Jan. 28</b>	The Government announcement of a 'coup' attempt creates a sensation. The announcement says that a plot by senior officers of the Police and Armed forces to arrest a number of Ministers and other political leaders and overthrow the Government had been discovered on the previous day, a few hours before the coup was to have been carried out. Twenty nine persons, most of them Army or Police officers are arrested on suspicion of complicity in the plot. On the 28th, the following seven are arrested – C C Dissanayake, a Deputy Inspector General of Police; Col. Maurice de Mel and Col. F C de Saram, Commandant and Deputy Commandant of the Volunteer Force; Sydney de Zoysa, a former Deputy Inspector General of Police; B. John Pillai and L C S Jirasinghe, Asst. Superintendents of Police; and Lt.Col.B R Jesudasan, CO., Volunteer Signals. An order is also issued for the arrest of Royce de Mel, formerly Rear Admiral and Commander of the Navy. Of these seven, Col. de Saram is a former captain of the Ceylon cricket team,



		and while at Oxford played for the University and for Hertfordshire. Sidney de Zoysa, was once alleged to have been involved in a similar plot against the late Mr. Bandaranaike's government. Another 22 persons taken into custody between 30 January and 7 February, comprising three Lt. Colonels, four majors and, four Captains, seven present or former police officers, Deputy Director of Land Development, D J F D Liyanage and three others.
<b>Feb. 4</b>		Prime Minister Mrs Bandaranaike in a special message to the nation on the 14th anniversary of independence, warns the people against "saboteurs and forces of reaction". Official ceremonies planned at Anuradhapura, the ancient capital in central Ceylon, are cancelled in view of the situation arising from the political plot.
<b>Feb. 7</b>		Captain J E L Poulter, an officer in a volunteer regiment who had made a voluntary statement to the police about the coup, commits suicide. In a letter to his wife he states, "I am foolishly one of the conspirators of the <i>coup d'etat</i> . I cannot stand the disgrace of going to gaol."
<b>Feb. 13</b>		Finance Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike makes a lengthy statement in the House of Representatives on behalf of the Cabinet on the abortive coup d'etat. He tells the House that the name of the Governor General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke had been mentioned by the arrested persons. One arrested Police officer had stated that two former Prime Ministers belonging to the United National Party, Sir John Kotelawala and Dudley Senanayake were "in the know" of the plan to overthrow the government. He reads the names of the 29 persons taken into custody; investigations however had not been completed.
		The Finance Minister says: "It does seem a strange coincidence that the <i>coup d'etat</i> was planned to take place on the night of 27 January, on which day the Prime Minister Mrs. Bandaranaike was to be at Kataragama. Planning had been done for quite some time by a very few top people and the security precautions of the "need to know" were strictly observed. The detailed plans were revealed less than 48 hours from "H" hour."
		Had the coup been successful (Mr Bandaranaike continued) police cars equipped with radio and loudspeakers were to be sent out soon after midnight to announce an immediate curfew in Colombo. The Central Telegraph Office and other telephone exchanges were to be put out of action; newspaper offices, police headquarters, the CID office, and other key points to be taken over and tanks and armoured

		cars to be stationed at certain points to ensure the success of the operation.
		<p>Mr Bandaranaike tells the House of the various instructions given to subordinate officers involved in the conspiracy by C C Dissanayake, Sidney de Zoysa, Col. Maurice de Mel and Col. F C de Saram. "When questioned on the afternoon of 28 January in the course of 'investigation, Col.de Saram decided to take the rap for the whole affair. He claimed that he alone was responsible for the attempted coup, and that everyone else who had played any part in it had done so on his orders. According to Col.de Saram, the plan for the coup, besides the arrests of Leftists, envisaged only the arrest of Mr F D Bandaranaike and Mr N Q Dias (Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs), because in his view, they were the only persons who could give lawful and effective orders to the Service commanders so as to frustrate the coup; and possibly Mr.S A Dissanayake, DIG, whom he thought was potentially dangerous. After Mr F D Bandaranaike and Mr N Q Dias had been imprisoned in the Ammunition Magazine at Army Headquarters, he intended to go at once to Queen's House and to coerce the Governor General to take over the government. The Governor General, he emphasized, had nothing to do with the coup.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“He admitted that a military dictatorship would not work for any length of time, and that the whole of his scheme depended upon the Governor General. He admitted also that he had no clear plan as to what he should do if the Governor General did not act as he hoped". Mr Bandaranaike added: "There were several questions to which Col. de Saram declined to give an answer in the course of investigation. The Governor General has been informed of the fact that his name had been mentioned in the course of investigation, and he has volunteered to submit himself to interrogation and investigation like any other citizen, and inquiries are now proceeding."</p>
	<b>Feb. 13 – 15</b>	Mr.Bandaranaike's statement is debated in the House. All political parties condemn the plot to overthrow the government. Dudley Senanayake (UNP) says wild insinuations had been made against himself, and that he was prepared to face any impartial tribunal at which he could prove his innocence. Dr N M Perera (LSSP) says that the plan for a coup had been superimposed on a plan for the arrest of left-wing party and trade union leaders, which had

		<p>been prepared by Felix Dias Bandaranaike himself, with or without Cabinet authority. He also refers to the fact that S A Dissanayake and Mr Abeyakoon (Inspector General of Police) had not informed the Prime Minister until several hours after they had learned of the conspiracy, and commented that certain facts in Bandaranaike's statement "did not click". Philip Gunawardene (MEP) demands the immediate removal from office of the Governor General. "I am no stickler for constitutional niceties", he says. "Some say that the Governor General cannot be removed without the Queen's permission. Remove him first. Then we will tell the Queen. It is we - this House - who run the Government". The MEP, LSSP and CP also demand a probe into the activities of the Catholic Action and the affairs of the "Times of Ceylon" newspaper organisation, which they allege was the breeding ground for the foiled coup.</p>
<b>Feb. 15</b>		<p>A Bill making conspiracy against the State a capital offence, with retroactive effect, is introduced in the House of Representatives. Under the legislation - the Criminal Law (Special Provisions) Bill – Conspirace to overthrow the Government by unlawful means, or murder or conspiracy or attempted murder, or wrongful restraint or attempt to restrain, the Governor General, the Prime Minister or any member of the Cabinet, is punishable by death, or imprisonment for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 years, and a forfeiture of all property. Persons charged with these offences may not be allowed bail; may be held incommunicado for 60 days without appearing before a magistrate; may be tried without a jury before three judges of the Supreme Court nominated by the Minister of Justice; and if convicted would have no right of appeal. The provisions of the Bill are made retroactive, to cover offences committed since 1 January 1962. The Bill is the second piece of retroactive legislation, imposing the death penalty for offences, which are not capital at the time of their commission, the government had introduced within a month.</p>
		<p>The Bill passes its Second Reading in the House of Representatives on 17 February, by 89 votes to 52, with one abstention and its third reading on 2 March, by 70 votes to 27, with one abstention. On both occasions, the SLFP, the CP and MEP vote in favour and the UNP, the LSSP, Federal Party and Tamil Congress vote against.</p>
<b>Feb. 26</b>		<p>The Government announces the appointment of William Gopallawa, Ambassador to USA, as Governor General in succession to Sir Oliver Goonetilleke. Mr.Gopallawa is the</p>

		first Buddhist to hold the post of Governor General.
<b>Mar.</b>		Mr Gopallawa assumes office as Governor General on 2 March. Sir Oliver Goonetillake leaves Colombo on 7 March for Paris. Prime Minister Mrs Bandaranaike states in the Senate (March 14) that Sir Oliver had been questioned before he left Ceylon and that, although his name had been used by the leaders of the plot to influence others, the inquiries had not revealed anything that would have justified his being prevented from leaving the country. There is no question, she added, of Sir Oliver either resigned or been removed. His term had been extended in 1959 for two years, and he had continued to hold office at Her Majesty's pleasure until a successor was appointed.
<b>Apr. 1</b>		The international Commission of Jurists in Geneva expresses profound concern over the Criminal Law (Special Provisions) Act, many of whose provisions are "entirely contrary to the generally accepted principles of the rule of law", - and asks permission to send an observer to attend the trials of the accused. In a telegram to the Minister of Justice, Sir Leslie Munro, Secretary General of the Commission, criticises: (1.) The retroactive effect of the law; (2.) the power of the Minister of Justice to nominate the judges; (3.) the denial of the writ of habeas corpus to persons detained under the Act; and (4.) the denial of the right to appeal.
<b>Apr. 15</b>		Replying to Sir Leslie Munro, the Minister of Justice Senator Sam P.C.Fernando alleges that the ICJ appeared to show concern "not for the lawfully established Government of the country but for conspirators who attempted to overthrow it". He says that the Government would consider the Commission's request to send an observer for the trials, "quite irrespective of the comments which you have unfortunately chosen to make".
<b>Apr. 30</b>		Ceylon and USA exchange Notes extending validity of the Agreement between the two countries on broadcasting in Ceylon up to May 1971. The new agreement would make it possible for the US government to continue financial and technical assistance in the field of broadcasting in return for facilities for the broadcast of Voice of America programmes provided that they are not prejudicial to national interests.
<b>May 8</b>		The Government Parliamentary Group approves in principle, draft legislation to take over newspapers published by Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd (Lake House) and the Times of Ceylon Ltd, and convert the two companies into statutory corporations in which the public

		will hold shares.
<b>May 14</b>		In London, the Caltex Petroleum Company announces that the Ceylon Government had seized the property and installations of Western oil companies in the island, accusing the Soviet Union of being behind the confiscation.
<b>May 16</b>		In Judicial Committee of the Privy Council dismisses, three petitions for leave to appeal against the Ceylon Court of Criminal Appeal's judgement in the Bandaranaike murder case, filed by Somarama Thero, Buddharakkhita Thero and H P Jayawardene.
<b>May 25</b>		Leader of the House of Representatives C P de Silva announces the forthcoming appointment of a commission to investigate the political aspects of the late Premier Bandaranaike's assassination.
<b>Jul. 11</b>		The 3rd sessions of Parliament open, and Governor General Gopallawa in his Throne Speech announces the Government's intention to establish a Republican form of government. The re-organisation of the armed services, the abolition of the Civil Service and the establishment of a unified administrative service are other measures announced. It is also stated that the Government would pursue a "vigorous policy" of implementing the Official Language Act.
<b>Jul. 18</b>		The trial of 24 persons charged with conspiracy in the alleged anti-Government plot opens before the Supreme Court in Colombo, before three judges nominated by the Minister of Justice - Justice T S Fernando, Justice L B de Silva and Justice P Sri Skandarajah. Mr G G Ponnambalam QC senior counsel for most of the defendants, announces at the opening of the trial that he is prepared to produce Rear-Admiral Royce de Mel, who had been evading arrest since the alleged coup attempt. At the request of both the Attorney General and Mr Ponnambalam, the hearing is adjourned until July 30 to give both sides more time to prepare their case.
<b>Jul. 22</b>		The Government bans the three groups of Dravidan Progressive Party functioning in the country - the Ceylon Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) led by Ilancheliyan, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam led by Ira Athimani, and the All Ceylon Dravida Progressive Federation led by A.M.Anthonymuttu.
<b>Jul. 26</b>		Finance Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike in his Budget speech in Parliament announces a series of measures to conserve foreign exchange. He also announces reduction of the weekly rice ration from two measures to one measure, and government's intention to nationalise the Bank of

		Ceylon.
<b>Jul. 30</b>		Senior Counsel GG Ponnambalam QC produces Rear Admiral Royce de Mel before the Supreme Court at the resumption of the coup trial. Mr. Ponnambalam then objects to the jurisdiction of the Court, contending that it was not lawfully established or constituted because: (1) the nomination of judges by the Minister of Justice was contrary to law; and (2) the Minister was debarred from issuing directions or making nominations because he had an interest in the matter, having himself participated in the interrogation of witnesses and the coup suspects.
<b>Aug. 25</b>		Finance Minister Bandaranaike resigns his portfolio, following the withdrawal of the rice ration cut by the government, consequent to the strong Opposition in the country.
<b>Aug. 28</b>		Agriculture Minister C.P.de Silva is sworn in as Finance Minister.
<b>Sep. 16</b>		Renewal of the Rubber-Rice barter agreement with China is announced with provision for Ceylon to supply 33,000 metric tons of rubber to China in return for 200,000 metric tons of rice.
<b>Oct. 3</b>		Coup trial resumes. In an unanimous decision, the three judges rule that they have no jurisdiction to hear the case, since Section 9 of the Criminal Law (Special Provisions) Act is ultra vires. Justice T S Fernando who delivers the decision, says that in the court's view, the power of nomination of judges is essentially a judicial function, and nowhere in any Constitution is that power handed over to a body outside the judicature. Nomination by the Minister of Justice would create an impression in the mind of the ordinary man that there was improper interference in the course of justice, and even that the tribunal was biased and not impartial. The Supreme Court's judgment is commended in a statement issued in Geneva on 19 October by the International Commission of Jurists, which describes the court's ruling as "bold, fearless and independent"
<b>Nov. 5</b>		Felix Dias Bandaranaike rejoins the Cabinet as a minister without portfolio.
<b>Nov. 6</b>		In view of the Supreme Court's decision, Leader of the House of Representatives C.P.de Silva introduces a Bill amending the Criminal Law (Special Provisions) Act to enable the Chief Justice to nominate the judges - of whom the Chief Justice himself may be one - for the trial of the 24 suspects. Following this enactment, the Chief Justice nominates Justice L.B.de Silva, Justice Kingsley Herat and Justice A.W.H.Abeysundera to constitute the new panel.

<b>Nov. 8</b>		C.P.de Silva, who is Minister of Finance in addition to Agriculture, Lands and Power, resigns the Finance portfolio. Minister of Transport and Works, P.B.G.Kalugalla is sworn in as Finance Minister.
<b>Nov. 22</b>		Opposition Members of Parliament grapple with Police who are ordered to remove an K M P Rajaratne who had been "named" by the Speaker but refuses to leave the Chamber. The trouble arises over a private Bill submitted by former Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake proposing that five former Parliamentarians found guilty of bribery should be deprived of their civic rights. The police efforts to remove Mr.Rajaratne are unsuccessful, and the Speaker adjourns the House.
<b>Dec. 10-12</b>		On the initiative Mrs.Bandaranaike, a Conference of six non-aligned Asian-African nations is held in Colombo to help bring about peaceful settlement of the Sino-Indian border dispute. Participant countries are Ceylon, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Ghana and the UAR.
<b>Dec. 15</b>		New Indo-Ceylon travel restrictions come into force. Under the new order, a citizen of Ceylon will be permitted to go on a holiday to India only once in seven years either by sea, air or train. Restrictions on sea and air travel were in force since 1960. But the general public was not very much affected by this since the train-ferry travel was free from any restriction. This order comes as a major blow to all Tamil citizens who maintained regular religious, cultural and social contacts with South India, and Tamils from the plantations, many of whom had parents, brothers and sisters across the Palk Strait. In representations against these restrictions, President of the Ceylon Workers Congress S.Thondaman points out that whatever the need for the imposition of this rule, human considerations should be given due weight.
<b>Dec. 22</b>		Colombo Municipal Council elections result in a landslide victory for the United National Party (the Opposition in Parliament), which gains 40 of the 47 seats. Of the remaining seven seats, the LSSP wins three the SLFP and CP one each and Independents two. The UNP's victory comes as a climax to a series of similar electoral victories in other local body elections.
<b>Dec. 28</b>		It is announced in Colombo that Mrs Loranee Senaratne had been appointed Ceylon's High Commissioner in Ghana. Mrs.Senaratne is the first woman to head a Ceylon mission abroad.
<b>Dec. 31</b>		Mrs.Bandaranaike arrives in Peking, carrying the Colombo proposals of six non-aligned nations, in a bid to settle the

			Sino-Indian border dispute.
<b>AD 1963</b>	<b>Jan.</b>		Prime Minister Mrs.Bandaranaike in China, joined by Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr.Subandrio, holds talks with Chinese leaders, in a bid to bridge differences between China and India over the Sino-Indian border dispute. A joint communique issued by Mrs.Bandaranaike and Chinese Premier Chou En-lai at the conclusion of their talks on 7 January says that the Chinese Government had given a "positive response" to the Colombo proposals. Mrs.Bandaranaike proceeds to New Delhi, where she is joined by the President of the Executive Council of the United Arab Republic, Wing-Commander Ali Sabry and the Minister of Justice of Ghana, Mr.Ofori-Atta.
	<b>Jan. 9</b>		In Colombo, it is reported that the Government would compensate the three oil companies, British Shell Oil Company and the American Caltex and Stanvac, for the assets taken over from them for the State owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. A government spokesman says it is not the intention of the Government to expropriate American and British oil interests. An earlier report had said that USA had warned Ceylon that all American aid would stop on 1 February, unless the Ceylon government took meaningful steps to compensate the companies. The warnings, reports said, were conveyed by the US Ambassador Miss Frances Willis, in a series of discussions with the Ceylon government.
	<b>Jan. 12-13</b>		In New Delhi, Mrs.Bandaranaike holds discussions with members of the Indian government on the Sino-Indian border dispute.
	<b>Jan. 16</b>		For the second time, the Coup Trial Court is dissolved. The three Supreme Court judges nominated by the Chief Justice announce when the trial begins, that the court is not properly constituted and that it would not be in the interests of justice for them to hear the case. The presiding judge, L B de Silva says that Douglas Jansze, QC, the Attorney General, had intimated to them that one of the judges (Justice Abeysundera) had earlier in his capacity as acting Attorney General, taken certain steps regarding investigations of the coup suspects and had tendered legal advice to the government. In view of the Attorney General's advice, the court dissolves itself. Senior Defence counsel, G.G.Ponnambalam QC says he wishes to give notice of an application for bail as the 24 suspects had been in fiscal custody for almost one year. The presiding judge says that the suspects would be placed in fiscal custody until they were brought before another trial or the Supreme Court took



		other steps.
<b>Jan. 17</b>		M F de S Jayaratne, a senior Civil Servant is named as Ceylon's ambassador to USA, in succession to William Gopallawa, who assumed office as Governor General in March 1962.
<b>Feb. 4</b>		Independence Day is celebrated at Anuradhapura. In a special message on the occasion, Mrs. Bandaranaike refers to the "unthinking elements in this country and interested parties abroad", who were critical of her mission to China and India, and says that in the world in which they lived, it was not possible for any country to live in splendid isolation. "Events in the neighbouring sub-continent could have the greatest impact in this island. The granting of independence itself in 1948 was largely influenced by the freedom movement in India in those days. A war in the neighbourhood would not only imperil our independence, but it may well mean our total destruction."
<b>Feb. 8</b>		The United States suspends economical and technical assistance to Ceylon because of alleged failure by the Bandaranaike government to compensate American oil companies for expropriated property. David Bell, the Director of the Foreign Aid Agency says, Ceylon's right as a sovereign state to nationalise private property was not contested. "However, when such property belongs to a citizen, or company of a foreign country, the payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation is required for international law"
<b>Feb. 27</b>		The Cabinet rejects an application by the Indian High Commissioner to remit to the National Defence Fund of India Rs. 300,000/- contributed by Indians and Ceylonese. The Cabinet decides that it is against Ceylon's neutral policy to allow the application because the purpose of the Indian Defence Fund was to finance defence efforts against China. Government sources say that if the application is allowed, the Ceylon government would be compelled to allow similar applications from other parties to remit money to China. (Under the present exchange control practice, no one could remit money abroad without permission from the Controller of Exchange, who in turn must obtain government sanction in such exceptional cases as the present one).
		The exchange control regulations also prevent P Navaratnam of Jaffna College from proceeding to India to join the peace march from Delhi to Peking. He is invited by Jayaprakash Narayan to join the Peace Brigade. He is the only Ceylonese invitee.

<b>Mar. 14</b>		After 2 weeks of negotiations with the three oil companies, the Government takes compromise measures, which would enable Shell, Caltex and Esso to continue operations in Ceylon.
<b>Mar. 19</b>		Mrs. Bandaranaike denies, in the Senate that the Government had yielded to pressure from the oil companies or from the American or British governments in allowing the companies to import oil.
<b>Mar. 16</b>		The Federal Party's Executive Committee, behind closed doors at Kilinochchi in north Ceylon, unanimously confirms its earlier Mannar conference resolution to launch direct action some time in April. The nature of this direct action would be finally decided at a meeting of the Central Committee to be held at Vavuniya on 6 and 7 April.
<b>Apr. 7</b>		The Federal Party's "Direct Action" campaign scheduled to be launched on 17 April, is indefinitely postponed. The decision is taken at the Vavuniya meeting.
<b>Apr. 27</b>		It is officially announced in Colombo that the Ceylon Civil Service, which had been established in 1789, would be abolished on 1 May and that the "top thousand" in that service would become members of the new Ceylon Administrative Service.
<b>May 1</b>		The two year-old State of Emergency proclaimed on 17 April 1961, following the civil disobedience campaign launched by the Federal Party is ended.
<b>May 29</b>		A major Cabinet reshuffle is announced prior to the opening two days later of the annual conference of the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party. T.B.Illangaratne is Minister of Finance - the fourth Finance Minister since the formation of the Bandaranaike government in 1959. Felix Dias Bandaranayake who had been Minister without portfolio takes over Agriculture, Food and Co-operatives, and Baduiddin Mahmud ceases to be Minister for Education and takes over Health and Housing. Felix Dias Bandaranaike is again Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, in addition to his Ministerial duties.
<b>Jun. 1</b>		The 11th annual conference of the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party held at Badulla, passes a resolution urging immediate steps for presenting to Parliament a draft Bill for setting up a republican form of government.
<b>Jun. 28</b>		A Commission of inquiry to examine the various aspects of the assassination of Prime Minister S W R D Bandaranaike is announced. Justice T.S.Fernando (Ceylon), Justice Abdel Younis (U.A.R.) and Justice G.C.Mills-Odai (Ghana) are announced as members of the commission with Justice Fernando (who had heard the Bandaranaike assassination

		case in the Supreme Court,) as Chairman.
<b>Jul. 8</b>		Provisional results of the census show that the population totals 10,644,809, an increase of 31.5% since the 1953 census. The 1953 figure was 8,097,895. The three largest municipal areas are Colombo (510,947), Dehiwela-Mt.Lavinia (111,013) and Jaffna (94,248).
<b>Jul. 24</b>		The Ministry of Defence and External Affairs issues a press note explaining the Government's move to take over the internal distribution of oil. US officials regard this latest action of Ceylon as a fresh deterioration in relations between the two countries. The measure, now before Parliament in the form of an amendment to the Petroleum Corporation Act, seeks to vest in the State-owned Corporation the import and distribution of petroleum in Ceylon from January 1964.
<b>Aug. 10</b>		The Federal Party decides to launch a civil disobedience movement "unless the Government withdraws the imposition of 'Sinhala Only' and grants the just demands of the Tamil-speaking people before October 1 this year." The decision is taken by the Central Working Committee of the party at the end of a two-day meeting in Jaffna.
<b>Aug. 12</b>		A United Left Front is formed. The Lanka Sama Samaja Party, the Communist Party, and Mahajana Eksath Peramuna sign a formal agreement to form a United Left Front operating as a single unit; a joint programme calls for the establishment of a republic, severance of ties with the British monarchy, and the nationalisation of all foreign as well as locally-owned plantations and industries. The three parties together have a strength of 19 members in the 157-member House of Representatives. The effect of the agreement is that the new grouping will be on the left in Ceylonese politics, the SLFP in the centre is and the conservative United National Party led by Dudley Senanayake on the right.
<b>Aug. 30</b>		In the House of Representatives, leaders of both Right and Left wing Opposition parties charge the government with veering towards the Chinese line in foreign affairs by its attitude towards the Sino-Indian border dispute. Philip Gunawardene of the United Left Front accuses the government of having become a "stooge of the Peking warlords" and as a result, Ceylon is moving away from its avowed policy of "dynamic neutralism without knowing or understanding it". He appeals to the Government to remove the impression that Ceylon is "hostile to India". "India is our friend despite the fact that we have differences with her". J.R.Jayewardene of the UNP alleges that there is a

		pro-China lobby in the Ceylonese cabinet.
<b>Aug. 31</b>		Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister tells the House of Representatives that as far as Ceylon is concerned there are no "Stateless" people in the country. There are only two categories of citizens - Ceylonese, and Indians. He contends that under international law, a person's claim to nationality of any country depended on domicile - the land a person ultimately choses to make his/her home. The mere fact of residence in another country for even 20 years did not affect his domicile, which could be changed only by a conscious wish to abandon the domicile of origin. Every consideration, such as exchange remittances and visits to India and other contacts showed that Indian workers in Ceylon had Indian domicile. He maintains that these workers had a rightful claim to Indian citizenship as under the guarantee of fundamental rights in the Indian constitution. The remedy for those who are refused Indian citizenship is to seek a writ of "mandamus" on Indian government officials. This would have to be decided by the Supreme Court of India.
		Meanwhile Indian Press reports (Times of India, New Delhi, and The Hindu, Madras) say that the Ceylon government has severely tightened its policy in the matter of issuing visit visas for Indian nationals desiring to visit Ceylon. Ceylonese missions in Madras, Bombay and Delhi are reported to be insisting not only on letters of guarantee from Ceylon residents on whose invitations the proposed visit to Ceylon was being undertaken but also a draft issued by the Reserve Bank of India for an amount enough to meet the expenses of their stay in Ceylon.
<b>Aug. 31</b>		The Government appoints a three-member Press Commission headed by retired Supreme Court judge K.D.de Silva to investigate the working of all newspapers and periodicals. This follows earlier failures to reach agreement on four draft Bills to take over the newspapers by converting them into corporations. The other two members are Mrs.Theja Gunewardene, herself an editor of a defunct journal and Secretary of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Association, and S W Walpita, a lawyer.
<b>Sep. 3</b>		The terms of reference of the Press Commission are bitterly criticized in the House of Representatives. The Opposition Whip J.R.Jayewardene alleges that one of the members of the Commission, Mrs Theja Gunawardene, is an agent of the Chinese government and that she is an editor of a journal whose conduct itself would have to be investigated by the Commission.

		<p>The Government which had planned to conduct all levels of administration in the official language - Sinhala, from 1 January, 1964 makes a concession; public servants are to be allowed another two years to attain proficiency in Sinhala. This means that the change to Sinhala will not take place till 1 January 1966.</p>
		<p>The Ceylon Workers' Congress, representing the bulk of the Tamil plantation labour, holds its 19th annual sessions. In his presidential address, Mr. S.Thondaman says the problem of "Stateless" people could no longer be kept in cold storage. The problem "for which our (Ceylon) government is solely responsible" could not be solved by whipping up prejudice against a set of workers who had made a vital contribution to the economy of the land. Neither could the problem be solved by following the course adopted by successive governments of Ceylon, of seeking to negotiate with the Indian government the future of these plantation workers who had made Ceylon their home and who have been rendered Stateless because of unjust and oppressive laws. He says the problem is a "domestic issue, between a class of people permanently settled in this country - who have been deprived of their legitimate citizenship rights and the government of this country."</p> <p>Mr. Thondaman says, "While we welcome any moral support in our struggle for citizenship rights from whatever quarter it comes, we consider that any negotiation between the Government of India and our Government regarding the political and other rights of these workers is derogatory to their dignity as human beings, particularly when their representatives are not parties to such negotiations. We are told recently the Prime Minister of Ceylon has, instead of conducting negotiations with the accredited representatives of these plantation workers, sent a communication to the Prime Minister of India regarding them. In the past we acquiesced in such approaches being made as we thought that the good offices of the Prime Minister of India might help these workers win their rights, but experience has conclusively demonstrated that interference, however well meant, on the part of the Indian government has, far from solving the problem, created psychological barriers".</p>
	<b>Oct.</b>	<p>Prime Minister Mrs.Bandaranaike makes official visits to the UAR. (October 10-14), Czechoslovakia (October 14-17), Poland (October 17-21) and the USSR. (October 21-</p>

		31). She holds talks with President Nasser, the Czechoslovakian and Polish Prime Ministers and with the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.
	<b>Oct. 27</b>	N.Shanmugathan, leader of the pro-China wing of the Ceylon Communist Party is expelled from the party, on a decision taken by the Central Committee. He is the General Secretary of the Communist-sponsored Ceylon Trade Union Federation. The action against Mr.Shanmugathan followed a number of charges against him, including one that he had made speeches against the views of the Party and the agreed conclusions of the 1957 and 1960 meetings of the international Communist movement.
		Canadian High Commissioner in Ceylon James George informs Finance Minister T B Illangaratne that Canada will finance the Katunayake airport scheme, estimated to cost £2 million. Earlier, US was to have financed this scheme, but the offer was withdrawn when America suspended aid to Ceylon because of delays in paying compensation to oil companies for assets taken over by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.
	<b>Nov.</b>	Mrs. Theja Gunawardene, whose appointment as a member of the Press Commission provoked wide criticism, resigns.
	<b>Nov. 23</b>	The Tamil Arasu Kadchchi (Federal Party) retains the Trincomalee seat in the House of Representatives in a by-election, with an increased majority - 5,800 as against just over 4,000 - in a larger turn-out than in July 1960 (19,100 against 13,300). The by-election in the Tamil-speaking constituency in the Eastern Province is caused by the death of N.R.Rajavarothayam. S M Manickarajah, the Federal Party candidate, wins 11,532 votes against his two Independent rivals, A H.Alwis (5,721) and B Wijenathan (1,876),
<b>AD 1964</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	Consular exchanges with East Germany - Suspension of West German aid.
	<b>Feb. 7-14</b>	Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, Herr Bruno Leuschner, visits Ceylon. A joint communique on 14 February states that both countries had agreed on the upgrading of the East German trading mission in Colombo into a Consulate-General and on the setting-up of a Ceylonese Consulate-General in the GDR. The communique also states that Mrs. Bandaranaike had reaffirmed the view, which she had previously expressed, that the German question could only be solved through the recognition of the existence of two German states. In Bonn, it is announced on 21 February, that the German Federal government had informed the Government of Ceylon that

		the latter's attitude towards the regime in East Germany made it impossible to continue with the West German programme of development aid to Ceylon. The Federal Government's decision was taken in accordance with the "Halistein doctrine", formulated in 1955, which laid down that the Federal Government would not maintain diplomatic relations with any country, except the Soviet Union, recognising the regime in East Germany.
<b>Feb. 22</b>		Ceylon and the Soviet Union sign an Air agreement in Colombo, providing for Aeroflot to operate through Colombo, with reciprocal rights to Air Ceylon.
<b>Mar.</b>		MEP leader Philip Gunawardene alleges in the House of Representatives the existence of a right-wing conspiracy against the Government.
<b>Mar. 5</b>		Fearing a threat both from the Right and the Left, Government proclaims a State of Emergency.
<b>Mar. 13</b>		Parliament is prolonged until July.
<b>Mar. 23</b>		UNP leader Dudley Senanayake alleges in a statement made to the Police that he had information that certain Ministers were planning to set up a dictatorship.
<b>Mar. 28</b>		Mrs. Bandaranaike says in a speech that Parliament had been prorogued because obstruction by certain Opposition members was preventing Parliamentary business being dealt with; Government therefore feels that they could spend their time more usefully on the efficient administration of the existing laws.
<b>May 1</b>		Speaking on May Day, Mrs Bandaranaike calls for unity between the ruling SLFP and the United Left Front. She says: "Today the country is broadly divided into a capitalist camp and a socialist camp. The United National Party stands as the sole bulwark of the capitalist forces in Ceylon. The progressive socialist forces on the other hand, are divided ideologically and otherwise into various groups and with various shades of opinion, united essentially in principle but often, differing as to method. I would therefore appeal to all those who have the welfare of the workers and peasants of this country at heart to rise above petty differences and unite on the larger ground of those many principles common to us all. This is the only way, as I see it, of meeting the threat imposed on us by the firmly integrated forces of capitalism and reaction in this country....".
		Mrs. Bandaranaike's proposal for unity with the ULF meets with opposition from some members of the Cabinet; specific objections are raised against any form of

		collaboration with the MEP constituent led by Philip Gunawardene. A Cabinet meeting on May 7-8 finally agrees that the LSSP and the CP, but not Philip Gunawardene, should be invited to enter a coalition government.
<b>May 9</b>		The SLFP executive committee votes (209 to 4) for a resolution empowering the Prime Minister and the Cabinet "to set up a coalition government with those progressive forces willing to accept the basic policies of our party, and to enter into an electoral agreement with those parties for the next election".
<b>May 10</b>		The Central Committee of the LSSP rejects a motion by party leader Dr. N.M.Perera, by 21 votes to 20, that the party should enter the government; however, a compromise proposal that the Prime Minister should negotiate with the ULF as a body, is approved by 29 votes to 12.
		Meanwhile, 23 ruling party MPs including six Cabinet Ministers inform Mrs. Bandaranaike that they are opposed to the inclusion of, besides the MEP, the CP as well; the Communist Party's support to the Soviet Union in its ideological dispute with the Chinese government, it was feared, would affect the country's relations with China.
<b>May 19</b>		Formal talks between the Prime Minister and the ULF begin.
<b>Jun. 3</b>		The SLFP-ULF talks breakdown; Mrs. Bandaranaike's offer to admit only LSSP members into the government is rejected as unacceptable.
<b>Jun. 7</b>		The LSSP holds its annual conference. A motion by Dr. N.M.Perera favouring the entry of the party into the government is carried by 607 votes to 179.
		This crucial decision, while making the party veer away from its theoretical revolutionary role, also marks the formal abandonment of its language policy of parity of status for Sinhala and Tamil. It also marks the break-up of the United Left Front.
		A resolution moved by radicals within the party opposing a coalition with the SLFP as well as a compromise resolution supporting a coalition on condition that all three Left-wing parties are admitted, are both defeated. After the vote, about 125 delegates including Edmund Samarakkody, MP and Bala Tampoe, the Trade Union leader, walk out in protest, and announce on the following day that they would form a new party to be known as the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (Revolutionary Section).
<b>Jun. 11</b>		The LSSP reaches agreement with the Government on a common programme; among the provisions are:



		Regulations would be formulated for the implementation of the Official Language Act in a manner more acceptable to both Sinhalese and Tamils; while giving Buddhism its rightful place as the religion of the majority, full freedom of worship would be ensured to all others; an election programme acceptable to both parties would be prepared by the Prime Minister, special attention being paid to the number of seats held by the two parties.
		The same day, a Coalition government is sworn in. The SLFP Cabinet of 12 is expanded to include three LSSP Ministers: Dr. N.M.Perera (Finance); Anil Moonesinghe (Communications) and Cholomondeley Gunawardene (Public Works). Dr.Perera (59), a pupil of Professor Harold Laski at the London School of Economics, was first elected to the State Council in 1936. He was imprisoned by the British under the wartime Defence Regulations in 1940, but escaped to India in 1942; he was rearrested and detained until the end of the war.
		The formation of the coalition government brings divisions into both parties. Deputy Leader of the LSSP, Dr. Colvin R. de Silva and Leslie Goonewardene, a former General Secretary of the party decline to accept portfolios, while SLFP Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Mahanama Samaraweera resigns from the Cabinet.
	<b>Jul. 2</b>	New session of Parliament opens. Governor General announces in the Speech from the Throne that "a planned programme of Socialist development in which every section of the working people will be associated" would be implemented shortly, in accordance with the joint programme of the Government parties. It is important to note that the "planned programme" did not include the largest single segment of the working people - the plantation Tamils in the Tea and Rubber industry. On 30 July, the new Finance Minister Dr. Perera presents his budget.
	<b>Sep. 11-13</b>	Indian Minister for External Affairs, Sardar Swaran Singh visits Ceylon for talks with the Government. The question of the future of the plantation Tamils of Indian origin is also taken up by the Ceylon Government. Later, Mrs. Bandaranaike has private talks with Opposition leaders including UNP leader Dudley Senanayake on the subject.
	<b>Oct. 29-30</b>	The Srirama-Shastri Pact is signed in New Delhi. On 21 October, Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri has talks with the Madras Chief Minister Bhaktavatsalam, who, opposes any large-scale repatriation from Ceylon. He points out that his State is already faced with the problem

		caused by the repatriation of thousands of Tamil-speaking Indians from Burma. He urges that people coming from Ceylon should be settled in other States as well, and that repatriation should be spread over a long period.
		A top-level delegation headed by Mrs. Bandaranaike and including the Parliamentary Secretary for External Affairs Felix Dias Bandaranaike and the Minister for Trade T.B. Illangaratne arrive in New Delhi on 22 October. UNP leader Dudley Senanayake, who is invited by Mrs. Bandaranaike to join the delegation, declines.
		Because no settlement could be reached until 27 October, Mrs. Bandaranaike offers to extend her stay in Delhi.
		<p>An agreement is finally reached on 29 October. The agreement, confirmed on 30 October in the form of an exchange of letters, and signed by the two Prime Ministers, says:</p> <p>The declared objective of this agreement is that all persons of Indian origin in Ceylon who have not been recognised either as citizens of Ceylon or as citizens of India should become citizens either of Ceylon or of India.</p> <p>The number of such persons is approximately 975,000 as of date - this figure does not include illicit immigrants and Indian passport holders.</p> <p>300,000 of these persons, together with the natural increase in that number, will be granted Ceylon citizenship by the Government of Ceylon; the Government of India will accept repatriation to India of 525,000 of these persons together with the natural increase in that number. The Indian government will confer citizenship on these persons.</p> <p>The status and future of the remaining 150,000 of these persons will be subject matter of a separate agreement between the two Governments.</p> <p>The Indian Government will accept repatriation of the persons to be repatriated within a period of 15 years from the date of this agreement, according to a programme as evenly phased as possible.</p> <p>Grant of Ceylon citizenship under Paragraph 3 and the process of repatriation under Paragraph 5 shall both be phased over a period of 15 years, and shall, as far as possible, keep pace with each other in proportion to the relative numbers to be granted citizenship and to be</p>

		<p>repatriated respectively.</p> <p>The Government of Ceylon will grant to persons to be repatriated to India during their period of residence in Ceylon the same facilities as are enjoyed by citizens of other States - except facilities for remittances - and normal facilities for their continued residence, including free visas. The Government of Ceylon agrees that such of these persons as are gainfully employed on the date of this agreement, shall, continue in their employment until the date of their repatriation in accordance with the requirements of the phased programme or until they attain the age of 55 years, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>Subject to exchange control regulations for the time being in force, which will not be discriminatory against the persons to be repatriated to India, 'the Government of Ceylon agrees to permit these persons to repatriate at the time of their final departure for India all their assets, including their provident and gratuity amounts. The Government of Ceylon agrees that 'the maximum amount of assets which any family' shall be permitted to repatriate shall not be reduced to less than Rs, 4,000 (£300).</p>
		<p>An Indian spokesman explains (30 October) that the present plan was to repatriate to India about 36,000 persons annually, while Ceylon would grant citizenship to 20,000 persons every year. Mr. Shastri tells the Press that an Indo-Ceylon Ministerial Committee would be set-up to supervise the registration and other provisions of the agreement and that there would be also a committee at official level. He adds that a clear assurance had been given by the Ceylon Government that there would be no discrimination against those Stateless persons who are to be granted Ceylonese citizenship. In Colombo, the leader of the Federal Party, which represents the Ceylonese Tamil Community, S J V Chelvanayakam criticises the agreement.</p>
	<b>Oct. 30</b>	<p>S J V Chelvanayagam points out that many of the 525,000 people who are apparently to be sent to India without their consent were born in Ceylon and had no homes in India to go to. He says: "it is an unprecedented move in international relations for half a million people to be treated as pawns in the game of power politics"</p>
	<b>Nov. 6</b>	<p>Speaking in Madras, Indian Prime Minister Shastri declares that the repatriation of persons of Indian origin from Ceylon was a national responsibility and gives an assurance that the Central Government would give all the assistance possible to the States for the rehabilitation of these people.</p>


		Government proposals to introduce legislation on the Press, an issue, which had been before Parliament ever since its election in 1960, give rise to violent controversy. Mass demonstrations are held in Colombo for and against the proposed legislation. Parliament is prorogued from 12 November to 20 November. The Prime Minister says that this action is taken because of "certain procedural shortcomings" in the Press Bill and the Newspaper Corporation Bill, which would both be reintroduced when Parliament reassembles. As a result of the prorogation of Parliament, an earlier ruling by the Speaker (6 October) postponing the debate on the Press Bill automatically lapses.
	<b>Nov. 20</b>	Parliament reassembles, and the Governor General announces in the Speech from the Throne that the lapsed Bills from the 'previous session would be taken up; he also says that the Government proposed to introduce legislation "to give Buddhism its proper place as the religion of the majority and at the same time guaranteeing freedom of worship to all religions". Opposition members boycott the ceremony, as a protest against - in the words of Mr. Dudley Senanayake - "the misuse by the Government of the procedure of prorogation to cover up their lapses".
	<b>Nov. 26</b>	Notice is given of the presentation of the Press and Newspaper Corporation Bills.
	<b>Dec. 3</b>	The coalition Government is defeated by a majority of one vote in the House of Representatives, on the debate on the address of thanks to the Speech from the Throne. An amendment to the address moved by W Dahanayake declaring "that the people have no confidence in the Government, as it has miserably failed to solve such pressing problems as unemployment and the high cost of living", is carried by 74 votes to 73. Leader of the House and Minister of Land Irrigation and Power, C P de Silva and 13 other SLFP dissidents cross the floor and vote with the Opposition along with the Appointed Member representing European interests. In a speech after crossing the floor. C P de Silva says: "From what I have known, what I have heard, and what I have seen in the inner councils of the coalition, our nation is being inexorably pushed toward unadulterated totalitarianism. This is the bitter truth, which no subterfuge, not even the device of diverting public attention towards a vague promise of giving Buddhism its rightful place, can conceal". Several other MPs who defected accuse the government of inefficiency and corruption.

<b>Dec. 4</b>		Outside the Parliament building, clashes occur between Government and Opposition supporters. The Speaker, Hugh Fernando criticizes the police for not taking action to protect Opposition supporters from pro-Government mobs. He says he himself had seen crowds stoning C P de Silva's car. He adjourns the House until 17 December.
		The same day, Mrs. Bandaranaike announces that she had advised the Governor General to dissolve Parliament and order General Elections. Denouncing Mr. de Silva's "stab in the back", she says that he had not only helped in drafting that Throne Speech against which he had voted, but had not at any stage expressed any view against it.
<b>Dec. 7</b>		Parliament is not dissolved and Opposition parties mount an agitation alleging that the Government is trying to "prolong its life by various devices".
<b>Dec. 8</b>		Opposition parties call for a general strike on 10 December.
<b>Dec. 9</b>		Mrs. Bandaranaike announces that Parliament would be dissolved on 17 December, whereupon the threat of a strike is called off.
<b>Dec. 17</b>		Parliament is dissolved and General Election is fixed for 22 March 1965.


## CHRONOLOGY


Year	Date	Photo	Event
AD 1980			<b>Under construction</b>
AD 1981	Mar. 25		Tamil militants raid the Neerveli Bank in Jaffna. Two policemen are fatally shot during the raid.
	May 11 - 15		The Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE) sends a fact-finding Mission consisting of Fr Paul Casperz (President), Susil Seneviratne (Acting Secretary), Laksiri Fernando (University Lecturer), K S Ratnavel (Attorney-at-Law) and D W Appuhamy (All Lanka Peasants' Congress) to Jaffna to investigate reports of excesses by security forces. The delegation meets families and relatives of persons taken into custody by security forces, political and religious leaders, University teachers, students and Sinhala residents.
	May 31- Jun. 4		Sinhalese police and army go on the rampage burning parts of the city of Jaffna. Hundreds of shops are reduced to ashes and the Jaffna market square is set on flame. They burn the party office of the Tamil United Liberation Front and the house of the Jaffna MP V Yogeswaran. On 1 June, the police and army assault civilians on the road. They burn the Jaffna public library with its 90,000 volumes and rare documents, and irreplaceable manuscripts on the history and culture of the Tamils. They also burn the press of <i>Eelanadu</i> , which is the only Tamil daily in the Tamil areas. On 2 June, the army and police continue to burn shops in many areas in the peninsula. On the same day, after Emergency is declared and curfew is imposed in Jaffna, the army kill two persons. On 3 and 4 June, the army kill five persons including one in the office of the MP for Nallur. On the 4 June, four Members of Parliament are arrested "for no apparent reason" and later released. Several other Tamils are also arrested.
	Jun. 4		District Development Council elections are held in the Tamil areas. The government sends a contingent of 300 specially selected Sinhalese policemen to Jaffna to supervise the operations. The 150 officials mandated by the Elections Commissioner as presiding and counting officers are replaced by Sinhalese loyalists hand-picked by the UNP high command and sent to Jaffna at the eleventh hour. The UNP is determined to win at least one seat in Jaffna, even if it involves rigging the elections. After the casting of the votes, some ballot boxes go missing and some are received late for counting. High government officials interfere with

		the elections and intimidate the election officers. The Minister of Mahaweli Development, Gamini Dissanayake and Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, Cyril Mathew, the secretary and additional secretary to the Ministry of Defence and the secretary to the cabinet are present in Jaffna and actively participate in these interferences. The TULF enters into the DDC elections to defeat the UNP, which has nominated Tamil candidates in Tamil areas.
	<b>Jul. 23</b>	A no-confidence motion is introduced and passed in Parliament by government members against the Leader of the Opposition, and TULF leader A Amirthalingam. Extensive debates are held in Parliament on methods of torturing and executing him.
	<b>Aug. 10- 14</b>	Violence spreads to the entire country from 10 August and the Tamils become victims of mass murder, assaults, hacking, burning, looting and raping and other forms of genocidal attacks. In Amparai many houses belonging to the Tamils are burned by Sinhalese mobs assisted by the security forces. A large number of shops are also burned and 500 Tamils are made refugees. Violence is particularly directed against the plantation workers. Thugs attack 43 estates in the Ratnapura area. The line rooms are looted and burnt and thousands of Plantation Tamils become refugees. Many Tamils are also killed in the violence and over 40,000 Tamils are made refugees. On 14 August, President Jayewardene admits that the violence in the Ratnapura area has been an organised one. A joint statement issued by the Movement for Inter-Racial Justice and Equality (MIRJE), signed by opposition parties, trade unions and civil rights organisations, states: "There is good reason to suspect that persons in powerful positions have been behind the instigation, organisation and planning of this campaign of violence."
	<b>Oct. 5</b>	Sri Lanka ratifies Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
<b>AD 1982</b>		<b>Under construction</b>
<b>AD 1983</b>	<b>Feb. 8</b>	Superintendent of Police (SP) P Udagampola seizes 20,000 leaflets against the referendum by an organization called 'Voice of the Clergy'. In a fundamental rights application, the Supreme Court holds that there had been breach of fundamental rights and awards Rs. 10,000 as damages and costs against the SP personally. On the 2 March, the Cabinet decides to promote the police officer and pay the fine and costs out of public funds. These measures are


		<p>taken on the instructions of President Jayewardene.</p> <p>The judges, who pronounced the judgment against the police officer and other officers found guilty of breaching fundamental rights of citizens, are intimidated at their residences on 10 June by organised gangs of thugs.</p>
<b>Apr.</b>		The President S A David and Secretary S Rajasundaram of northern development and relief agency, Gandhiyam, are arrested and tortured in custody.
<b>May 18</b>		<p>Parliamentary by-elections are held for 18 electoral seats in the south, which had fallen vacant, while emergency is in force.</p> <p>The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) defies the LTTE call for boycott of local elections in the North and appeals to the people to vote. A LTTE statement signed by leader and the military commander V Prabhakaran and widely circulated among the people, calls upon the Tamils to “reject the civil administrative machinery of the Sri Lankan state terrorists and join the popular armed struggle directed towards national emancipation.” He also denounces the TULF as a reactionary political party, functioning as agents of the Sinhala racists utilising the slogan of “national freedom” to win the elections.</p> <p>Just before voting begins, time-bombs planted by the LTTE at five polling booths in the Jaffna city explode causing panic among people and security forces. A soldier is killed and another soldier and two policemen are seriously wounded when the LTTE open fire at army and police units guarding a polling booth at Nallur.</p>
<b>Jun.</b>		The Army is empowered by President Jayewardene to kill and bury dead bodies without post-mortem and judicial inquest under Emergency regulations.
<b>Jul. 1</b>		The government imposes the ban on the Northern English newspaper <i>Saturday Review</i> . Although <i>Saturday Review</i> is allowed to publish again from 18 January 1984, it is subjected to special censorship. No other newspaper in Sri Lanka is subject to such special censorship.
<b>Jul. 23</b>		<p>The LTTE, lead by Lt. <i>Sellakili</i> ambush an army patrol from Palai to Gurunagar at Thinnaveli near Jaffna in the northern Jaffna peninsula and kill thirteen soldiers.</p> <p>Anti-Tamil riots and massacres take place in Colombo and other Sinhalese areas. The world witnesses the worst violence against the Tamils in Sri Lankan history, which</p>



			<p>had been planned and executed by elements within the government. Enormous damage is caused to Tamil-owned property. The cost of reconstruction is estimated at Rs. 133 million. But this is quite apart from the cost of human lives and the untold suffering caused in purely human terms for many people who are innocent men, women and children.</p>
<b>Jul. 27- 28</b>			<p><b>WELIKADE PRISON MASSACRE:</b> Sinhalese prisoners murder 53 Tamil political prisoners in Welikade prison, a maximum-security prison in Colombo with the connivance of the Sinhalese prison guards. The magisterial enquiry conducted immediately after the massacre returns a verdict of homicide. However, no person responsible for the killings is identified and the case is closed. The government rejects demands by international human rights organisations to hold independent judicial investigations into the prison massacres. It is suspected that the massacres were ordered by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali.</p> <p>Despite repeated calls by Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists and the Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka, neither a public, independent, impartial enquiry into the incidents, in particular concerning government involvement and participation of security forces in the killings is carried out nor the perpetrators punished under the criminal law.</p>
			<p>Tamils in the South flee to their homeland in the North. Over 3,000 Tamils are killed. Many are burnt alive. Over 150,000 become refugees. Hundreds of Tamils flee to neighbouring India and the West. The Indian government speaks out in support of the Tamils. The LTTE and other guerrilla organisations set up training camps on Indian soil. Thousands of radicalised youths join the guerrilla movements. The TULF leadership, seen as ineffectual, begins to fade into political oblivion. Emergency Regulations empower, security forces to shoot, kill and dispose of dead bodies without inquest or post-mortem.</p>
<b>Aug. 1</b>			<p>The Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi addressing the South Asian regional corporation meeting of foreign ministers says: Ours is a troubled region. Most of our countries are multi-racial and multi-religious. It would be idle to pretend that we are not affected by what happens elsewhere,” and adding for good measure: “India is not just another country.” Mrs Gandhi follows up this message by organising help to the Tamil militant groups based in Madras in Tamil Nadu. Though she did not support the</p>



			demand for Tamil Eelam she did not denounce it either.
	<b>Aug. 2</b>		The Government of Tamil Nadu in India calls for a general strike in support of the Tamils of Sri Lanka. In 1981, also the government party in Tamil Nadu ADMK had called a general strike supported by the opposition parties, but the Central government rejected this move as it did not regard the impairment of their own economy as an adequate measure to protest against violation of the human rights in the neighbouring country. The strike of 2 August, is the first of this kind, called by a state government and supported by the Indian central government. The majority of the Tamil population also expect the Central government to intervene in Sri Lanka with the aid of armed forces, which is approved by the opposition party, the DMK in Tamil Nadu.
	<b>Aug. 8</b>		<p><b>Sixth Amendment to the Constitution:</b> The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution is rushed through Parliament and becomes law, while violence is raging in the country. This amendment requires an oath of allegiance to Sri Lanka and denouncement of separatism. Tamil MPs refuse to take the oath and lose their seats in Parliament. The Bill is passed by 150 votes to none and reads:</p> <p>“No person shall, directly or indirectly, in or outside Sri Lanka, support, expose, promote, finance, encourage or advocate the establishment of a separate State within the territory of Sri Lanka ... A person who is guilty of such an offence would firstly be subjected to the civic disabilities already prescribed under the Constitution... He would lose his rights to obtain a passport, to sit for any public examination, to own any immovable property even in the future and engage in any trade or profession for which he needs a licence or similar authorisation..... such person would lose any public office he holds whether as a Member of Parliament or in the public service or in any State Corporation”. It would therefore be seen that such a person would be legally incapacitated to the most drastic degree.</p> <p>Thus, the Sixth Amendment deprives the Tamil community of its remaining voice in Parliament and so of its opportunity to take part in the democratic process.</p>
	<b>Aug. 25</b>		Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sends G Parthasarathy as an Indian emissary to Sri Lanka to lay the foundation for talks between representatives of Tamils and Sinhalese.
	<b>Sep. 8</b>		Judges of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal are prevented from entering courts by police for one week for

		<p>failing to take oaths under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution, although these judges had taken oaths before one another as was the tradition. They are compelled to take oaths before the Sri Lankan President.</p>
<b>AD 1984</b>	<b>Jan. 10</b>	<p>The government summons an All-Party Conference (APC) on 21 September and places the District Development Councils proposal. In a calculated attempt to defeat the objective of devolution, the proposals link devolution to a second chamber, the majority of members of which would be appointed by the President. Tamils reject the proposals providing the reasons at the Plenary Session of the All Party Conference on 30 September.</p> <p>Following the rejection, the government resorts to imposition of a military solution on the Tamils by strong repressive action in the North and the East and also increase activities to changing the demographic patterns of the Tamil homeland. During this period, the government also brings in Israelis and the British mercenaries as “advisors” and “trainers” of the Sri Lankan security forces.</p>
	<b>May 21</b>	Sri Lanka becomes signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Derogation under article 4.
	<b>Aug.</b>	More than 400 Tamil civilians were arbitrarily killed or extrajudicially executed by members of the security forces. Throughout August, several people are killed or injured by Sri Lankan navy shelling of coastal towns in Polikandy, Point Pedro and Valvettiturai in the Jaffna peninsula; attacks also wipe out whole settlements and leave thousands of Tamil refugees.
	<b>Aug. 11</b>	Sixteen Tamils are killed when six men wearing khaki trousers armed with sub-machine guns stop a private coach on the route between Colombo and Jaffna, and call out all male passengers, lining them up and shoot them.
	<b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>MASSACRE AT OTHIYAMALAI:</b> In retaliation to the raid by the LTTE on Sinhalese settlers in Kent and Dollar Farms, army personnel go to Othiyamalai, a village near these farms, take away 27 Tamils from their homes at dawn, all males, to the village community centre and shoot them dead with their hands tied behind. Five others, all around 50 years of age, are put on the trailer of a tractor [No. 25 SRI 6511] and taken to the Kent Farm and shot dead.
	<b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>VAVUNIYA ARMY CAMP MASSACRE:</b> A statement by the Ministry of National Security claims that there was an attack on the Vavuniya army camp and that 40 detainees were killed by the army in the course of an escape attempt.

			<p>This version is doubted in the light of evidence that a group of soldiers collected 11 men from their living quarters, who were employees of the Irrigation Department and another 18 more from the village of Chemamadu near Vavuniya in their army vehicles. The people taken have disappeared. In response to inquiries made by the Deputy Director of irrigation and the Government Agent of Vavuniya, the Co-ordinating Officer of the armed forces of Vavuniya says that none from the army had gone to Chemamadu or the Irrigation Department quarters nor had anyone from there been arrested. It is suspected that the people taken away by the army were shot dead within the army camp.</p>
			<p>Members of the security forces randomly kill at least 27 Tamils in the area of Cheddikulam and Chemamadu in the Vanni area in retaliation for massacres committed by Tamil Tigers on Kent and Dollar Farms. In another incident, around 100 Tamils are arrested by the army in the surrounding villages and killed in the Iratperiyakulam Army Camp near Vavuniya.</p>
	<b>Dec. 4</b>		<p><b>MANNAR MASSACRE:</b> A soldier dies when a landmine explodes near Murunkan in the Mannar District. The security forces retaliate and massacre 106 Tamil civilians.</p>
	<b>Dec. 31</b>		<p>During the whole year, 10,600 Tamils are taken into custody. Widespread torture is used by the army and the police Special Task Force (STF) resulting in several deaths in custody.</p>
<b>AD 1985</b>	<b>Apr. 12-14</b>		<p><u>Muslims attack Tamils in Karaitivu in the Batticaloa District</u> with the help of Special Task Force (STF). The STF provides fire-power to demolish houses and property. Nearly 3,000 Muslim youths are alleged to have participated in the attack. Participation of the Israeli intelligence services to drive a wedge between the Tamil and Muslim communities is alleged.</p>
	<b>Apr. 21</b>		<p>A massive bomb explodes at the main bus terminal in Colombo causing severe damage to the bus stand and surrounding shops and buildings. Some 120 civilians are reported killed and many others injured. The government blames EROS and the LTTE for the attack.</p>
	<b>Apr. 25</b>		<p>People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) enters the Tamil Liberation struggle marking its first major military operation by successfully capturing the Nikeweratiya police station, situated 60 kilometres outside Colombo. After taking over the police station, the commandos of PLOTE remove all weapons including revolvers, rifles, sub-machine guns and repeater, and shot guns.</p>

	May	<p>Tamil Eelam Supporters' Organisation (TESO) is formed in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, with DMK President M Karunanidhi as chairman. Its objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help the Tamil partisans to carry on the struggle against state terrorism in Sri Lanka.</li> <li>• To help Tamil refugees.</li> <li>• To propagate the demand for Tamil Eelam at national and at international levels.</li> </ul>
	May 9	<p><b>VALVETTITURAI MASSACRE:</b> The security forces take around 40 persons from the villages of Udupiddy, Polikandy and Valvettiturai and kill them in two places near Valvettiturai Hospital, in retaliation for the killing of an Army Major by Tamil guerrillas. In one incident, at a bathing ghat, 12 young men are lined, their hands tied behind their backs and shot at point blank range. In another incident, young men, with their hands tied, are herded into a community centre at Urani and the building is blown up with explosives, killing everyone instantly. Although the government promises to investigate into these killings, there is no information as to whether an investigation has taken place, and if so, the outcome.</p>
	May 14	<p><b>ANURADHPURA MASSACRE:</b> Armed Tamil militants alleged to be members of the LTTE disguised as military personnel, reach Anuradhapura in a bus and open fire at the old bus stand and market site, killing some 70 innocent civilians and injuring over 100. They then proceed to the old town, near the Sri Maha Bodhi, the sacred Bo tree, and open fire killing two Buddhist monks and four <i>Dasasil Mathas</i> (Buddhist nuns) in the Temples besides damaging a Buddha statue. After the killings of innocent people at Anuradhapura, the militants proceed to Puttalam. On their way, they open fire at Nochchiyagama Police Station, injuring a Police constable and move into Wilpattu National Park, leaving 14 Wild Life Department officials dead. As a reprisal, infuriated mobs attack Tamils in Anuradhapura town and several are reported killed.</p> <p>This is the first mass killing of Sinhalese civilians outside the North by Tamil guerrillas. It has been said that the Anuradhapura massacre was in retaliation of the massacre of some 72 Tamil youths in Valvettiturai by security forces on 9 and 10 May 1985.</p>
	May 15	<p><b>KUMUDINI BOAT MASSACRE:</b> Forty-eight Tamil passengers including women and children on a ferry boat from Delft to Nainativu, two islands off the western coast of Jaffna peninsula, are killed by Navy personnel.</p>

<p><b>May 16- 18</b></p>	<p><b>THAMBILUVIL MASSACRE:</b> Sixty three young Tamils, in the age group of 18-25, are arrested and massacred in the Batticaloa area between 16 and 18 May 1985, some of them after being tortured. Among these, four young Tamils are forced from the village of Ilupadichchenai by the Special Task Force (STF) personnel, beaten and taken to Koduwamaduru and shot dead. On 17 May, twenty three young men are taken by STF personnel from the village of Natpiddimunai and others from nearby villages in six jeeps and a lorry to a lonely beach about 400 yards north of a cemetery in Kalmunai. They are ordered to dig separate graves and asked to line up in front of them and shot dead. Acid is poured over the faces of the bodies to make identification difficult. On 18 May, STF personnel return to the beach dig up the bodies and transport them to Punanai where they are cremated in secrecy. The <i>Daily Telegraph</i> of London publishes a detailed report on 25 May 1985 on this incident. The government denies the incident and brings charges against the chairman of the Kalmunai Citizen's Committee, Nallainayagam, who had taken the complaints to the local police, alleging he spread false rumours. He is acquitted of all charges by the High Court of Colombo in July 1986, but government officials repeatedly deny the incident despite evidence to the contrary.</p>
<p><b>May 20</b></p>	<p>The Ven. Palipane Chandananda <i>Mahanyake Thero</i> (highpriest) of the Asgiriya Chapter convenes a meeting in Kandy to look at the security of the Sinhalese people and the political situation in the island. The meeting is attended by the <i>Mahanayakes</i> of other chapters and sects and leaders of the SLFP, LSSP, CPSL, SLMP and MEP. Only the UNP, though invited, does not attend.</p> <p>A second round of discussions are held at Ratmalana on 4 June at which the representatives of all three <i>Nikayas</i> (sects), leading Buddhist organizations and the same political parties are present. The meeting is presided by the <i>Mahanayakes Theros</i> of Asgiriya and Malwatte. The SLFP agrees to back a proposal for a "National Security Advisory and Co-ordinating Committee" headed by the <i>Maha Sangha</i>, with representatives of opposition parties as members, to advise the official Joint Operations Council on how best to conduct the war against terrorism. The LSSP-CPSL-SLMP alliance opposes the move or to any other proposal in the direction of a "military solution". The Conference finally decides to ask the government delegate</p>

		<p>executive or military power to the MPs or create an auxiliary force outside the regular armed forces.</p> <p>The meeting further resolves that a negotiated political solution should be pursued with all sections of Tamil opinion, including the TULF and the guerrilla groups both in Sri Lanka and abroad.</p> <p>The adoption of this position by the <i>Maha Sangha</i> in association with the major opposition political parties is referred to as a great step forward and augurs well for the future, for it is on these lines that the prospect for a real settlement to the Tamil question has to lie.</p>
<b>May 31</b>		<p><b>KILIVEDDY MASSACRE:</b> Thirty seven young Tamil men are taken into custody and shot dead after a security force rampage in Thanganagar, Kiliveddy in Trincomalee in the course of which they loot and set fire to property.</p>
<b>Jul. 8</b>		<p><b>THIMPU TALKS:</b> The Indian government convenes peace talks between the Tamil and Sri Lankan government representatives in Thimpu, the capital of Bhutan. The Tamil delegation includes the LTTE, TELO, EPRLF, PLOTE, EROS and the TULF. The joint Tamil delegation puts forward four principles, known as “Thimpu Principles”, which should be the basis for any agreement to meet Tamil aspirations. The Sri Lankan government refuses to negotiate with the Tamil parties until they drop their demand for national self-determination. Tamil parties see little point in holding negotiations with the government unless it accepts the Tamil people’s right to national self-determination. Peace-talks fail as both sides refuse to compromise on their respective political position.</p>
		<p>The security forces massacre Tamils in Vavuniya and Trincomalee while the Thimpu talks are in progress. The Tamil delegations withdraw from the negotiations.</p>
<b>Aug. 16</b>		<p><b>VAVUNIYA MASSACRE:</b> Nearly 200 Tamil people are killed in an Army rampage in Vavuniya city in indiscriminate shooting, following a mis-timed landmine attack on Sri Lankan troops by the Tamil guerrillas. Dazed by the explosion, and unable to pinpoint the location of their assailants, the soldiers take immediate retaliation against Tamil civilians living nearby.</p>
<b>Aug. 23</b>		<p>The Indian government serves deportation orders on Eelam activist S C Chandrasaran and LTTE spokesman, Anton Balasingham and N Satyendra (leaves before the order is served). The next day, both Chandrasaran and Anton Balasingham are put on an Air India flight, the former to</p>


		New York and the latter to London.
<b>Aug. 25</b>		Tamil Eelam Supporters' Organisation (TESO) chairman M Karunanidhi and other leaders issue a veiled threat to the Indian Central government that the cry that 'Tamil Nadu belongs to the Tamils' will gather momentum if the Centre fails to protect the legitimate aspirations of the Sri Lankan Tamils.
<b>Aug. 27</b>		<p>Madras evening daily <i>News Today</i> reports: "The DMK-led Tamil Eelam Supporters' Organisation (TESO) has planned to stage a <i>rail roto</i> (stop the train) agitation in Tamil Nadu on 30 August to press for the immediate withdrawal of the deportation orders against Anton Balasingham and S C Chandrahasan.</p> <p>[One day before the planned <i>rail roto</i>, S C Chandrahasan is back in Madras and Anton Balasingham returns to Madras on 10 October]</p>
<b>Sep. 4-11</b>		<b>MURUGAPURI MASSACRE:</b> Home Guards with armed thugs go on rampage, looting houses and shops in the Murugapuri village in Trincomalee District on September 4 and 5 September. On 7, 8 and 9 September, the airforce indiscriminately straff the village while soldiers set shops and houses on fire, to force people on to the streets. Several people are reported killed in the air attack and others flee into jungles. On September 10, when people go to recover the dead bodies, armed Home Guards and thugs fire shots preventing them from removing the bodies.
<b>Sep. 16</b>		<b>OPERATION NILAVELI:</b> Forty six Tamil refugees including women and children are killed in an operation by the security forces in which 12 armoured vehicles, 6 tanks, 2 helicopters and gunboats take part, allegedly against Tamil guerrillas. At the time of the operation, Nilaveli is full of Tamil refugees from other villages around Mullaitivu and Trincomalee, who had come seeking safety following violence by security forces, home guards and armed Sinhalese settlers. The 12-hour offensive results in several hotels, including Pilot, Rainbow and Varatharajah hotels, and several hundred houses being reduced to ashes. Independent reports subsequently suggest that the number of dead could be well over 150.
<b>Sep. 18</b>		The state-controlled Colombo <i>Daily News</i> reports: "This operation, described as the biggest in recent times, was aimed at a camp in Nilaveli. 46 terrorists were dead, 84 surrendered in a 12-hour offensive".
<b>Nov. 8-11</b>		<b>MUTHUR MASSACRE:</b> A four-day search and destroy operation in some villages at Muthur in the eastern




		Trincomalee District by the security forces ends with over 30 Tamils dead, 80 persons missing and hundreds of houses set ablaze. The State-owned <i>Daily News</i> of 11 November 1985 reports: “At least 33 terrorists were killed and 80 captured when the security forces raided four separatist hideouts in the Eastern Province in three days, a government spokesman said yesterday”.
<b>Nov. 13</b>		<b>BATTICALOA LAKE ROAD MASSACRE:</b> Five police commandos travelling in a jeep are injured in a Tamil guerrilla landmine attack on Lake Road in Batticaloa town. A group of police Commandos arrives at the scene within ten minutes of the incident and round-up civilians from the area, particularly those living along Suriya Lane and Angel Road. The arrested men are asked to run and the commandos shoot them dead. The members of the Ceasfire Monitoring Committee who are hearing evidence of ceasfire violations at Batticaloa town at the time of the incident visit the scene and hear the evidence. Nine persons are reported killed in the incident.
<b>Nov. 16</b>		<b>BATTICALOA BAR ROAD MASSACRE:</b> Four policemen die in a landmine explosion on Bar Road in Batticaloa town. A group of Police Special Task Force (STF) men visting the scene soon after the incident set fire to shops and houses including a timber depot and shoot dead nine civilians while others flee. In their evidence to the Ceasfire Monitoring Committee, the security services claim that the nine civilians died in ‘crossfire’ during a clash between the forces and Tamil guerrillas immediately after the explosion of the landmine.
<b>Nov. 27</b>		<b>MANDUR MASSACRE:</b> In retaliation to the kidnapping of a Buddhist monk by the Tamil militants, a large number of security forces, using heavy aromoured vehicles and helicopter gunships, cordon off the coastal village of Mandur in Batticaloa District and leave 24 fishermen dead. Many more are feared missing. Nineteen bodies, washed ashore, are subsequently identified and cremated.
<b>Nov. 27</b>		<b>SAMPOOR MASSACRE:</b> An unspecified number of soldiers in the company of Home Guards enter four adjoining villages, Kaddaiparichchan, Chemaiyur, Kadalkaraichenai and Sampur, in Trincomalee District in a ‘search and destroy’ operation, killing civilians and burning down houses. Many more are rounded-up and taken away by the soldiers. Some of the arrested persons are taken to the sea beach by the Navy personnel and shot dead at close range, having asked to sit on one side of the plastic boat carrying the soldiers to the Navy gun boat anchored at sea.


		<p>The year 1995 witnesses the tragic spectacle of the largest number of extra-judicial killings carried out by security forces assisted by the newly created para-military outfit known as the 'Home Guards', and an unprecedented number of involuntary disappearances. According to statistics gathered by the Tamil Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation (TRRO), an independent human rights group, the number of extra-judicial killings in the north-east of Sri Lanka from April to December 1985 is 2,342, and involuntary disappearances 529.</p>
<b>AD 1986</b>		<p>State repression and violence intensify in the Tamil Homeland; all-out war between the Sri Lankan state and the Tamils. LTTE emerges dominant among Tamil guerrilla groups, and takes effective control of Jaffna peninsula and other northern areas as state authority gradually collapses. Thousands of people, especially Tamils, die as the fighting takes on an increasingly brutal dimension. Hundreds of thousands of Tamils become refugees. Over 130,000 Tamil refugees flee to India and over 75,000 to the West and other countries. The government convenes a Political Parties Conference (PPC) to discuss the new proposals for the establishment of Provincial Councils. The TULF refuses to participate as the proposals do not satisfy the aspirations of the Tamils; LTTE leader V Prabhakaran who is flown to Bangalore for discussions with Indian government officials, expresses interest only in the establishment of a separate Tamil state of Eelam and the armed struggle as the means of achieving it.</p>
	<b>Jan. 19</b>	<p><b>IRUTHAYAPURAM MASSACRE:</b> the Special Task Force in Iruthayapuram in Batticaloa District shoots dead 24 Tamil civilians during a search operation.</p>
		<p><b>KILINCHCHI MASSACRE:</b> Twelve Tamil civilians are shot dead and several others injured as soldiers indiscriminately fire at an estimated 75 passengers waiting to board a train at the Kilinochchi railway station in northern Sri Lanka.</p>
	<b>Jan. 29</b>	<p>A massive protest march, referred to as a historic event in Tamil Eelam, against the security forces takes place in Jaffna town. Over 150,000 people take to the streets calling for the removal of security forces from Tamil Eelam and the 1000-metre security zone in the north. The march begins near Perumal temple at 9.30am and passes through Navalar Road, Kasthuri Road, Electricity Council Road, reaching Ariyakulam junction. From there it passes through Point Pedro Road and Hospital Road and reaches Jaffna</p>

		<i>kachcheri</i> (government secretariat) at 12 noon.
<b>Feb. 19</b>		<b>UDUMBANKULAM MASSACRE:</b> Members of security forces enter paddy fields in Udumbankulam situated adjoining the village of Thangavelauthapuram at Thirukovil in the Easter Province at about 7 am on 19 February, some in camouflage uniform and others in blue uniform carrying weapons, and kill about 60 persons working in the fields.
<b>Feb. 19</b>		<b>AMPARAI MASSACRE:</b> Sixty Tamil farm workers are deliberately shot dead by members of the police, the army and the Home Guards who subsequently loot premises in a nearby village in the eastern Amparai District. The government claims that all the dead are terrorists and a Committee of Inquiry conducts an investigation but its report remains unpublished.
<b>Feb. 20</b>		Air force plane bombs Thavady in Jaffna District. <b>This is the first time that Jaffna is bombed.</b> With this attack, there is widespread opinion among the people of Jaffna that without the militants it would be difficult to save themselves.
<b>Mar. 20</b>		Sixteen Tamil villagers are killed when troops carry out a cordon and search operation at Nedunkerny in Vavuniya District and burn houses, loot shops and shoot at people indiscriminately.
<b>Apr. 29</b>		<p>The LTTE attacks the Tamil group Tamil Eelam Liberation (TELO) in the north-east Tamil homeland and many TELO cadre are killed.</p> <p>The Indian government delegation headed by Minister of State P Chidambaram and comprising former Foreign Secretary Romesh Bandari, Constitutional expert S Balakrishnan and Deputy Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Ranjan Mathai arrive in Colombo for talks with President Jayewardene on 30 April.</p> <p>While the Indian delegation is involved in sensitive talks, the Sri Lankan media is involved in attacking the credibility of the delegation. Nearly, 200 Sinhalese people demonstrate against India's involvement, outside the Air India office in Melbourne, Australia.</p> <p>Mr Chidambaram dismisses reports that India will withdraw from the mediation process if talks fail. Mr Chidambaram asserts that India will withdraw only when a solution is found.</p>

<p><b>May 14- 19</b></p>		<p>Security forces prepare for a major offensive against Jaffna which is clearly an effort to test the strength of the militants in the wake of the TELO-LTTE clashes and also to exhaust the militant's ammunition stocks. Some 500 soldiers are airdropped at Kaytes and ferried across to Karainagar. The military strategy is to link up the movement of troops through Elephant Pass with the troops coming in from Kayts and the soldiers already stationed at the various camps in the peninsula at Palay, Thondamanaru, Valvettithurai, Kankesanthurai, Point Pedro, Navatkuli and Jaffna Fort.</p> <p>The offensive begins on 17 May. Army men from camps at Kayts, Palay, Elephant Pass, Jaffna Fort and Kilinochchi come out in large numbers on "search-and-destroy" operations supported by three bombers, several helicopters and Navy ships shelling the coastal villages. The troops find their ambitious meet with heavy resistance from the highly motivated LTTE cadre assisted by the Tamil Eelam Army and EPRLF. The LTTE cut off military advances using mines and blasting bridges. Unable to move by ground and the intense fighting also cause the Sri Lankan armed forces to withdraw to their camps. The emphasis of the strategy shifts from land-based troops movement to mortar shelling and air raids. On May 19, Airforce strikes indiscriminately into densely-populated areas in the Jaffna peninsula, resulting in damage to the 1110-bed Jaffna General Hospital. The strike on the hospital leaves a deep psychic scar on the people of Jaffna and make the hospital staff to take out a procession in Jaffna town to express their sense of outrage.</p> <p>The fighting in the Jaffna peninsula and the consequent toll of civilians lives and damage to property brings great concern in New Delhi which conveys through diplomatic channels and in a statement from the Ministry of external affairs its disapproval of the military strategy being pursued by the Jayewardena government. But these protests makes little headway in the context of the continuing military offensive which is seen as a challenge to India indicating that the Sri Lankan government is hostile to Indian mediatory efforts.</p>
<p><b>Jun. 25</b></p>		<p>President J R Jayewardene places the new proposal for political settlement before the Political Parties Conference (PPC) that raises doubts about the concept, structure and substance of the devolution exercise Colombo has in mind. TULF leaders turn down the invitation to participate in the</p>


		<p>opening session of the PPC declaring it as a “sideshow” in Colombo, conceived as the Sri Lankan Government’s attempt to build a “Sinhala consensus” around its new proposals. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party also stays away from attending. While New Delhi seeks TULF’s position on the proposals directly, the task of obtaining the responses of Tamil militant organizations is assigned to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M G Ramachandran.. All the Tamil militant organization, at MGR’s suggestion, forward their responses to th Jayewardene’s offer. While, ENLF constituents EROS, EPRLF and TELO submit a joint memorandum, the LTTE and PLOTE send their responses individually. The position of the militant organizations in general take the view: The proposals as the basis for the resolution of what they see as a “nationality” question and they do not see the politico-military and civil situation on the ground as conducive to direct talks. As for the content of the proposals, they highlighted the difficulties presented by the unitary character of the Sri lankan constitution which militate against any idea of widening and deepening the devolution powers. They reiterate the concept of the “homeland” and emphasized Colombo’s insistence on treating the Northern and Eastern Provinces as two distinct entities as a major deficiency. The proposals also referred to as an exercise in “administrative reform” rather than a real attempt to devolve power, by the militants. They also object to Jayewardena’s promise or threat to implement the proposals “unilaterally” as demonstrating the Sri lanka’s lack of sincerity and commitment to a fair and enduring negotiated settlement.</p>
	<b>Nov. 1</b>	<p><b>OPERATION TIGER:</b> Indian government authorities launch <i>Operation Tiger</i> in Tamil Nadu to disarm the Tamil militants following the incident in which some EPRLF militants open fire on a Madras street killing a civilians and wounding two others. Before the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) summit on 16 November in Bangalore, Indian police place the Tamil militant leaders, including V Prabhakaran, and Balasingham of the LTTE, V Balakumar of the EROS and A Selvam of the TELO, on house arrest for six days.</p>
	<b>Nov. 15-17</b>	 <p>Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardena arrives in Bangalore one day early for the SAARC Conference scheduled for 16 November. Immediately after the arrival, he and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi meet for 90 minutes. They discuss without aides for 20 minutes and then are joined by their Foreign Ministers, N D Tiwari and A C S Hamed. The</p>

		<p>“wide-ranging” discussions are reported to have traversed the broad spectrum of the Tamil problem. Armed with maps, Jayewardena tries to convince Rajiv Gandhi that there is no contiguity of the “Tamil areas” of the North and the East. In order to find a breakthrough in the discussions the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M G Ramachandran is brought to Bangalore by Rajiv Gandhi on 16 November. The Prime Minister and Chief Minister meet privately and the meeting extends late into the night.</p> <p>Meanwhile, a senior official from the Q-Branch of the Tamil Nadu police visits the LTTE office in Madras at around 8.45 pm and asks V Prabhakaran, Anton Balasingam and Lawrence Thilagar to leave for Bangalore “immediately”. The police official does not listen to Prabhakaran’s request that he wished to take a spare set of clothes. (But later he is allowed to take a spare set). The officer also ignores the fact that Balasingham is suffering from high fever. All three are forcibly put on a special Indian Air Force plane and taken to Bangalore.</p> <p>A serious meeting takes place in Bangalore from 12 midnight to 3.00am (Sunday/Monday). The contiguity of the Tamil areas of the North and the East dominates the discussions. The participants in the talks include Minister of State for External Affairs K Natwar Singh, Union Minister of State for Home P Chidambaram, Indian High Commissioner in Colombo J N Dexit, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M G Ramachandran, Panruti S Ramachandran and the three LTTE representatives.</p> <p>The LTTE representatives show firmness on the unit of devolution issue. LTTE leader Prabhakaran declines to accept the Sri Lankan offer of a possible merger of the Tamil areas of Trincomalee and Batticaloa with the North. He insists on a single unit of devolution – in effect, a Tamil linguistic unit comprising the North and the East as a whole. Prabhakaran in his response to the Sri Lankan proposals categorically states, “This homeland is a clearly identifiable, contiguous single region, consisting of the Northern and Eastern provinces”. The LTTE representatives substantiate their arguments with maps and census statistics on state aided Sinhalese colonization in the East and stress that the government’s planned colonization is “illegal” and amounts to “physical annexation of our land”. The LTTE representatives also insist on genuine gestures of goodwill from the Sri Lankan government to</p>
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		<p>bring about normality – there should be a stoppage of all State violence against the Tamils and the release of all innocent detainees from prisons and detention centres.</p> <p>The thread of discussion is picked up again on 17 November, with Foreign Secretary A P Venkateswaran replacing Chidambaram. The Indian government representatives try to persuade the LTTE to “accept the proposition put forward by Sri Lanka, participate in the negotiations with Colombo and try to get more”. However, the LTTE, feeling that this is not a sound basis on which to begin negotiations, respond to the Indians by saying that they would consider participating in the talks only on the acceptance of the homeland concept by Colombo - “This is not a precondition.... This is the fundamental position of the Tamils.” The discussion finally ends at 2 pm without progress.</p> <p>Later, the LTTE representatives meet Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M G Ramachandran privately and explain the situation in greater detail and the important reasons behind their demand for the recognition of the Tamil homeland and its “crucial nature” to a lasting solution.</p>
Nov. 11		<p>Several military operations against Tamils are carried out during the months of October and November. On 11 November, at least 20 people are killed and a further 21 disappear when security forces rampage through a village in the eastern Batticaloa District. Three Tamil women are raped and killed. More than 2,500 Tamils are held in detention and reports of torture are widespread.</p>
Nov. 21-23		<p><b>OPERATION HAMHAND:</b> Tamil Nadu police launch an operation code named <i>Operation Hamhand</i> and seize the communication equipment belonging to the LTTE. This is seen as a new twist by the government of India in its efforts to find a negotiated solution to the political crisis in Sri Lanka. The seizure is said to be part of a series of actions during the fortnight beginning 8 November; a Statewide scoop on the Tamil militants in Tamil Nadu.</p> <p>Meanwhile, a bitter and sombre mood prevails at the LTTE office in Madras and at Balasingham’s residence. Prabhakaran makes an announcement on 22 November from Balasingham’s residence that he would begin a fast. Prabaharan informs the journalists who flock to the scene that he would not give up his fast until his demands are met: the return of the communication equipment; end to the surveillance on them; or he be allowed to go back without</p>


		<p>restrictions to “Tamil Eelam” to fight for his “defenceless” people.</p> <p>But, the next day, 23 November, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M G Ramachandran orders the return of the wireless sets to the LTTE and Prabhakaran ends his fast. Attempts are being made at various levels by the Central Government and State Government to undo the damage caused by the police action initiated by police DGP Mohandas and to improve relations with the LTTE.</p>
<b>AD 1984- 1997</b>		<p>This period has been marked by intense warfare between government forces and the LTTE, only interrupted by intermittent cease-fires, which has resulted in many thousands, combatants and civilians, being killed.</p>
		<p>The security forces consist of the police force responsible for internal security, the army, navy and air force, and the police paramilitary Special Task Force (STF), of which the latter four primarily conduct the war against the LTTE. The Tamil groups, namely PLOTE, TELO, EPRLF and EPDP opposed to the LTTE, are armed by the government and act largely under its authority. Sinhalese and Muslim Home Guards are armed by the government and operate in the North and East, predominantly in areas that have been colonised by Sinhalese civilians.</p>
<b>AD 1984- 1987</b>		<p>Thousands of Tamil civilians, in particular young males, but also women and children, are killed by various government forces during this period. The killings take the form of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary killings in the form of massacres and disappearances. Amnesty International accounts for approximately 700 unresolved cases of disappearance between 1984 and 1987. Arbitrary arrest, prolonged incommunicado detention and torture of Tamils are systematic and widespread, in particular by the army, acting under the shield of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and various Emergency Regulations. Rape becomes part of the torture practice, but also occurs in numerous cases in the course of village raids and army massacres. The violation of fundamental rights results in a considerable number of displaced persons, primarily within Sri Lanka. The government, throughout this period backs atrocities committed by the security forces by means of outright denial or failure to prosecute and punish the perpetrators.</p>
<b>AD 1987- 1990</b>		<p>The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) takes control of the North and East, under the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement signed on 29 July 1987, lasting from August 1987 until</p>







			<p>March 1990. The IPKF and the LTTE are held responsible for serious human rights violations in this period although some cases of disappearances in Sri Lankan army custody in the North-East are also reported. During these years, the security forces are engaged in suppressing the Sinhalese-based Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front- JVP), insurgency, resulting in an estimated number of 20-60,000 persons killed or disappeared in the south between 1987 and 1990. Amidst widespread protest by international NGOs, a total of 43,000 Tamil refugees in India are returned between 1987 and 1989. UNHCR protests initially, but becomes directly involved in returning the refugees into the north-east war zone, following pressure from Western governments who wish that the return programme would become a forerunner to repatriation of asylum seekers. More than half are resettled in Mannar, with 6,000 returning to Jaffna, 3,700 to Vavuniya and 3,600 to Trincomalee, but many remain in refugee camps.</p>
<b>AD 1987</b>	<b>Jan. 27</b>		<p><b>MAHILADITIVU MASSACRE:</b> More than 80 civilians are shot dead by the police Special Task Force (STF) in Mahiladitivu, a village adjoining Kokkaddicholai in Batticaloa District. The dead bodies are hauled away in tractors and are never recovered.</p>
	<b>Jan. 28</b>		<p><b>KOKKADDICHOLAI MASSACRE:</b> Over 150 Tamil civilians are killed at Kokkaddicholai, during a military operation by members of the Special Task Force who attack with helicopter gunships and armoured cars.</p>
	<b>May 1</b>		<p>May day celebrations turn out to be messy in the south with the government imposing a ban on rallies, and police attacking people with teargas, baton charging and later opening fire on two groups which attempt to march through Colombo streets. Large crowds of Tamils in the north take part in May Day celebrations organized by the LTTE and EROS.</p> <p>Over 200,000 strong crowd of people marches 8 km from Urumpirai to Nallur in Jaffna. LTTE leader V Prabhakaran appears in the LTTE television programme <i>Nitharsanam</i> to thank the people of Jaffna for their show of unity on May Day.</p>
	<b>May 25-26</b>		<p><b>OPERATION LIBERATION:</b> Troops are landed by sea and parachuted by air at various places in Vadamaratchi on 25 May. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali announces the launching of <i>Operation Liberation</i> in Jaffna imposing an economic blockade in the North on 26 May.</p>


		<p>The Sri Lankan army attacks Vadamaratchi. As the troops and the Tigers are engaged in ferocious combat on the ground, air force bomber planes and helicopter-gunships assault Chavakacheri, Nunavil, Manalkadu, Point Pedro and Valvettiturai with rockets and bombs. Crude incendiary bombs dropped from Avro aircraft set aflame schools, temples, shops and houses in Jaffna town, its suburbs and places such as Thikkam, Katkoyalam, Mandalveli, Kadduvan and Udupidy. Over hundred civilians perish on the first day of the attack.</p> <p>In Colombo, President Jayewardene declares that “The fight will go on until they or we win. Everything would be put into winning the war for which they have been preparing for three or four years. All developmental activities would be stopped if necessary.”</p> <p>In New Delhi, Minister of State for External Affairs K Natwar Singh warns Colombo that the offensive will have tragic consequences and that it “also signifies the increasing influence of external elements inimical to the security, stability and peace in our region.”</p>
<p><b>May 27</b></p>		<p>Sri Lankan helicopter-gunships and Avro aircraft bombers continue to pound Jaffna town with 55-kg bombs. Several buildings in the town are destroyed. Windsor and Lido cinemas are razed to the ground and the Jaffna General Hospital also suffers damage. But, Colombo admits that it is no cakewalk for troops through Vadamaratchi. Many soldiers and LTTE cadre die in the fighting.</p> <p>As the gravity of the offensive unfolds, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M G Ramachandran and Food Minister S Ramachandran fly to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and plead for firm action in dealing with the new challenge and danger from the Jayewardene regime. Rajiv Gandhi administers a stiff warning to Colombo. He declares that the “horrific loss of innocent lives of this magnitude is totally disproportionate to the avowed aim of exterminating the Tamil militant groups.... It is a gross violation of every tenet of human rights” and appeals to the international community to impress on Colombo the imperative need for restraint.</p> <p>J R Jayewardene angrily reacts to Rajiv Gandhi’s gesture and tells J N Dixit, the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, “Tell Mr Gandhi, to tell that to the LTTE and</p>


			EROS. Also tell him to tell that to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Mr M G Ramachandran who has been giving money to buy arms”.
<b>May 28</b>			Vadamatchi area remains the main battleground. The coastal town of Vevettiturai, the birth- place of LTTE leader Prabhakaran, is subjected to savage attacks. Bombers flatten the town before troops move in. Around 1,000 sea commandos move in from the beaches and others are airdropped at the Vallai, cutting off the main road link between Vadamatchi and the rest of the peninsula isolating 200,000 residents.
<b>May 30</b>			Having captured Valvettiturai on 29 may, over 3,000 troops begin to advance towards Point Pedro. Troops adopt a new method in advancing. Tamil civilians are rounded up by soldiers and used as human shields, while penetrating into Poligandi, Navindil, Point Pedro, Udupiddy and Nelliadi and forcing the LTTE to retreat. Simultaneously, the aerial bombing and naval shelling intensify in Vadamatchi. The troops are also alleged to have cut down civilians with swords and sickles many of them in Udupiddy. Around a hundred half-burnt bodies lie in the streets. More than 20,000 people flee Vadamatchi into southern Thenmaratchi, holding aloft white flags. The government announces that it has completed <i>Operation Liberation</i> successfully and the curfew has been relaxed.
<b>Jun. 1</b>			The LTTE admits that the army has consolidated its positions at Thondamanaru, Mandan, Mulli, Vallipuram, Manalkadu, Kudathanai, Poligandi, Thikkam, Nelliadi and Vyaparimoolai and finally, Point Pedro. The main reason cited for the setback of the LTTE is that it has run out of ammunition.
<b>Jun. 1-4</b>			<b>OPERATION POOMALAI</b> (garland): India announces its intention of sending an unarmed and unescorted flotilla of relief boats on 1 June to the beleaguered civilians of Jaffna.  On 3 June at 8 pm, the Indian offshore patrol vessel <i>Vickram</i> carrying nearly a hundred Indian and foreign media personnel and a dozen Red Cross doctors and paramedics, leads a convoy of mechanised fishing vessels carrying food and medicines to war-torn Jaffna. Meanwhile, Dr D K Moitra of the Indian External Affairs Ministry negotiates with Captain Mohan Samarasekara commanding Sri Lankan patrol boat <i>Edithri</i> , armed with twin 25mm cannons, to grant permission to land and provide relief to the victims of the military offensive.

		<p>Around 9.05pm, the Sri Lankan captain comes on the radio and declares that the Sri Lankan government has formally refused permission for the flotilla to proceed and announces his resolve to carry through the decision with all means at his command - inviting “<i>Operation Poomalai</i>” by the Indian Air Force on 4 June.</p> <p>The so called mercy mission <i>Operation Poomalai</i>, unprecedented in the annals of modern diplomacy takes off in five Indian Air-force AN-32 medium transport plans from Bangalore airport at 3.30 pm with each plane carrying seven to eight journalists and 4.5 tonnes of rice, dhal, sugar, milk powder and medicines for the people of Jaffna. The Eagle Mission leader Group Captain B K Sundar drops his load at pre-determined dropping zones near Jaffna railway station, Kokkuvil railway station and other areas around Jaffna town at 5 pm and returns to the base. While the mercy drops seemed almost routine without any resistance from the Sri Lankan security forces, creates tension, but is soon replaced by euphoria.</p>
<b>Jun. 4-6</b>		<p>The Sri Lankan armed forces launch a fresh round of brutal offensive against Tamils in the western Valikamam area, a densely populated region in the Jaffna peninsula, declaring curfew, on 6 June. Within an hour of declaring curfew, bomber aircraft pound Valikamam. Neerveli Kandasamy temple is destroyed and 25 Tamils who have taken refuge in the temple are killed. Charges of systematic killing of young male Tamils by the security forces are made in connection with the offensive in Vadamaratchi in Jaffna, which results in massive human suffering and a refugee crisis.</p>
<b>Jun. 15-27</b>		<p>Colombo and New Delhi reach agreement on 15 June on provision of relief to the Tamils of Jaffna. Indian Red Cross Society arrives in Kankesanthurai on 25 June aboard the Indian relief vessels, <i>Island Pride</i> and <i>Srivatsava</i>. Hundreds of thousands people gather along the 18-km route from Tellipalai to Jaffna town in an emotional welcome. People call out loudly, “Long live Rajiv Gandhi” and “Long live MGR”. The turbaned Puri who flew from Colombo to accompany the Red Cross representatives is the special target of the people’s affection. They cheer, hug, kiss and garland Puri. They thrust hundreds of petitions into his hands. The normal 30 minutes journey takes five hours as the motorcade finds its way through the crowds. Finally a television message sums up the entire</p>

			<p>welcome ceremony.</p> <p>The relief distribution begins on 27 June with the Jaffna Government Agent, M Panchalingam, lighting a ceremonial lamp in front of refugees sheltered in a church at Sampamalai and the bus depot at Mallakam, both near Jaffna town.</p>
<b>Jul. 5</b>			<p>Hundreds of soldiers die in the suicide attack on the Nelliady Madhya Maha Vidyalayam (school) army camp by the <i>Black Tiger</i> Captain Miller. This attack is the first <i>Black Tiger</i> suicide mission of the LTTE.</p>
<b>Jul. 29</b>			<p>The Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J R Jayewardene sign the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord without any consultation with the Tamils, although the agreement incorporates provisions affecting Tamils.</p> <p>Seventy-two hours after the signing of the Accord, Rajiv Gandhi is reported to have characterised it as a major landmark in the four decades of India's freedom. Addressing the Marina beach audience in Madras, he utters "I am told that no such agreement has been signed by any country in the world, at least in this century. It does not have a parallel in the world."</p>
<b>Aug. 2</b>			<p>Speaking at a public meeting on the Marina beach in Madras days after signing the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sums up MGR's role as "... without his rock-like support, especially during difficult and complicated negotiations, without the deep understanding he has shown, we could not have achieved this agreement. Without his statesmanship in rising above all narrowness and selfishness and looking towards the greater interests of the country, the Agreement would not have been possible."</p>
<b>Aug. 4</b>			<p>LTTE Leader Prabhakaran, addressing a massive public meeting on the Suthumalai Amman temple grounds, announces the LTTE's decision to lay down arms and explains the reasons underlying it. He asserts that now the responsibility of protecting the Tamils has shifted from the LTTE to the Government of India. In his address he explains that he had had frank discussions with the Indian Prime Minister on the LTTE's apprehensions and reservations on the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. He says that Rajiv Gandhi had given him certain assurances that India would protect the Tamils. He has faith in Rajiv Gandhi's integrity. Prabhakaran declares – " We love India. We love the people of India". He himself will not contest the</p>

			<p>elections or become the Chief Minister though the LTTE may contest the elections and take part in the interim administration. He will continue to fight for Tamil Eelam. However, he says that in his opinion, India has signed an agreement with Sri Lanka to safeguard its own geopolitical interests.</p>
<b>Aug. 5</b>			<p>The ceremonial handing over of arms by the LTTE takes place at the auditorium in a hanger in the Palaly airfield in Jaffna. A large number of foreign reporters flock to Jaffna to attend the arms handing over ceremony. The team of foreign reporters flown into Palaly are taken to the LTTE rally at the Suthumalai Amman temple grounds in Indian Army jeeps and trucks.</p> <p>Amidst tension and anxiety, LTTE's political organiser Yogaratnam Yogi arrives at the auditorium with his colleagues in four pick-up vans, all bearing LTTE number plates in Tamil. The handing over of weapons ceremony gets off straight away. Maj. Gen. Harkirat Singh, General Officer Commanding the IPKF, says in his short prefatory speech: "That in accordance with the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement paragraph 2.9 to establish peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka, all arms presently held by the militants, in accordance with the agreed procedure, will be handed over to the designated representative of the Government of Sri Lanka". Yogi comes up to the table and lays down the ash colour Mauser on the table. The government representative, Defence Secretary Gen. Sepalla Attygalle, rising from his chair, touches the Mauser with his hand, and says, "Citizens of the Jaffna peninsula, today is a historic day for the future of Sri Lanka. This act of surrendering all arms signifies an end to the bloodshed and violence that has affected the entire fabric of our democratic society. We sincerely hope that from now on, all of us Sri Lankans will live in peace and harmony in this our own, our native land." Significantly Yogi does not speak. Shortly afterwards, Gen. Attygalle makes the announcement that "As announced by His Excellency, the President of Sri Lanka, I grant general amnesty to all who lay down arms in accordance with the general procedure" and hands over the scroll of general amnesty to Yogi.</p>
<b>Aug. 13</b>			<p>Tamil political prisoners detained in Boosa prison in Galle under the notorious PTA are released on 13 August under Indo-Sri Lanka agreement and brought to their homeland by Indian naval ships. Those from the East are dropped at Trincomalee harbour and others from north are brought to</p>

			Kankesanthurai harbour on 15 August.
	<b>Aug. 15</b>		The Tamil militant group EROS hands in weapons to the IPKF in Batticaloa.
	<b>Aug. 18</b>		The Sinhalese Marxist People' Liberation Front (JVP) attacks President J R Jayewardene and Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa in Parliament. Explosions occurs in quick succession as shots are fired and hand grenades are thrown into a committee room in the Parliament complex at Sri Jayewardenepura where the President, Prime Minister and their colleagues are engaged in a meeting of the government parliamentary group. Some 15 MPs, including five ministers are injured - a few seriously, resulting in one death.
	<b>Aug. 31</b>		The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sri Lankan government, agreeing to "provide emergency assistance to returnees and displaced persons who wish to return to their homes following the peace agreement between India and Sri Lanka", and initiates a special programme of limited assistance to "refugee returnees" within the Sri Lankan government's plan of rehabilitation of about 430,000 displaced persons including the 75,000 Tamil refugees to be repatriated from India within one year.
	<b>Sep. 4</b>		The train services resume in Jaffna and workers return to work on 31 August. The <i>Yarl Devi</i> train service between Jaffna and Colombo resumes. The services were disrupted after the Tamil militant organization TELO ambushed a train at Murigandi, about 100 km from Jaffna, killing some 200 soldiers.
	<b>Sep. 13-15</b>		The LTTE begins to sense that India is hedging on the assurances given to them. The organization feels let down [Earlier, there was mounting feeling among the LTTE leadership that the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the Indian intelligence agency, worked against the LTTE and that the agency had armed the other Tamil militant groups PLOTE, TELO, EPRLF and ENDLF and dispatched them to the Tamil areas to liquidate the LTTE and in particular its leader Prabahakaran] and sends a resolution signed by the LTTE leader Prabhakaran to the Indian High Commissioner J N Dixit on 13 September stating that "the LTTE, in defence of the freedoms of the Tamil people and the Tamil homeland, has decided to draw the attention of the people and the Government of India by launching a fast-unto-death campaign by its cadre and picketing of government offices. The LTTE however, will


		<p>call off its fast-unto-death and picketing campaigns if the Indian government would ensure: 1. Immediate stoppage of all forms of Sinhala colonization of the Tamil homeland under the pretext of rehabilitation; 2. Stoppage of the so called rehabilitation work until the formation of the proposed interim government; 3. Immediate suspension of opening up police stations in the Northern and Eastern Provinces; 4. Surrender of all arms under the supervision of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force by the so called Home Guards and commencement of the closure of all army and/or police camps situated in Tamil villages and schools; 5. Release of all those still in prison or detention camps under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.” The resolution also states that “our organization has been compelled to adopt the resolution” and that “the fasting and protests as stated would be implemented unless the assurances sought for are given within 24 hours.”</p> <p>After the expiry of the 24-hour dead-line the 23-year-old Rasaiah Parthipan <i>alias Thileepan</i>, head of the propaganda wing of the LTTE and brilliant orator, begins fasting on 15 September in front of the historic Nallur Murugan temple in Jaffna town. Thileepan’s wish is that, should he die, his body should be donated to the medical faculty of the Jaffna University and the LTTE assures to honour his request.</p>
<p><b>Sep. 23- 28</b></p>		<p>After a period of drift which might have taken its political toll, the gap closes dramatically between the LTTE and the Indian Government in the discussions held in Palaly in the Jaffna peninsula on 23, 26 and 28 September.</p> <p><i>Thileepan</i> dies on 26 September after 12 days of continuous fasting at Nallur temple fore-ground in Jaffna. <i>Thileepan</i>’s death is the first in Sri Lanka’s history following a fast over a political demand. He did not even drink water during the 12-day fasting. A few hours after the death of <i>Thileepan</i>, “some progress” is reported at the Palaly talks between the LTTE leaders, including Prabahakaran, Mahendrarajah <i>alias Mahathaya</i> and Anton Balasingham and the Indian High Commissioner in Colombo, J N Dixit on the LTTE’s five-point charter of demands on which <i>Thileepan</i> began his fast unto death.</p> <p>H S Puri, the first Secretary (Political) at the Indian High Commission, on behalf of the government of India, and V Prabhakaran and <i>Mahathaya</i> on behalf of the LTTE sign an agreement of co-operation, arms surrender and demilitarisation, and dominance for the LTTE in the North-</p>




		East Interim Administration which was to be set up immediately. In his letter to the Indian High Commissioner, J N Dixit, dated 27 September, Prabhakaran records the LTTE Central Committee's agreement to the Indian suggestion of the proposed interim administration.
<b>Oct. 3</b>		The Sri Lankan Navy intercepts an LTTE boat off Point Pedro in the Jaffna peninsula, arrests and detains 17 members of the LTTE, including senior LTTE area commanders. LTTE lodges a protest pointing out that LTTE members had been given a general amnesty and thus their detention violated the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. The LTTE also accused India for failing to protect their members. Prabhakaran argues that India and the IPKF are responsible for his men's safety after they had laid down their arms.
<b>Oct. 5</b>		LTTE leader Prabhakaran sends another message to Major Gen. Harkirat Singh, General Officer Commanding the IPKF, demanding that the detained LTTE members should not be taken to Colombo under any circumstances, and if they are taken to Colombo forcibly, they would kill themselves by taking cyanide. He also warns that in case of such eventuality, the IPKF will be responsible for the consequences and the LTTE will not observe the cessation of hostilities and would not co-operate with the IPKF in establishing peace in the Tamil areas. But, the Sri Lankan government brushes aside pleas from the IPKF not to take the LTTE men to Colombo. Around 5 pm, as they are about to be taken to the Sri Lankan Airforce plane to Colombo, all 12 of them kill themselves by taking cyanide capsules. Subsequent information, available with Indian government, suggests that Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali was behind the unexpected arrest of the 17 LTTE men and the decision to take them to Colombo for "interrogation". It was he who remained adamant in the face of the persistent attempts by the IPKF and the Indian High Commission in Colombo to get the men released. The recommendation of the Indian military professionals and diplomats was overruled, with tragic and horrifying consequences for the peace process. It is alleged that Lalith Athulathmudali was adamant in order to drive a wedge between the LTTE and the Indian government.
<b>Oct. 8</b>		Prabhakaran joins thousands of mourners in paying homage to the LTTE leaders who committed suicide on 5 October. Their bodies are draped in the red LTTE flags with the Tiger emblem and are arranged according to their rank in the LTTE's military hierarchy with Pulendran's body

		placed first followed by Kumarappa's and Abdulla's. Hundreds weep as the bodies are cremated at Valvettiturai in the evening.
<b>Oct. 10</b>		The LTTE launches attacks on the IPKF. In response the IPKF attacks Jaffna town, with a population of 150,000, using T-72 Tanks, gun carriers and artillery mortars. Airforce planes and helicopters are used for bombing and strafing. As civilian casualties mount, the IPKF extends its military operations to the entire North-Eastern Province.
<b>Oct. 11</b>		President J R Jayewardene announces on the national TV <i>Rupavahini</i> that Sinhalese refugees could return to the east as Sinhalese troops have been deployed. "We will not let the Indian forces come here", says the President.
<b>Oct. 13</b>		The DMK chief and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr M Karunanidhi announces that in a first-of-its-kind letter to him, LTTE leader Prabhakaran has sought the support of the DMK and the people of Tamil Nadu for LTTE's cause.
<b>Oct. 15</b>		Dr Karunanidhi directs his fire at the Rajiv Gandhi administration and the IPKF. He wants the IPKF to 'stop fighting' against the LTTE and strongly accuses the government of India for its "partisan attitude" that allegedly had gone against the Tamils and tilted in favour of Colombo. Citing these reasons and detecting a major new opening for a campaign, Karunanidhi announces, "protest rallies" throughout Tamil Nadu, followed by an unfolding programme of agitation against India's Sri Lanka policy.  An all-party meeting, including AIDMK, the DMK and the Tamil Nadu Kamarj Congress decides to observe a six-hour hartal on 17 October if the IPKF does not stop its offensive against the LTTE. The meeting also demands the return of IPKF to the 10 October 1987 position.
<b>Nov. 2</b>		UNHCR opens its office in Colombo.
<b>Dec. 24</b>		The first group of Tamil refugees in India, consisting of 252 persons including 104 children, boards the Indian ship <i>S S Ramanujam</i> at Rameswaram and sails across the Palk Strait to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka.
		UNHCR openly blames the Tamil militants for the confrontation between the IPKF and the LTTE

## CHRONOLOGY

Year	Date	Photo	Event
AD 1990- 1994			Several thousand Tamils, predominantly civilians, are killed after the resumption of the conflict in the north and east in June 1990. Huge numbers of disappearances, exceeding 10,000 cases, are reported and evidenced by burned and mutilated bodies dumped in rivers or lakes or disposed of otherwise. Extra-judicial executions and arbitrary killings as well as deaths resulting from systematic torture occur on a large scale and form an integral part of the anti-insurgency operations of the security forces. A large number of Tamils, particularly young males, are arbitrarily arrested, held in prolonged incommunicado detention and subjected to torture. Numerous cases of rape are reported, among them gang rape by groups of soldiers. The constant deterioration of the situation in terms of personal safety, compounded by the hardships caused by the economic blockade imposed in 1991, result in great numbers of displaced persons, fleeing within the region or abroad. Although two independent commissions of inquiry, one investigating an army massacre of June 1991 and the other investigating disappearances after the date of its creation, are established, no prosecutions resulting in convictions concerning these or other cases are carried out.
AD 1990	Feb 25 – Mar. 1		The General Council of the People's Front of the Liberation Tigers (PFLT) holds its inaugural conference at Vaharai in the Batticaloa District. Politburo members, district political organisers and party activists throughout the North and East, assemble at Vaharai for the General Council conference under the Chaimanship of the PFLT Mahendrarajah alias <i>Mahathaya</i> .
	Mar. 20		The PFLT officially opens the Jaffna peninsula's main political office at Kondavil.
			Mrs Maheswary Vallipuram, mother of the first <i>Black Tiger</i> , <i>Miller</i> unveils the <i>Thubi of inspiration</i> at the party office opening ceremony. The new <i>Thubi</i> (Pillar) is erected as a tribute to martyred heroes.
	Mar. 22		North-East Provincial Council collapses after the Chief Minister declares Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) of Tamil Eelam, and its members flee to India. The last contingent of the IPKF departs Sri Lanka ahead of schedule on 31 March.
	Mar. 27		LTTE Trincomalee Regional leaders meet with Chiefs of Staff of the Sri Lankan security forces at the Trincomalee

			naval head quarters to discuss security arrangements in Trincomalee during the interim period prior to Provincial Council elections.
<b>Mar. 28</b>			<p>The Jaffna LTTE Regional Commander <i>Banu</i>, the Jaffna Political Commissioner Dominic, the Jaffna area Party Organiser Rajan, the Islands commander James and the political advisor Anton Balasingham meet the government delegation comprising A C S Hameed, General Sepala Attygalle, Lt.Gen Hamilton Wanasinghe, Vice Admiral H A de Silva, Air Marshal T Gunawardane, Inspector of General of Police Ernest Perera and the regional military officers, to discuss security arrangements in the north. As a result of these discussions the Chiefs of Staff of the Sri Lankan forces agree to:</p> <p>Reduce the presence of the army in the North-Eastern Province and keep the forces in the barracks. Close down small army camps and re-locate the troops. Remove all road blocks and check-points by the military and the police. Co-ordinate with LTTE Regional Commanders in the task of maintaining law and order.</p>
<b>Jun. 11</b>			Eelam War Two: The truce between the government and the Tigers breaks down and war resumes. Demand for army recruits and the sacrifices of young Sinhalese men grows.
<b>Jun. 19</b>			LTTE gunmen massacre fifteen people including thirteen EPRLF members in the Power Apartment, a colony of three-storey residential buildings in the busy Kodampakam area in Madras, Tamil Nadu. The dead include EPRLF founder-leader and Secretary General K Pathmanabha, P Kirubakaran, Lingan, Dharman, Padmanathan, Yogasankari, Jessinda, Pathmanabha's driver and an innocent by-stander. [Pathmanabha arrived in India in March 1990 along with 296 other refugees fleeing from Sri Lanka after the IPKF pull out and the desertion of Varadaraja Perumal].
			<b><u>Hundreds of thousands of Tamils become internally displaced or flee the country.</u></b>
<b>Jul.</b>			The Sri Lankan security forces return to the East. The army and STF regain bases in the Kokkaddichchola area.
<b>Jul. 10</b>			The LTTE launches its first <i>Black Tiger</i> suicide attack on the Sri Lankan Navy. Major Kantharuban, Captain Collins and Captain Vinoth die in the suicide attack on Sri Lankan Navy's command ship <i>Edithara</i> causing damage.

<b>Jul. 11</b>		LTTE attacks Kokkavil strategic army post killing some 72 soldiers and captures large quantity of military hardware.
<b>Aug. 2</b>		One hundred and fifty men are taken from the Pottuvil refugee camp, only 30 of whom are subsequently released. Although the police and the Special Task Force deny the detention, local people see smoke rising from the police station, fuelling suspicion that the prisoners might have been killed and burned.
<b>Aug. 3</b>		<b>KATTANKUDY MASSACRE:</b> One hundred and thirteen Muslims, including boys are killed during Friday prayers in the Meerajummah mosque using machine guns, allegedly by the LTTE.
<b>Aug. 11</b>		<b>ERAVUR MASSACRE:</b> One hundred and ten Muslims, including women and children are killed in their homes while sleeping, allegedly by the LTTE.
		Sri Lanka threatens to expel 80,000 Plantation Tamils granted Indian citizenship under the 1964 Indo-Ceylon Agreement, most of whom wish to remain in Sri Lanka.
		LTTE guerrillas attack 17 police stations in the Eastern Province capturing an estimated 600 policemen, driving out Sinhalese residents of Batticaloa destroy government buildings in the town and desecrate a Buddhist temple.
		A European Parliamentary Delegation visits Sri Lanka.
		More than 5,000 Tamil people are estimated killed or disappeared in the second half of the year. Victims of extra-judicial executions are reportedly shot, bayoneted, stabbed, hacked or beaten to death and even burned alive. The killings occur on the ground as well as result in attacks from the air. In June alone, hundreds of civilians are shot or stabbed to death by the army or police personnel in several incidents, particularly in the Batticaloa district, and 165 civilians are killed in the second half of June as a result of indiscriminate air bombardment and shelling on residential and non-military targets, such as refugee camps, hospitals and schools.
<b>Sep. 5</b>		<b>VANTHARUMOLAI REFUGEE CAMP MASSACRE:</b> One hundred and fifty eight Tamil villagers from Kiran, Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady and other areas in the east who have sought refuge in the Eastern University campus in Vantharumoolai in the Batticaloa district are taken into custody by security forces on the orders of Brigadier Karunatillake from the refugee camp and are disappeared.
<b>Sep. 9</b>		<b>SATHTHURUKKONDAN MASSACRE:</b> In retaliation for the massacre of Muslims in Eravur, Muslim youth

			assisted by Sri Lankan army attack Tamil villagers around Eravur. Many, including women and children are hacked to death. Others are rounded up and taken to the Sathurukondan Army camp and disappear. One hundred and eighty four civilians are reported to have disappeared.
	<b>Oct. 23-1 Nov.</b>		The LTTE issues an ultimatum on 23 October that Jaffna's and Mullaitivu's 25,000 Muslims should leave the north by 28 October and 35,000 Muslims who live in Mannar District by 1 November. LTTE's instructions are that all gold and valuables should be left at the nearest mosque. The Muslims flee and take refuge in Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Trincomalee.
	<b>Dec.</b>		Army takes control of Nanaddan. The official figures for the Internally Displaced People drops by 250,000 to around 928,000. NGOs say there are many thousands of "unofficially" displaced as army operations continue.
	<b>Dec. 13</b>		The European Parliament adopts a resolution calling the Sri Lankan government to set up an independent Commission of Enquiry into disappearances and extra-judicial executions and to publish a full list of those held in detention camps and police stations.
			Sinhalese people begin to feel the effects of war. Prices rise and living standards fall. A gradual "sea-change" of war weariness sets in within the Sinhalese society resulting in a call for a more moderate approach to the ethnic problem.
			The political influence of the Sangha - the Buddhist clergy, which had had major influence on the emergence of Sinhalese Buddhist nationalism and anti-Tamil sentiment after 1950, shows signs of reduction.
			Torture is widespread and over a thousand Tamils are held under the PTA and ERs throughout the year.
<b>AD 1991</b>			<b>Under construction</b>
<b>AD 1992</b>	<b>14 May</b>		India imposes a ban on the LTTE after the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The ban must be approved by a Tribunal under the Act and will be in force for two years.
	<b>May 31</b>		Six Tamil refugees are killed and over 125 injured, when the Sri Lankan air force mounts an attack on the Sri Durga Devi Temple in Tellippalai, employing bomber aircraft and throwing grenades from a helicopter and barrel bombs from an airplane.
	<b>Jun.</b>		The number of widows as a result of civilian deaths in the Jaffna District alone is around 6,000 in June 1992.


	<b>Aug. 7</b>	<p>The breakaway faction of the ruling United National Party (UNP), the Democratic United National Party (DUNF) led by former Minister Lalith Athulathmudali launches a campaign to collect a million signatures demanding the resignation of President Premadasa.</p> <p>Journalists covering the launch are attacked by thugs. Their cameras and video equipment are damaged and stolen.</p>
	<b>Aug. 8</b>	<p>Major-General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, overall commander of north and east and chief co-ordinating officer with headquarters at Anuradhapura town and nine other members of the armed forces are killed when their jeep is blown up by a powerful bomb at Kayts Island, west of Jaffna.</p>
	<b>Aug. 19</b>	<p>At a meeting in Colombo New Town Hall, the Free Media Movement (FMM) calls for immediate government action to bring those responsible for the attacks on journalists to justice.</p>
	<b>Aug. 20</b>	<p>Foreign correspondents walk out of the weekly government press briefing in protest over a spate of attacks on journalists.</p>
	<b>Sep. 1</b>	<p>Sri Lankan Supreme Court dismisses the petition filed by opposition leader Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike challenging the election of Mr Premadasa as President in 1988 during the violent insurrection by the Sinhalese People's Liberation Front (JVP) and orders her to pay the costs.</p> <p>The 88-page judgement concedes that violation and intimidation were widespread during the election, but says Mrs Bandaranaike had not proved that the result affected Mrs Bandaranaike.</p>
	<b>Oct.</b>	<p>In October, 10 Tamil civilians are extra-judicially executed by soldiers at Vellaveli, Batticaloa District. Scores of disappearances in military custody are reported, in particular in Batticaloa District. Over a thousand Tamils are being held under ERs or the PTA and routinely subjected to torture by members of government security forces.</p>
	<b>Dec.</b>	<p>Moreover, hundreds of Tamils are periodically arrested and screened for connections with the LTTE, resulting in a staggering figure of 13,414 arrests in Colombo alone during 1992.</p>
<b>AD 1993</b>		<b>Under construction</b>
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<b>1994</b>			
<b>AD 1995- 1997</b>			<p>Several thousand Tamil civilians are killed since the resumption of the war in May 1995. Despite the stated commitment to human rights of the new government under President Chandrika Kumaratunge, the pattern of warfare by means of extra-judicial killings, massacres and disappearances emerges again. Tamils are deliberately killed by government forces and groups operating with its consent. In the year 1996 alone, around 650 Tamils disappear. There is a dramatic increase in the use of torture and Amnesty International documents numerous cases of rape by the security forces. Scores of Tamils, in some instances at least 1,000 people are arbitrarily arrested and detained, in some cases for several years, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Regulations. The capture of Jaffna by the army, the launching of an intensified war campaign, and the re-imposition of the economic blockade results in starvation, increase in diseases and massive displacement, estimates of the numbers of displaced persons being as high as 825,000. Despite several government measures to prevent human rights violations by security forces, the temporarily imposed censorship on events in the North and East, the remaining in force of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and Emergency Regulations, the lack of adherence of members of the security forces to national and international human rights standards, and the apparent lack of government control over sections of the security forces and other groups continue to provide a ready context for grave violations of the fundamental rights of the Tamil people.</p>
<b>AD 1995</b>			<p>The army captures Jaffna town in November 1995. Due to press censorship, it is not known how many people died in the course of that military operation which began in July. There are increasingly large number of allegations of extra-judicial and arbitrary executions, resulting from incidents involving aerial bombardment by the Sri Lankan Air Force, naval strafing and shelling from military bases and indiscriminate firing by armed forces personnel which continue to cause numerous civilian casualties, including the bombing of a church compound at Navaly on 9 July, which kills 65 civilians and injurs more than 150. An estimated 40 Tamil civilians are extra-judicially executed in the east. Fifty-five Tamils disappear after being arrested by members of the security forces. The bodies of at least 31 people abducted in Colombo are found in lakes</p>



		and rivers in the vicinity. An official investigation of the killings finds that the victims were held prisoner, tortured and then killed by strangulation or drowning at the Colombo headquarters of the police Special Task Force (STF.) Twenty-two policemen arrested in connection with the murders are later granted bail and returned to active service. The case is abandoned later. Six hundred Tamils are detained at the end of the year, many of whom are subjected to torture. Several cases of rape are reported during the year, among them the gang-rape of three women by soldiers in the Batticaloa district in January and the rape of Lakshmi Pillai at her home in Trincomalee by two army informants in front of her two sons. Moreover, Tamils complain about search operations and arrests in Colombo and in the Hill Country as well as about repeated harassment and incidents of robbery by police officers.
	<b>Jan. 3</b>	Second round of talks between the LTTE and government delegation begins. Brigadier Siri Pieris from the army and Capt. Prasanna Rajaratne from the navy are also included in the government delegation.
	<b>Jan. 8</b>	The agreement signed by President Chandrika Kumaratunge and LTTE Leader V Prabhakaran for the cessation of hostilities on 6 January takes effect.
	<b>Jan 11</b>	Field Commanders of the Sri lankan military and LTTE in Batticaloa District meet at Vakarai Church for liaison in terms of the cessation of hostilities agreement. On 12 January, the Field Commanders of the Sri Lankan military and the LTTE meet at Poovarasankulam at 11am in Vavuniya.
	<b>Jan. 13</b>	Chairman of the Trincomalee District cessation of hostilities committee Mr Ardenholm from Norway visits Trincomalee. The committees for Mannar and Vavuniya also visit their respective District to commence monitoring tasks.
	<b>Jan. 14</b>	The third round of talks between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government delegation ends without any agreement.
	<b>Jan. 19-21</b>	Around one hundred Buddhist monks march in Colombo streets to protest against the visiting Pope. At a meeting with religious leaders on 2 January the Pope says that the religious resources of the entire nation must converge to bring an end to the continuing conflict. Buddhist high priests, the Mahanayake Theros boycott the meeting in protest over the reference to Buddhism in Pope John Paul's book <i>Crossing the threshold of hope</i> . Over 300,000

		people attend the holy mass on 21 January held at Galle Face Green in Colombo. Around 2,500 Catholics are reported to have come from the North.
<b>Jan. 26</b>		A mammoth peace march is held at Ratnapura town demanding an end to the war and ushering peace in the country. The march begins from the Sri Sudharmodaya Buddhist temple.
<b>Jan. 30</b>		Two officials from the US Embassy in Colombo visit the army camp in Thandikulam transit checkpoint to the North and Poovarasankulam area in Vavuniya to ascertain prevailing conditions.
<b>Feb. 5</b>		The foreign heads of the ceasefire monitoring committees meet LTTE leader V Prabhakaran at Ariyalai in Jaffna.
<b>Feb. 10</b>		International NGOs make interventions at the 51 <sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Commission on Human Rights on several issues relating to Sri Lanka, including Emergency Regulations, Zonal commissions on disappearances, political detainees, anti-torture Bill and the question of accountability for members of the police and the armed forces.
<b>Feb. 11</b>		Opening a library in her Athanagalla constituency President Chandrika Kumaranatunge refers to the threats she had to face from security forces who have been involved in bribery and corruption over 17 years and says that they are greater than LTTE threats.
<b>Feb. 13</b>		The LTTE steps up its recruitment drive in the East.
<b>Feb 15</b>		The people of Mullaitivu organise a public rally calling the government of Sri Lanka to fulfil the agreement reached in the talks with the LTTE and urging the government to recognise the right of self-determination of the Tamil people.
<b>Feb.16</b>		UN Resident Representative in Colombo Robert England assures that UN Development Funds around Rs 400 million will be made available for North-East rehabilitation if peace is achieved.
<b>Feb 17-19</b>		The peace march headed by People's Alliance MPs Vasudeva Nanaakkara, Y P de Silva and B L Premaratne from the southern Sri Lanka reaches Jaffna via Kilali on 17 February. The Federation of Public Organisations, Trade Unions, Trades Organisations, School of principals, Teachers, Students and Government Employees hold a mass rally in front of the Jaffna Secretariat on 18 February to condemn the Sri Lanka government's inertia and lack of will in attending to the problems of the Tamil people. Around 50,000 participate in the rally and present a memorandum to the Government Agent to be forwarded

			to President Chandrika Kumaranatunge. The southern peace marchers mingle with local peace rally in Jaffna harmonising peace calls in the whole country. A memorandum to the President specifying seven peace building measures are also given to the southern peace marchers for transmission to Colombo. Several Buddhist priests returning to Vavuniya on 19 february from the peace march to Jaffna speak out of the colossal war damage to life and property in the North and reiterate that the Movement for Peace with Democracy should be sustained.
	<b>Mar. 2</b>		Sixteen policemen held as Prisoners of War by the LTTE for nearly four years go on a hunger strike demanding the government to list the economic embargo imposed on the northern Tamils with a view to facilitate their release.
	<b>Mar. 5</b>		Deputy Defence Minister Col. Ratwatte visits troops at Thandikulam check point in Vavuniya and informs them that the cessation of hostilities agreement is holding well and the end of war will not throw soldiers out of employment as they will be engaged in development activities.
	<b>Mar. 6</b>		Five hundred and one Tamil refugee families returns to Mannar from the Indian port of Rameswaam.
	<b>Mar. 7</b>		Senior officials from the embassies of 12 countries including USA, Japan, UK and Canada meets LTTE officials in Jaffna and hold discussions on the peace process and reconstruction.
	<b>Mar. 8</b>		Jaffna University students go on a protest march supported by all school students in Jaffna over the discriminatory cut-off points affecting the entry of Tamil students to the Universities.
	<b>Mar. 10</b>		Government organise walk-in interviews at several army recruitment centres to select 2,000 soldiers for new infantry battalions.
	<b>Mar. 15</b>		Norwegian Development Co-operation Minister with Norwegian officials and those from NORAD spend the second day in Batticaloa to ascertain the ground situation for future development efforts. The Second Secretary of the Australian High Commission tours Batticaloa the next day to assess the situation prior to embarking on development aid to the area.
	<b>Mar 17</b>		Commander of the army Lt. General Gerry de Silva tells Reuters that soldiers wish peace more than anyone else as a military solution is nowhere near after 11 years of

		confrontation.
<b>Mar. 28</b>		LTTE extends its deadline over the withdrawal from peace process and cessation on hostilities by three weeks to 19 April in view of positive statements by President Chandrika Kumaratunge in New Delhi that her government is ready to lift the ban on the transport of fuel to the North.
<b>Apr. 2</b>		LTTE complaints while government speaks of peace in the North, the Eastern Special Task Force and army are involved in strengthening military bases at Kanjikudichcharu, Kalavanchikudy, Thirukovil, Nolavanai, Akkaraipatru, Komai, Kanchirukudah, Sagaman, Karaitivu, almunai, Kumburmoolai, Cheddipalayam, Kannginagar, Unnichchai, Nelpathavil, and Karavai.
<b>Apr. 5</b>		Malaria spreads in the Jaffna peninsula. Jaffna hospital says that they have treated over 250 people recently and Thenmaratchy area has been badly affected.
<b>Apr. 6</b>		Kandy Member of Parliament reports to the Parliament that estates lands are being illegally occupied by outsiders which may result in resident Tamil workers being forced to leave.  People's Alliance Galle MP Nanda Gunasinghe says in Parliament that 13,000 barrel bombs, each weighing 300 kilos have been dropped in the north by the Sri Lankan Airforce in the last ten years.
<b>Apr. 10</b>		Fourth round of peace talks between the government delegation and the LTTE in Jaffna ends with little progress.
		Villagers of Mahilavedduwan in Batticaloa District marching to the Government Agents Office to present a petition on the pursuit of peace are attacked by the soldiers of the Varunaithvu camp. One of the marchers S Navaratnam receives gunshot wounds and is admitted to hospital.
<b>Apr. 14</b>		The people living in Karaitivu in the Amparai District observe the tenth anniversary of the attack on Karaitivu by the security forces (in 1985) which killed 125 people and 800 houses and five temples are destroyed.
<b>Apr. 19</b>		The LTTE informs the government of its decision to withdraw from peace negotiations and the cessation of hostilities agreement in view of the government's failure to implement decisions agreed at negotiations. . Earlier, the LTTE announced a 28 March deadline to the government demanding 1) the total lifting of of the economic blockade

		2) closing of the Pooneryn army camp, south-west of the Jaffna peninsula 3) the removal of the ban on fishing 4) freedom of armed Tiger fighters in the east.
		Fast gun boata “Ranasuru” and “Soorya” of the navy lying in anchor at the naval base in Trincomalee are sunk by Black Tiger frogman. Twelve soldiers are killed and 21 are injured. Four LTTE divers also die in the operation.
		Security forces impose ban on all fishing in Mannar and begins military operations. Coastal areas in the North are shelled from naval ships and Mandaitivu army camp.
	<b>Apr. 21</b>	<b>OPERATION JAYAMAGA:</b> Commander of the army Lt. Gen. Gerry de Silva with key officers from military headquarters visits Kattumuivukulam camp in Batticaloa District to launch Operation Jayamaga against LTTE bases the following. In a pre-emptive strike the LTTE strike Kattumuivukulam camp killing 9 soldiers and injuring 45.  Two hundred and sixty Tamil families flee the Kattumuivukulam village fearing attack by the army. This is the third time since 1990 that they are displaced from the village.
	<b>Apr. 27</b>	The Sri Lankan Aid Group Meeting in Paris under World Bank auspices, pledges \$850 million (Re. 42 billion) financial support for the current year.
	<b>Apr. 28</b>	An avro aircraft of the airforce ferrying troops out to palaly airbase crashes while making an emergency landing. All 38 security force personnel on board are killed. Reports say it has been brought down by an LTTE surface-to-air missile. A second Avro aircraft of the airforce carrying 49 troops and 3 journalists approaching palaly airbase is also brought down by the LTTE ground fire on 29 April killing all passengers.
		The World Bank hosts a private sector conference inviting executives of companies from Asia and the Pacific region, Europe and North America. The conference aims to provide an opportunity for domestic and foreign investors to discuss with the Sri Lankan representatives business climate in Sri Lanka.
	<b>May 3</b>	Police and army carry out dawn raids in an around Colombo resulting in the arrest of many Tamils –75 at Wellawatte, 60 at Dehiwela, 40 at Pettah and 10 at Wattala.
	<b>May 4</b>	The NGO Forum on Sri Lanka proposes a four week cessation of hostilities to restart the stalled peace process. It suggests that mediation efforts should be with the help

		of Commonwealth.
<b>May 15</b>		Presidential Task Force established for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the North set up under Cabinet Minister R Wickremanayake is disbanded with the government deciding to cancel all plans for the north.
<b>May 17</b>		Meeting representatives of 5 tamil parties along with Ministers of Justice and Media, President Chandrika Kumaratunge pledges that she would announce the Government's proposals to solve the ethnic problem within two weeks. According to her the provinces will have more powers than those allocated to the State in India.
<b>May 18</b>		The European Parliament in a resolution condemns the repudiation of truce by the LTTE and calls on the Government and the LTTE to resume talks aimed at reaching a ceasefire.
<b>May 26</b>		Leading Buddhist monk Rev. Matara Kithalagama Seelalankara who has been the leading figure in the Sinhalese colonisation of Veli Oya areas is shot dead by unknown gunman while travelling in a Pickup Truck at Niliella in Trincomalee District. Forty two Sinhalese settlers at Kallarawa in the District are also killed. Security forces blame the LTTE for the massacre.
<b>May 30</b>		President Chandrika Kumaratunge meets members of the TULF for exploratory talks on the ethnic problem, but fails to present the Government's devolution proposals.
<b>May 31</b>		Residences of Tamils on either side of the road leading from Salippai Aru bridge towards Kuchchaveli village in Trincomalee District are demolished by troops using bulldozers. According to army this is a measure to secure the area from rebel activity.
<b>Jun. 8</b>		Deputy Minister of Finance Prof. G L Pieris announces the government's plan to raise Rs.400 million for its war effort. Among other measures, the Defence Levy is being raised from 3.5% to 4.5%.
<b>Jun. 9</b>		Parliament extends the State of Emergency by a majority of fourty votes. All Tamil MPs other than those from the TULF vote in favour. TULF abstains from voting.
<b>Jun. 13</b>		Following an explosion of grenade near Batticaloa hospital over 100 Tamils in the vicinity are indiscriminately arrested by troops.
<b>Jun. 16</b>		<b>OPERATION LIGHTNING STRIKE:</b> The army launch operation Lightning Strike from Palaly airbase in Jaffna District towards Atchuvely with air cover. Aerial bombing of Atchuvely and Pandatharippu areas results in the displacement of over 4,000 families.
<b>Jun.</b>		Amnesty granted for the 24,000 army deserters for

	<b>20</b>		returning to sevice without punishments ends.
	<b>Jun. 23</b>		Troops at the Thandikulam checpoin in Vavuniy decree that no more than 2.kg. of sugar or milk pwder can be taken by nort-bound Tamils.
	<b>Jun. 26</b>		A United States District Court rules that Sri Lankan Tamil Mrs Balaranjini Ratnam is entitled to political asylum in the United States due to her being persecuted by the Sri Lankan government. District Judge Dickinson R Debevoise holds that Tamils are being persecuted on account of their ethnicity. Reports of the US State Department submitted as evidence for rejecting the asylum claim of Mrs Ratnam are characterised by the judge as a “superficial six page document” that “barely touched upon the long history of political, racial and human rights abuses by the Sri Lankan government and its agents”.
	<b>Jun. 28</b>		LTTE overruns the Mandaitivu army camp in a dawn attack. Over 100 soldiers are killed and 45 wounded.
	<b>Jul. 1</b>		Security personnel at Iluppadihchenai army camp evict Tamils from the villages of Veppavettuvan and Puththumpuri in Batticaloa District.
	<b>Jul. 9</b>		<b>OPERATION LEAP FORWARD:</b> Over 300 Tamils including 13 children are reported killed in shelling and bombing as the Sri Lankan army advance west and south west from Palaly airbase in <i>Operation Leap Forward</i> . Over 200,000 civilians in the area of the offensive flee before the advancing troops.  <b>NAVALY CHURCH MASSACRE:</b> At least 65 Tamils, including women and children are killed and over 150 badly injured when the Sri Lankan air force plane drops bombs on 2,000 frightened civilians crammed into the courtyard of St. Peter and Paul’s Church at Navalay during the government offensive.
			Villagers from Sithandy village in Batticaloa District vacate the area in fear following soldiers placing a sevred head of a youth on the parapet wall of a house.
	<b>Jul. 14-16</b>		The LTTE launch a fierce attack code named Tiger Leap (Puli Paichchal) with over 2,000 cadre and stem the military offensive at Vaddukkottai, six kms. West of Jaffna town. A LTTE ground-to-air missile brings down a Sri Lankan air force plane.  On 16 July, Sea Tiger suicide commandos carry out a suicide attack on Sri Lankan Naval command ship <i>Edithara</i> berthed at Kankesanthurai harbour and is blown

		up with three seaman aboard, threatening the Army's major supply.
<b>Jul. 15</b>		After hours of frantic cries for help, 18 Sri Lankan refugees suffocate and die in a sealed container truck in a deserted car park in western Hungary. Another 18 refugees managed to survive and admitted to a Budapest Hospital. Another 30 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees packed in an abandoned truck is rescued by police in Saxony in Germany.
<b>Jul. 26</b>		While international banks and foreign nations are handing out enormous amounts as development assistance, Deputy minister of Defence, Col. A Ratwatte informs the parliament that Rs 462 million additional funds will be spent on the security forces during the current financial year. The breakdown of the amount to be spent over and above the budget allocation of Rs. 23,000 million (\$ 460 million) is as follows: Sri Lanka army – Rs 255 million Sri Lanka navy - Rs 152 million Sri Lanka airforce – Rs 25 million Sri Lanka police – Rs 30 million.
<b>Jul. 28</b>		LTTE sustains heavy losses in an abortive attack by land and sea on the military complex at Manal Aru in Mullaitivu District. One hundred and Eighty LTTE cadres including 128 females are reported killed in the attack.
<b>Aug. 3</b>		President Kumaratunge releases the People's Alliance government devolution proposals, initiating wide-ranging debate within and outside Sri Lanka.
<b>Aug. 7</b>		An explosion near the office of the Chief Minister of Western Province kills 25 civilians. Over 45 persons are injured.
<b>Aug. 8</b>		The Education Secretary to the Tamil Nadu government orders the Commissioner of Collegiate Education to issue necessary instructions that Sri Lankan refugees, students and Sri Lankan passport holders not to be admitted or permitted to study any course in colleges including professional colleges forcing those who are already following lectures in the first and second year also to leave their colleges. These instructions are another step by the State government to force Tamil refugees to return to Sri Lanka. There are currently 56,800 refugees in 120 camps distributed in 21 districts, including over 16,000 children.
<b>Aug. 14</b>		ICRC's Colombo representative Macp Alder reports that starvation is imminent in Jaffna if no food convoy reach



		the Jaffna peninsula.
<b>Aug. 26</b>		Roland Hodson, Advisor on Humanitarian assistance to the UNDP tours Jaffnameeting government officials, LTTE representatives and church leader. After the visit he tells reporters that the Jaffna people are “angry and hungry”.
<b>Aug. 28</b>		Passenger ship Iris Moan with 138 on board is hijacked by LTTE nave unit off Salli coast in Mullaitivu District. One hundred and twenty one passengers are subsequently released to the ICRC in Jaffna on 6 September. Eight including the crew are not released.
<b>Sep. 1</b>		Visiting US Under Secretary for State Secretary Robin Raphael urge in Colombo that there is a need for political settlement through negotiations by ending confrontations.
<b>Sep. 7</b>		Leader of the Opposition, Ranil Wickremasinghe tells parliament that the military manoeure <i>Operation Leap Forward</i> in Jaffna had claimed the lives of 170 civilians seriously injured 420 and displaced 178,335 persons.
<b>Sep. 12</b>		OPERATION HANDSHAKE: The troops launch Operation Handshake to elieve Palal airbase from the LTTE’s long range motar attacks. Over 3,000 troops push forward into Valikamam North accompanied by heavy shelling, killing 30 civilians and wounding 50. Over 5,000 people are displaced.
<b>Sep. 13</b>		A Russian-built Sri lankan Airforce Antonov crashes into the sea 20 miles north of Colombo, killing 70 soldiers bound toPalaly. Mechanical failure is more likely than LTYTE sabotage says Air Commodore Jayalath Weerakody, but the Colombo press widely reports that the dead piolet is a Tamil.
<b>Sep. 18</b>		Addressing a gathering at a public function in Hataraliyadde in Kandy, Deputy Defence Minister Col. A Ratwatte sauures hat the war in the country will be brought to an end withi two mnths as Rs. 16 billionhas been spent on defence.
		Over 15,000 plantation workers go strike on eight estates managed by Maskeliya Plantation Company demanding 26 days work in a month.
<b>Sep. 21-22</b>		The government introduces Emergency regulations hich in effect erode the freedom of movement of Tamils in Colombo and Gampaha Districts. The government also imposes censorship on all news relating to military matters on 22 September.  NAGARKOVIL MASSACRE: Hours after the imposition of military censorship on press reporting, air crafts bomb a school yard crammed with 750 children on their lunch

		break, as part of the Operation handshake killing 34 and seriously wounding over 150 others. Two surgeons from French medical agency Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) work through the night at Point Pedro's Manthakai hospital carrying out 22 amputations, four cases of both legs. Ten of the amputees are children under 12. The Censorship is again lifted on 21 December.
<b>Sep. 24</b>		Over 3,000 Buddhist monks march through the streets of Kandy to inaugurate an island-wide protest campaign by the influential Buddhist clergy against President Chandrika's devolution package offering extensive autonomy to the minority Tamils. The leading Mawatte and Asgiriya Buddhist orders say the proposals are a precursor to dividing the Sri Lanka. The Amarapura Sngaha Saba echoes the sentiments of many Sinhalese denouncing the devolution of coastal, foreign investment, land and police powers to regional assemblies under the proposed union of eight regions.
<b>Sep 26</b>		More than 50 Sri Lankan immigrants are rescued choking from an airless van between the Czech border and Dortmund, Germany, as the trade in human cargo becomes increasingly cut-throat.
<b>Oct. 1</b>		Contributing Rs 125,000 to the Defence Fund, High Priest of the Malwatte Chapter of the Buddhist clergy exhorts the government to first achieve victory in war before implementing any proposals on the devolution of powers.
		<b>OPERATION THUNDERSTRIKE:</b> The Defence Ministry reports that several areas around Palaly air base in Jaffna District are captured in Operation Thundersrike.
<b>Oct. 3</b>		Over 50,000 Tamils flee from Avarankal, Atchuvely, Puththur, Idaikkadu, Valalai and Vallai in Jaffna District to Thenmaradchy fearing Sri Lankan troops advancing from Palaly.
<b>Oct. 4</b>		Over 100 Tamils are arrested in a police roundup in Pettah. Similar arrests in large numbers are made at Grandpss, Kothena, Maradana, Wellawette and Borella.
<b>Oct. 5</b>		The state of emergency is extended in Parliament by 114 to 76 votes. One single member of the Sri Lanka's People's Front opposing it. PLOTE and EPDP MPs vote in favour and no MPs representing Tamil Districts vote against the extension, while the UNP abstain and the TUF keep away.
<b>Oct. 12</b>		Jaffna Government Agent reports that there is an acute shortage of food in the Jaffna District. Essential goods including flour, kerosene and currency notes loaded on the ship "habarana" bound to Jaffna are denied clearance

		by the military in Colombo harbour on 14 October.
<b>Oct. 15</b>		OPERATION SUNRAY: Over 20,000 Troops launch a new offensive code named <i>Operation Sunay</i> in Jaffna District.
<b>Oct. 18</b>		British Minister for Overseas Development Baroness Chalker replying to a parliamentary question in the British parliament states that total UK bilateral aid to Sri Lanka amounts to £11.48 million in 1994/95. Of his amount £ 1.16 is financial (capitl) aid, £ 0.52 million emergency aid, and £0.75 million is provided for relief and rehabilitation programmes. The £0.75 million meant to benefit families affected by the conflict. The remainder is spent on technical co-operation, Ad and Trade Provsion and CDC investments.
<b>Oct. 20</b>		As <i>Operation Sunray</i> gathers momentum, LTTE blows up the country's major oil storage tanks at Kolonnawa and Orugodawatte near Colombo causing \$ 25 million damage. 40,000 tonnes of disel oil and 15,000 tonne of kerosene are destroyed along with 16 of 45 storage tanks which are expected to hit the government's war effort. Security sweeps of the capital Colombo have been intensified and Human Rights Task Force chief C T Janz says over 6000 people are held illegally and remain at risk.
<b>Oct. 20-26</b>		Over 120 Sinhalese villagers in border areas are brutally massacred by the LTTE. Reports from North suggests that LTTE publically executed 29 persons alleging as "traitors" at Omanthai junction, leaving their bodies where they fell as warning to others.  Police arrest large number of Tamils in and around Colombo. There are 140 arrests at Grandpass, 160 at Dematagoda, 90 at Maradana, 20 at Kotahena, 50 at Borella, 50 at Welikade, 40 at Fort and three at Panadura.
<b>Nov. 2</b>		M Karunidhi's DMK in India, stage a black-flag rall in Madras follwed by a fast by the MDMK leader V Gopalsamy demanding the Indian government intevention to stop the military offensive causing enormous hardship to the Tamil civilians.
<b>Nov. 3</b>		UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali expresses concern at the refugee flight from Jaffna and indicates that a massive humanitarian assistance programme is needed to minimise suffering. Foreign Minister Laksman Kadirgamar outraged by the Secretary General's remarks and in a letter to Mr Ghali, asserts that comprehensive measures are in place for refugees with ICRC and NGO

		assistance, implying UN to keep away from Sri Lanka.
<b>Nov. 8</b>		Deputy Finance Minister G L Peiris announces a massive Rs 38 billion (\$760 million) for defence in the Parliament. The budget has been designed for Jaffna operation, with tax cuts to keep the people quiet and a large chunk for defence to keep the Army happy.
<b>Nov. 10</b>		The figures of Tamils arriving in the Madhu area in Mannar District from Jaffna stands at 6,004 persons from 1,504 families.
<b>Nov. 11</b>		Over 16 people are killed and another 52 injured after two LTTE Black Tigers stage an abortive suicide attack on Army headquarters at Galle Face in Colombo. Hundreds of Tamils are arrested in the aftermath of the attack and the Colombo capital remains tense.
<b>Nov. 14-23</b>		<p>Army captures the LTTE headquarters at Kondavil on Jaffna-Palaly road. The ICRC decides to evacuate the Jaffna hospital and moves to Point-pedro abandoning the safe zone declared around the hospital. Nallur falls to army on 20 November. There is euphoria in Colombo as troops begin assault on Jaffna city on 21 November. Celebrations are planned when the army indicates that the military operation will be over by 26 November, the birthday of LTTE leader V Prabhakaran. President Chandrika declares on 23 November that the liberation of Jaffna will support the cause of peace and appeals to the people to celebrate without harming the Tamils. Sea Tigers shoot down an airforce cargo plane approaching Palaly from the sea on 18 November killing five crew members. Four days later, a transport plane with 63 soldiers on board plunges into the sea 10km north of Karaitivu.</p> <p>The Bentota Hotel management cancels the Sri Lanka NGO forum meeting amidst demonstration by Sinhalese and non-intervention of the police to provide adequate protection to NGO Forum members.</p>
<b>Nov. 28</b>		The police announces rewards amounting to Rs 3 million for the arrest of ten top LTTE men including leader V Prabhakaran.
<b>Nov. 30</b>		The Tamil Nadu political parties in India stage a hartal (general strike) calling for an end to the war in northern Sri Lanka. The entire southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu comes to a standstill.
<b>Dec. 5</b>		The army captures Jaffna town. The Deputy Defence Minister Ol. A Ratwatte hoists the Sri Lankan national flag. NGOs estimate that nearly 500,000

		civilians have been displaced by the fighting, including over 170,000 people fleeing across the Jaffna lagoon to Kilinochchi where the LTTE have relocated their headquarters. In a nation-wide address after the fall of Jaffna, President Chandrika calls on the LTTE to lay down the arms offering amnesty to those who surrender.
	<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>PUTHUKKUDYIRUPPU MASSACRE:</b> Thirty Tamils travelling in a bus near Puthukkudiyiruppu are killed by the Sri Lankan Special Task Force (STF) police commandos following an LTTE attack on their camp.
	<b>Dec. 7</b>	For the first time, TULF votes against the government in Parliament on the extension of the State of Emergency.
	<b>Dec. 11</b>	UNICEF representative in Colombo Britta Oxtberg reports that the conflict in Sri Lanka had left 300,000 children as refugees.
	<b>Dec. 12</b>	Northern Principal's Association reports that there were 160,218 students in the north in 454 schools and after the military operation 106,206 are unable to attend school.
	<b>Dec. 15</b>	The Norwegian government signs agreement with the government pledging a grant of Rs 7.5 million for providing relief to those displaced from the north.
	<b>Dec. 20</b>	The Supreme Court declares that the detention of Jaffna Tamil youth Vijayan Vialendran for over three years is illegal and orders Rs 25,000 compensation. Supreme Court Judge A R B Amarasinghe says that Sri Lankan authorities often breach laws and regulations relating to arrest and detention.
	<b>Dec. 28</b>	The highest ranking police officer, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) opens the first police station in Jaffna after a decade.  In a letter to British Prime Minister John Major, K Kunaratnam, President and R Mahendran, Secretary of the Jaffna Citizens Committee raise concerns about the developments in the North-East following the government's military offensive and call on the donor countries to review their pledge of aid to rehabilitate the war-ravaged Jaffna area.
<b>AD 1996</b>	<b>Jan. 3</b>	North-Central and Sabaragamuwa Provincial Councils controlled by the main opposition United National Party (UNP) are dissolved charged with corruption and irregularities by the respective governors.
	<b>Jan. 16</b>	<b>OPERATION RIVIKIRANA:</b> The security forces launch an offensive code name <i>Operation Rivikirana</i> against LTTE bases in the East. The first movement starts from the Pollonaruwa District borders into western

		Batticaloa. Most heavy fighting takes place in the Thoppigala jungles of Batticaloa District. Over 3,000 troops reported to have participated in the offensive.
<b>Jan. 18</b>		<b>OPERATION SUN ECLIPSE:</b> Thousands of residents of Panudaeli Iluppdichchenai, Veppavettuvan, Unnichchai and Urugamam are displaced following the assault on these areas by troops engaged in military operation code named Sun Eclipse
<b>Jan. 28</b>		The LTTE deputy leader <i>Karikalan</i> in an interview to the <i>Sunday Leader</i> reveals that when Chandrika Kumaratunge became the Prime Minister, she had sought support for the LTTE to make her President by promising to address Tamil grievances and conceding that the LTTE is the sole Tamil representatives.
<b>Jan. 22</b>		A Russian built MI 17 helicopter carrying 39 personnel from the armed services goes missing off the coast of Point Pedro in Jaffna District. An LTTE announcement claims responsibility for shooting down the helicopter. Reports say two foreign mercenaries are also killed in the attack.
<b>Jan. 31</b>		A truck bomb rammed into the Central bank building in Fort, the heart of Colombo by suicide attackers cause widespread destruction in Colombo. Over 80 people are reported killed and over 1,400 injured in the explosion. A number of buildings including the Bank of Ceylon, Cylinco House and nearby tourist hotels are also damaged. Hospitals are filled with the injured and following a call by the government, thousands of people queue outside Colombo's food bank to donate food. Over 270 emergency operations are performed in the General hospital. The ICRC and voluntary agencies rush medical supplies to the hospital. Police say the LTTE is responsible for the attack. The estimated damage is said to be around Rs 5 billion (\$100 million). Some 2,000 Tamils are rounded up in Colombo and 400 are detained in Wellikade and Mahara prison.
<b>Feb. 1</b>		Over 30 public and private companies announce that they will contribute their share of the Rs 700,000 for the war effort of the government.
<b>Feb. 2</b>		Over 500 Tamils are rounded-up including young women by police from Welawatte, Bambalapitiya, Kollupitya, Kirillepone, Narahenpita, Borella and Cinnamon Gardens in Colombo.
<b>Feb 8</b>		Prof. Wicremabahu Karunaratne, on behalf of the NSSP calls all the progressive forces to unite and support the Tamil people's struggle for their right to self-determination.

		He accuses the government for continuing the wa and says that the Colombo bomb attack only reflects the sufferings of the Tamil people.
<b>Feb. 11</b>		<b>KUMARAPURAM MASSACRE:</b> In a deliberate attack on civilians by the army in Kumarapuram, 24 Tamils, including 13 women, one of whom was also raped, and seven children, are killed and 25 wounded. A military court finds 14 soldiers guilty of the killings who are subsequently charged by the Attorney General with murder and attempted murder. By the end of the year, they had not come to trial before the High Court.
<b>Feb 14</b>		Defence Ministry spokesman announces that an armsship belongingto the LTTE has been sunk by the Sri Lankan Airforce and Navy off the coast of Alampil in Mullaitivu District.
<b>Feb 19</b>		A confrence is held in Vavuniya to discuss the relief situation in Vanni for nearly 320,000 refugees, attended by NGOs and Vanni Government Agents. The conference learn that there have been a number of deaths because of insufficient food and medicine. There are only four doctors in Kilinochchi hospital and no laboratory facilities for diagnosis. Refugee children are malnourished and skin diseases and diarrhoea are spreading. Women have to deliver babies in the open. Water is increasingly scarce and sanitary conditions are deteriorating as wells re used b large number of families.  Over 100 prison officers attack Tamils in the Colombo Magazine prison in Borella with metalrods, clubs, and cricket bats injuring a number of detainees. There are over 140 Tamil detainees held in the Magazine prison, many of whom without any charges.
<b>Feb. 25</b>		LTTE sets up attacks in the East. LTTE simultaneously attack Kinnayadi army camp in Batticaloa istrict and Keppittipola army camp I Anuradhapura. LTTE communique claims that the soldiers from Keppittipola cam are responsible for atrocities against tamils in the anikaveva Tamil village in the district. Two soldiers, two policemen and five ome guards are killed in the Keppittipola camp attac.
<b>Feb. 26</b>		In search for peace in Sri Lanka, Norway's Christian Michaelson Institute (CMI) holds a conference <i>on <a href="#">Sri Lankan Conflict and International Responsibility</a></i> in co-operation with the All Party Solidarity Group for Sri lanka in Bergen. Representatives of the LTTE, UNP, the


		<p>Colombo National Peace Council, the Colombo University, the NGO Forum on Sri Lanka and the Norwegian Foreign Minister participate in the conference, which is funded by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry.</p> <p>Sinhalese stage a demonstration outside the Norwegian embassy in Colombo protesting that the conference is intended to promote the LTTE. The Sri Lankan fails to nominate a representative. LTTE'' representative V Rudrakumaran suggest an asymmetric relationship between the north-east region and the central government as compared with other regions and greater power-sharing for the Tamils by over-representation at the centre as in the case of the US-brokered Dayton peace accord in Bosnia. Some observers view the statement from a militant group, which has steadfastly stood for a separate state as significant where as others feel more power to the north-east is only a stepping stone to a separate state.</p>
		<p>As the government pursues its war for peace policy vigorously, the numbers of dead and displaced victims of conflict keep rising. The Government Agent Kilinochchi Mr Thillainadarajah reports that between April 19 – 26 about 55,000 people have moved to Kilinochchi, 16,841 individuals are accommodated in 35 welfare centres and 39,527 individuals are taken in by local residents.</p>
	<b>Feb. 29</b>	<p>Human Rights workers in the south report that over 500 Tamils have been arrested during the last three days by security forces in capital Colombo. Those who produced ID cards and police registration certificates are rounded up and taken to police stations.</p>
	<b>Mar. 1</b>	<p>Over 300 Tamils including a child of three years arrested on suspicion by the Wellawatte police in Colombo are produced before Mt. Lavinia magistrate. The magistrate reprimands the police for arresting merely on suspicion without investigations.</p>
	<b>Mar. 9</b>	<p>Minister of Rehabilitation M H M Ashraff disclose to the press that the official figure of refugees in the country stands at 700,000.</p>
	<b>Mar. 12</b>	<p>Police round-up 118 hill country Tamils working at rice mills around Dambulla in Matale District.</p>
	<b>Mar. 15</b>	<p>Maradana police arrest 40 Tamils from Batticaloa with identity papers who arrived the same day to travel to Qatar where they had secured employment. They had been cleared at over 10 check points en route to Colombo.</p>






<b>Mar. 16</b>		NACHCHIKUDAH MASSACRE: Following sinking of three naval vessels by the <i>Sea Tigers</i> 3km north of Pallimunai on Mannar Island and killing 16 sailors on 15 March two MI-17 helicopters in retaliation attack Nachchikudah in Mannar at dawn killing 15 refugees and injuring 57.
<b>Mar. 23</b>		Over 300 Tigers ambush an Army patrol a Vantharamoolai killing 40 soldiers and injuring 13 others.
<b>Mar. 30</b>		Sea Tigers attack an Israeli-built Dvora attack craft in Mullaitivu coast and is sunk killing ten sailors. The next day Israeli built Kfir fighter planes bomb the residential areas of Mullaitivu in the early hours of the morning causing heavy damage to property.
<b>Apr. 4</b>		Ukrainian built MI-24 helicopter gunships fire rockets indiscriminately on Watharavathai, Kapputhu and Mandan villages in Jaffna District causing heavy damage to buildings. Residents have taken shelters in bunkers thus avoiding loss of life.
<b>Apr. 10</b>		The extension of the State of Emergency to cover the whole island is passed by 116 to 80 votes in Parliament. Tamil MPs from EPDP, PLOTE and CWC vote in favour while those from TULF vote against.
<b>Apr. 12</b>		LTTE frogmen and sea Tigers raid the Colombo harbour at dawn. The Defence Minister claims that two cargo vessels are damaged and five Tigers are killed by the navy. The LTTE lists nine martyrs and claims damages to six naval craft. Following the LTTE raid on the Colombo harbour over 500 families living along the beaches at Mutwal, Wattala and Hendala are evicted by the security forces the next day. Huts are destroyed and permanent structures are razed to the ground.
<b>Apr. 16</b>		Canadian Junior Ministers L J Edward, Raphael Jerld and Director of Foreign Affairs T W Colmar visit Colombo to study the impact of the devolution proposals in the ethnic conflict.  Security forces impose fishing ban in the sea off the Trincomalee coast fearing LTTE's seaborne attacks on the naval harbour.
<b>Apr. 18</b>		Confederation of People's Organisation launch a signature campaign to collect at least 500,000 signatures to be sent to the UN Secretary General and the President of Sri Lanka explaining the plight of the Tamils in the North-East and to draw attention to their aspirations.
<b>Apr. 19</b>		OPERATION SUNRAY II: Security forces launch <i>Operation Sunray II</i> to take control of Vadamaradchi and

		<p>Thenmaradchi in the east of Jaffna peninsul. Around 150,000 Tamils from wesern Valkamam had taken refuge in these areas when the Sri Lankan army captured Jaffna town in December.</p> <p>The government re-impose censorship on military news to coincide with the curfew in the North and the beginning of <i>Sunray II</i>.</p>
<b>Apr. 22</b>		<p>The one week strike by the 700,000 plantation workers demanding wage increase per day results in the loss of Rs. 500 million.</p>
<b>Apr. 23</b>		<p>The Government Agent of Kilinochchi holds an emergency meeting with the representatives of ICRC and UNHCR along with MSF, OXFAM and FRUT to deal with the sudden influx of people fleeing military <i>operation Sunray II</i></p> <p>The French Media agency-Reporters Sans Frontieres writes to President Chandrika strongly condemning government censorship on media urges the President to immediately lift the ban. The letter says that Reporters Sans Frontieres considers that the Sri Lankan government is using the censorship as an exercise to crack down on the media.</p>
<b>Apr. 25</b>		<p>Hindu aha Sabah sends out an urgent appeal to President Chandrika to allow food and shelter to Vanni or the refugees.</p> <p>Fiftyone Tamil detainees at Kalutura prison go on a hunger strike demanding that they be charged or released without delay.</p>
<b>Apr. 26</b>		<p>Army captures Kilali thus bringing an end to refugees crossing the Jaffna lagoon.</p>
<b>Apr 27</b>		<p>Tamils living in Vadamadchi and Thenmaradchi begin to move out of the areas in large numbers fearing large-scale military offensive.</p> <p>Thousands of Tamils demonstrate outside Swiss Parliament in Berne against <i>Operation Sunray II</i> also demand the release of LTTE Swiss representative Nadarajah Murleetharan who has been detained by Swiss police for alleged violence against other Tamils.</p>
<b>Apr. 28-30</b>		<p>Security forces fire shells indiscriminately into Kerudavil, Thondamanaru and Valettithura areas in the North in the early hours of the morning on 28 April. The Jaffna Government Agent requests urgent dispatch of 5,000 lanterns, 10,000 torchlights and 100 water pumps for</p>

		the returnees in the Valikamam area on 29 April. Security forces order the GA to turn off lights in the public places at 8pm. Protests mount against army checking houses in the nights. Girl students refuse to attend schools fearing army harassment. Security forces stationed at Elephant Pass military base continue shelling of Kilali lagoon to stop people crossing into the mainland. Fighter planes are also deployed to bomb Kilali crossing on 30 April.
<b>May 1</b>		The government impose ban on processions to mark International Workers Day. Twenty one marchers are hospitalised after police break up with batons and teargas a procession by Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP).
<b>May 6</b>		Hundred of displaced men, women and elderly hold a mass rally in Kilinochchi protestin against government ban on food and medial supplies. Petitions are submitted to the Government Agent Kilinochci and officials of UNHCR, ICRC, OXFAM and MSF.
<b>May 8</b>		For the first tme since the start of the military offensive in Jaffna in July 1995, the government allows 42 journaists to vit Jaffna. They are accompanied by members of the security forces and are not allowed to be on their own. They are flown back on the same evening. The y report long food queues in Jaffna.
<b>May 9</b>		Constituent of the People's Alliance government, the Lanka Sama Samaja Party abstains in the voting in parliament for the extension of Emergency rule in the country. Tamil Ms from EPDP, PLOTE and CWC vote infavour of the extension.
<b>May 14</b>		The defence ministry reports that the Jaffna peninsula has come under complete control of the security forces with securing of the Point Pedro area.
<b>May 18</b>		The army takes over all buses from Batticaloa, Valaichenai and Kalmunai us depots in the Batticaloa district resulting in a complete breakdown of passanger services in the District.
<b>May 24</b>		Opposition party, UNP declares in the parliament that it is against any political structure that would affect the unitary nature of Sri Lanka. The DUNF also re-iterate this view while the Tamil parties stick to federalism and merger of the North-East provinces.
<b>May 29-31</b>		The whole island comes to a virtual halt as 14,500 workers of the joint Trade Union front of the Ceylon Electricy Board (CEB) go on strike, demanding the discontinuation of the government's proposal to privatise the CEB, and the immediate implementation of the cabinet-approved salary structure. Twenty trade unionists

		<p>holding a meeting with the press over the electricity workers strike are arrested by police in Colombo. The government also declares electricity supplies an essential service under the Public Security Ordinance on 30 may..</p> <p>OPERATION SHOCK: Troops acting under the Public Security Ordinance forcibly remove electricity workers from their residences to resume power supplies. This forcible removal of workers is undertaken as part of the military's operation code-named Operatin Shock to restore electricity to the island.</p>
<b>Jul.</b>		The LTTE launch a major attack on the Mullaitivu military base killing over onethousand eight-hundred soldiers and capturing large quantities of heavy weaponry and artillery.
<b>Aug. 26</b>		Around 10,000 Tamils protest at Geneva in Switzerland against government's genocidal policy and call for support to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.
		<p>In a statement on 11 April 1997, Amnesty International says that 648 people are reported disappeared in northern Sri Lanka and remarks that the fact that such high number of disappearances can occur in one year despite government's claim that it is addressing the problem, is outrageous. In December alone, more than 15 dead bodies of persons who had been previously arrested by the army are found, among them the corpses of three school girls still wearing their uniforms floating in the sea. At the end of the year 1,500 Tamils are held in detention under the ERs and PTA. In November, a Supreme Court judge states publicly that torture continues unabated in police stations in spite of a number of judicial pronouncements against its use. It is used by security forces and includes methods such as electric shocks, beatings all over the body, especially the soles and genitals, often with plastic pipes, iron rods and truncheons, suspension by the wrists or feet in contorted positions, burning, near drowning, mainly by submersion in polluted water, placing of insecticide, chilli powder, or gasoline-soaked bags over the head, and forced positions, resulting in broken bones and other serious injuries. On 7 September, student Krishanthy Kumarasamy disappears in Jaffna. Her body is later found in a shallow grave, together with the bodies of her mother, brother and a neighbour who had been searching for her. She is gang-raped by nine soldiers before being killed after being detained at a checkpoint. The accused soldiers are brought before the</p>

			magistrate's court in Colombo and charged with rape and murder. In November, Five police and army personnel are arrested for the rape and murder of Rajini Velayuthapillai in Jaffna. Continuing harassment of women, including abduction and rape, at army checkpoints, in particular in the Jaffna district, are reported. One hundred and fifty cases of rape committed by soldiers are documented in 1996 alone.
<b>Oct. 30- Nov. 5</b>			Tamil Organisations world over observe an international awareness week to draw attention to the human rights tragedy experienced by Tamils in Sri Lanka and in memory of the massive exodus of 500,000 Tamils who fled Jaffna last October. Rallies, vigils, lobbying and other events are held throughout the week in which several thousands of Tamils participated.
<b>Nov. 18</b>			The Sri Lanka Aid Group at its meeting in Paris reaffirms its support for Sri Lanka's economic and social development by indicating financial support totalling \$860 million, while urging the government to initiate fresh peace talks without delay. There are no conditions linked to human rights but the Aid Group emphasises that economic reform and peace efforts must go hand in hand.
<b>Nov. 11</b>			LTTE leader V Pirabhakaran delivers the annual Heroes' day message. In his message he declares grave doubts about peace offers from a government that is making every effort to have the LTTE banned in Sri Lanka and abroad. Mr Prabhakaran says the army must be withdrawn from Jaffna before peace talks.
<b>Dec.</b>			A delegation from the Refugee Council (RC) visits Sri Lanka, following concerns raised by a number of Sri Lankan refugee community organisations. The RC concludes that there has been a reduction in systematic human rights violations, particularly against the Sinhalese population, there continue to be grave human rights abuses, particularly against Tamils, which the government appears to be unwilling or unable to prevent; these human rights abuses have been carried out by both sides in the civil war; the Sri Lankan government's attempts to promote human rights abuses have been slow to change the culture and institutional prejudices and practices which have resulted in continued patterns of abuse, particularly within the security forces; there is no longer a viable internal flight alternative for Tamils fleeing from persecution in the north of the country, most of whom have been caught between the two warring armies; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should

		urgently review its position paper on the situation in Sri Lanka; and it should not be assumed that it is safe to return asylum seekers to Colombo, because of the continued existence of arbitrary arrest, detention without trial and torture. The delegation further adds, should the UK Government wishes to affect the number of applications from Sri Lanka, it should put its resources into aiding the facilitation of a ceasefire and talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE. The only way of ensuring that asylum applications will decrease is to end the civil war and human rights violations– the cause of flight for over a million Tamil refugees.
	<b>Dec. 25</b>	Ninety two Sri Lankans are among over 280 refugees from the Indian sub-continent reported drowned when they are forced at gun-point by the ship's crew to board a crammed boat between Malta and Sicily.
		One hundred and ten people admitted to the Mallavi and Puthukudyiruppu hospitals in Kilinochchi District reported to have died, in December due to lack of health facilities which include medicine, medical equipment and hospital space. The deaths are caused by malaria, septicaemia and typhoid.
<b>AD 1997</b>	<b>Jan.</b>	Over 2,000 LTTE fighters stream Parantahn in the North smashing through forward defence line built by the security forces and briefly cutting off army-occupied Kilinochchi on 9 January. Simultaneous LTTE offensive on Elephant Pass military base prevent army reinforcements. The main thrust of the LTTE attack come from LTTE controlled Mullaitivu in the east and Pooneryan area in the west taken over by the LTTE after army withdrawal in October 1996. Over 230 soldiers reported killed and 400 wounded. The government claim 500 Tigers killed, whereas other reports say 170 Tigers killed and 300 injured.
		Nearly 1,350 people arrive in Trincomalee from Vavuniya to travel by ship to Jaffna in early January. They are forced into crowded living conditions in two welfare centres. Over 7,800 reported to have applied to go to Jaffna and awaiting clearance.
		Indian Foreign Minister's visit to Sri Lanka: Indian Foreign Minister Kumar Gujral arrives in Colombo on 19 January on a four-day official visit and to participate in the Indo-Lanka Joint Commission, set up in 1991 to improve bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The two governments sign an agreement for the promotion and protection of investment between the


		countries. Mr Gujaral announces removal of restrictions and lower tariff for over 70 Sri Lankan produce imported to India.
		On 21 January Mr Gujaral meets the Tamil political parties and tells them that India would not interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka as it had “burned its hands once”. Mr Gujaral further says that India would be prepared to provide humanitarian assistance of Rs 50 million (\$ 1 million) for reconstruction of the north-east.
<b>22 Jan.</b>		Local Council Elections: On 22 January, the government announces that local government elections will be held on 27 March. The announcement states that there will be no elections in the north-east and in the south polls will be for 198 zonal councils [Pradeshiya Sabas], 31 urban councils and 12 municipal councils. The announcement to hold elections two months ahead against normal practice is believed to be to remove the advantage of opposition United National Party (UNP) that controls currently 192 local councils.
<b>27 Jan.</b>		On 27 January, Local Government minister Amarasiri Dodangoda dissolves 237 councils transferring responsibility of local administration to the Divisional Secretaries who are directly controlled from Colombo.
<b>Jan. 29</b>		Soon after Mr Gujaral’s visit, US State Department’s South Asian Affairs Assistant Secretary Robin Raphazel arrives in Colombo, also on a four-day visit. Ms Raphazel visits Vavuniya to observe the military and humanitarian situation in the north. During her visit, Ms Raphazel confirms US government’s denial that increased military assistance to Sri Lanka means it has become involved in the ongoing war. Currently two US Commando teams are providing training to the Sri Lankan Security forces and the US Navy is said to be involved in joint exercise off Tangalle. The US Airforce is also said to be providing assistance in Sri Lanka.
		<b>US REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS:</b> US State Department releases Sri Lanka Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1996.
		Political Detainees go on Hunger Strike: One hundred and Fifty Tamil detainees in Kalutara prison begin hunger strike opposing prolonged detention without trial in late January.
		Asylum Seekers go on Hunger Strike: Sixteen Tamil asylum seekers detained in Rochester prison in Kent in the United Kingdom go on hunger-strike against lengthy custody. Three of them became seriously ill and taken to


		<p>hospital for dehydration treatment in early February. British Home Office refuses to give written reasons for detaining asylum seekers. Prisons minister Ann Widdecome insists that there are compelling grounds for detaining some 180 asylum seekers. The Refugee Council Chief Executive Nick Harwick states that imprisonment of those seeking protection from persecution is inhuman and calls for judicial review of refugee detention.</p>
		<p>Refugees Rescued: On 24 January Italian rescue services rescues 154 refugees, including 78 Tamils from a sinking ship south of Italy.</p>
	<b>Feb. 1</b>	<p>LTTE attack on Army: LTTE launch a major attack on army bases south of Kilinochchi and simultateously attacks on five other military posts including Paranthan, four miles north, and Elephant Pass Army camp on February 1, forcing the Sri Lankan troops to withdraw a mile from Kilinochchi defences. In two days intense fighting army say that 103 soldiers killed and the LTTE announce 150 cadre died.</p>
		<p>THAMPALAKAMAM MASSACRE: Six Tamils attending a house warming party at Pokkuruni in Thampalakamam, 12 miles south-east of Trincomalee town, and two other villagers are massacred by police and Home Guards inside a police post. Among those killed were two students. Around 3,5000 people go on demonstration in Kantalai protesting police attemp to pressure witnesses to sign statements claiming those killed were LTTE cadre.</p>
	<b>Feb. 4</b>	<p>OPERATION EDIBALA (Gallant Force): As the government celebrate the 49<sup>th</sup> year of Independence, the Sri Lankan army launch <i>Operation Edibala</i> on the Mannar-Vavuniya road. With artillery and air cover, troops advance west from Poovarasankulam, another column move north-east from Cheddikulam on the Medawachchiya-Mannar road. A third unit advance on the Madhu-Periyathambanai road from Piramanalankulam. The army brings Parayanalankulam, 22 miles west of Vavuniya under control and advance further west to Madhu Junction on 17 February. On 22 February government announces that troops have secured link with Mannar Island relieving a 700 sq. mile territory controlled by the LTTE for the last 15 years, and Mannar-Vavuniya and Madawachchiya-Mannar roads will be open for traffic.</p>
	<b>Feb. 9</b>	<p>Muslim-Tamil violence errupts in Oddamavady, a Muslim village in Batticaloa District after LTTE shot dead a</p>





		<p>Muslim Home Guard. Angry muslims burned two Tamils alive and hacked to death three others. Three Muslims are butchered in Karuvakerni. As situation worsen, M L A M Hisbullah, Deputy Minister of Posts rushes to the east to attempt reconcillation between the communities. As Mr Hisbullah tries to arrange a peace conference on 10 February, Oddamavady village is shelled and two muslims killed and several others injured. Four days later again the Muslim village comes under shell attack wounding 12 people. UNP Member of Parliament Alishahir Moulana says that the shells are fired from army-controlled areas.</p>
<b>Feb. 17</b>		<p>British Refugee Council launches its report entitled “Protection Denied: Sri Lankan Tamils, the Home Office and the forgotten Civil war” in London. The report follows a Refugee Council mission to Sri Lanka led by Chief Executive Nick Hardwick in December 1996.</p>
<b>Feb. 19</b>		<p>Over 130 Tamil refugees fleeing to India drown when the overcrowded trawler capsized in sea within a mile from Nachchikudah, 26 miles north of Mannar. The LTTE launch a rescue operation and divers recover 94 bodies, many of them women and children displaced from Jaffna following military operations in December 1995. Twenty-two people are saved. M Sivasithamparam, leader of Tamil United Liberation front (TULF) blames the Sri Lankan government and writes a strong letter to President Chandrika Kumaratunge drawing attention to the plight of Tamils fleeing the north and the risks that they take to flee the country.</p>
<b>Feb.20</b>		<p>Sri Lanka Defence Secretary meets Tamil Nadu Chief Minister: Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Chandrananda de Silva meets Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Mr Karunanidhi to discuss disputes over fishing in the Palk Strait and the continued presence of the LTTE in Tamil Nadu.</p>
		<p>Jain Commission Report: The Jain Commission appointed to investigate conspiracies behind Rajiv Gandhi Murder alledge that deliberate attempts have been made by the Narasimha Rao Congress (I) government to suppress evidence to mislead the Commission. Crucial files are tampered with and vital files gone missing.</p>
		<p>Detainees Tortured: Eight Hil Country Tamil youths held in Bogambara prison in Kandy writes to President Chndrika Kumaratunge that they are held in detetion for several years without any access to courts. They say that they have been tortured and forced to sign confessions in the Sinhala language which they do not understand. They</p>

		also say that they have not been informed of the reasons for arrest and detention.
		Batticaloa MP Joseph Pararajasingam raising a new concern with the Attorney General says that the police are filing new charges against Tamil youths released by the courts in order to detain them further.
<b>May 13</b>		<b><u>OPERATION JAYASIKURUI</u></b> : The government troops launch Operation Jayasukuri from Vavuniya north along the Kandy-Jaffna Road.
		In the first half of the year, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary killings and disappearances continue to occur on a large scale. At least 16 Tamil civilians are killed by army or navy personnel in various incidents on the Jaffna peninsula between January and May. In March alone, 10 Tamils are killed in the army-controlled towns of Vavuniya and Batticaloa which indicate death squads active in the area. According to Kilinochchi government secretariat records released in December 1997, 73 civilians who went into Army controlled areas from LTTE held territory, between July 1996 and May 1997 to inspect their houses go missing. There is a startling increase in gang-rape, involuntary disappearances in the Northeast and in Colombo and in cases of extra-judicial executions. Moreover, 1,700 Tamil youth are held in detention in March. Gang rape is committed in several cases, the worst of which results in the death of Amparai resident Murugeasapillai Koneswari who is killed by a grenade inserted into her vagina.
<b>Oct. 3</b>		Sri Lanka ratifies International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Optiona Protocol to the ICCPR.
<b>Oct. 24</b>		<b><u>The government presents its proposals for Constitutional Reforms to Parliament.</u></b>
		<b><u>US Human Rights Report on Sri Lanka</u></b> : The US State Department's human rights report for 1997 classifies impunity as a serious problem in Sri Lanka. The report says that torture by security forces is another serious problem. Methods of torture included electric shock, beatings, suspension by wrists or feet, burnings, suspension by wrists or feet, burnings and drownings. Victims are forced to remain for extended periods with bags laced with chillie, petrol or insecticide over their heads. Detainees report broken bones and other serious injuries as a result of mistreatment.
<b>Dec. 10</b>		Over 5000 persons from the border villages of Vavuniya, Moneragala, Trincomalee and Puttalam in the Northeastern province and plantaion travels to Vihara

			Maha Devi Park in the Central Colombo to join in the Human Rights Day Celebrations on 10 December. The rally ends with lighting of lamps from hand to hand.
			S G Punchihewa, the Chairman of the Fact-Finding Mission on the Boarder Villages releases its 3 month fact finding mission report.
<b>AD 1998</b>			<b>OPERATION JAYASIKURUI (Certain Victory):</b> In early January, Ari Lankan Army announces that troops are advancing on two fronts from east and west has taken controal of Kanagarayankulam, seven miles south of Mankulam, following heavy fighting
	<b>Jan. 25</b>		<b><u>Bombing of Buddhist Temple:</u></b> Sri Lanka's most sacred Buddhist Shrine Dalada Maligawa in the Kandy town sustain extensive damage when suspected LTTE guerrillas explode a bomb on a suicide mission. Thirteen civilian, including children die in the attack. In reprisal, angry crowd attacked the Selvavinayagar hindu temple, half mile west and smashed icons of Hindu gods. The crowd also burnt down the temple chariot of the Muthumariamman temple at Gurudeniya, six miles southeast of kandy town. Ten Tamil-owened homes and shops were also attacked and damaged. The attempt to burn down the Hindu Maha Sabhai Cultural Centre was averted by the police.
	<b>Jan. 27</b>		<b><u>Proscription of LTTE:</u></b> As emotins ran high in the aftermath of the boming of Buddhist Shrine, the government proscribe the LTTE. The LTTE was first banned in 1978 by the Proscription of the Liberation Tigers and Similar Organisations which was repealed the following year by the Prevention of Terrorism act.
	<b>Jan. 31</b>		The four Mahanayake theras or highpriests of the four main Buddhists sects rejects the government devolution proposals. The theras oppose the prposed union of regions replacing the current unitory state and determination of the unit of devolution on ethnic basis. They say the peace package would lead to the separate state for Tamils in the northeast or Tamil Eelam.
	<b>Mar. 23-25</b>		The Asian Regional Ministers meet to discuss Transnational Crime in Manila on the invitation of the Government of the Philippines and adopts the <b><u>Manila Declaration</u></b> on the Prevention and Control of Transnational Crime.
	<b>Apr. 17</b>		Commonwealth Secretary General Emeka Anyaoku, arrives in Sri Lanka on a three-day visit says that the time is right for efforts to end the war. During the visit he has met government officials involved in peace initiatives and

		discuss the prospects of peace. The LTTE invites him to come to Vanni, but unable to go to Vanni returns to London.
<b>Apr. 22</b>		<b>OPERATION TIGER HUNT:</b> The Sri Lankan army launch Operation Tiger Hunt in Muthur in Trincomalee District following reports that the LTTE are massing in the area for a major offensive.
<b>Apr. 23</b>		Amnesty International calls on the Sri Lankan government to make public the findings of the Bandula Kulatunghe Committee which probed disappearances in Jaffna.
<b>May 7</b>		The LTTE leaders meet UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu in the Vanni and pledge not to recruit children or engage them in combat.
<b>May 12</b>		India announces a two-year extension of the ban on the LTTE, imposed in May 1992, after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
<b>May 17</b>		Suspected LTTE cadre shot dead Jaffna Mayor Sarojini Yogeswaran, 63, at her home in Army-controlled Nallur in Jaffna.
<b>May 27</b>		Sri Lanka's aid donor countries, meeting in Paris, approve \$ 780 million in aid and call on all parties to rise above partisan politics and unite in the cause of peace.
<b>Jun. 5</b>		The government imposes censorship on military news for the third time since September 1995, and for the first time appoint a military officer as Competent Authority for censorship.
<b>JUN. 10</b>		<b>SUTHANTHIRAPURAM MASSACRE:</b> The Sri Lankan airforce bomb Suthanthirapuram in Mullaitivu District on June 10, killing 25 civilians and injuring 52 others.
<b>Jun. 20</b>		Over 100 Tamils are rounded-up in Ratnapura, after an electricity transformer was blasted with a bomb.
<b>Jun. 22</b>		<b>OPERATION INDRA SERA (Solar Power):</b> The army capture part of LTTE controlled Vaharai area, north of Batticaloa town, in Operation Indra Sera.
<b>Jun. 27-28</b>		International Conference on Hindu Solidarity held in France condemns attacks perpetrated by armed forces on Hindus and Hindu temples in Sri Lanka. The 2-day conference held at the Conference hall of the UNESCO in Paris is ceremonially opened by Nepal's ambassador in France Indra Bahadur. Participants for the conference include delegates from South Africa, Mauritius, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, USA, UK, France, India and Germany.
<b>Jul. 1</b>		The government follow the imposition of islandwide censorship by cutting food aid to the north-east from 1

			<p>July 1998 aimed at bringing pressure on the LTTE. Food rations are cut by 57% which worsen the suffering of refugees. After widespread protests, the food supply is restored to army-controlled areas.</p>
<b>Jul. 3</b>			<p><b><u>Sri Lanka: A Step forward for the protection of Human Rights:</u></b> Five soldiers and a policeman are convicted of the rape and murder of a Tamil school girl are Krishanthu Kumarasamy and four others. They are sentenced to death, by a specially constituted High Court without a jury, in the murder case. Because of large amounts of publicity about the case, the government set up a special commission to investigate the incident, which has led to this conviction. One of the soldiers Somaratne Rajapakse makes the statement to the court that they only buried bodies but they did not commit te crimes. He discloses that he can identify a mass grave at Chemmani, Jaffna where nearly 400 bodies lie buried. This statement corroborates the Amnesty International report that 600-700 people disappeared from Jaffna during the 18 month period following the capture of Jaffna by the Government forces.</p> <p>A request for the extension of the “Human Rights Disappearnce Commission” is made by TULF. Subject to preesure from the international community, Tamil organisations and local Tamil politicians, the goernment concede and begins the probe. After being referred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the Joint Commission (with the Human Rights Commission) prepares to begin exhumation of the grave. London based human rights agency Amnesty International says that it is imperative that evidence be properly collected and preserved for future use in court.</p>
<b>Jul. 15</b>			<p>The Sinhala news paper Yuthiya publishes a map of the mass grave sght and names three army generals,Brig. Sri Lal Weerasuriya, Brig. Janaka Perera ( General implicated in mass graves in the south of Sri Lanka during JVP insurrection of early 1990s) and Brig. Karunatilake who are servine in the North are responsile for the areas conaining the site of alleged mass graves. Jaffna civilians and the Human Rights Commission accuses the army of iping out all evidence of the mass graves on 31 July. The road to the site is closed by the army. Civilians demand the re-opening of the road.</p>
<b>Jul. 20</b>			<p>Two bombs explode in a room of a substation of a private cellular telephone company in the Sri lankan suburban</p>

		<p>town of Nittambuwa, 40 kilometers from Colombo. One police Inspector is seriously injured in the explosion. Police rule out any possibility of the LTTE involvement in the attack. According to police sources during the past two months over 25 telecommunication installations and electricity transformers have been attacked in a similar manner. It is alleged that rivalry between private telecommunication companies are the cause for such bomb attacks.</p>
<b>Jul. 25</b>		<p>Forty-five Tamil refugees, including five children, are swept away in the sea, when an overcrowded boat sank near Rameswaram in the Indian Southern coast of Tamil Nadu.</p>
<b>Jul. 29</b>		<p>The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, holds it's meeting in Colombo, bringing together leaders from the nations of Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Npal, Bhutan Bangladesh and the Maldives. Just two days before the meeting around fifty Tamils were arrested in the capital. Police claim the men are members of the LTTE and they were planning a terrorist attack on the city. The meeting is the first since the Indian and Pakistani nuclear bomb tests. The meeting discussed the emerging international criminal court, economic growth of the region, and working towards poverty eradication in the region. Significant progress are made in the economic arena. The South Asian Free Trade area ( SAFTA), agreement is reinforced, emphasising the urgency to establish free trade in the area by 2001. The South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement, passed in 1995, are also underscored. This agreement allows for lower tariffs between member nations. Underlying tension between India and Pakistan, and the concern for safety of other nations, results in a strained environment for the leaders to negotiate in other areas.</p> <p>The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan meet for the first time since the nuclear tests in June. A mutual agrgreement is made between the two countries to cease all nuclear testing. The two also discussed the fallout from nuclear tests and restart talks within the foreign ministers between New Delhi and Islambad. The most heated debate reported to have revolved around the fate of Kashmir.</p>
<b>Aug. 4</b>		<p>President Chandrika Kumaratunghe extends the state of Emergency to the whole of Sri Lanka, and indefinitely postpone elections for the five Provincial Councils</p>


		scheduled for 28 August.
<b>Aug. 10</b>		<p>Thousands of Tamils demonstrate outside the United Nations' European headquarters in support of a call for an international probe of alleged mass graves in the northern Sri Lanka. In a letter, the demonstrators urge UN Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson to investigate the alleged burial by Sri Lankan security forces.</p> <p>Addressing the rally, Mr Anton Ponrajah the coordinating secretary of the International Federation of Tamils calls on the international community to recognise that the genocide is going on and has to be stopped.</p>
<b>Aug. 18</b>		<b>DENMARK SIGNS FOR REPATRIATION OF TAMIL REFUGEES:</b> Denmark signs a bilateral agreement with Sri Lanka, for the phased repatriation of rejected asylum-seekers.
<b>Aug. 23</b>		<p>Lance Corporal Somaratne, the soldier who was convicted in the Krishanthi rape and murder case, is attacked by Welikade prison guards and admitted to the prison hospital. In a statement to the Human Rights Commission, Somaratne alleges that he is threatened and forced by guards to retract his allegations, first made when he was being sentenced.</p> <p>Amnesty International (AI) expresses fears for the safety of the soldier, in its press statement on 26 August drawing attention to the deaths of Tamil and Muslim detainees at Kalutara prison. The AI statement says that a presidential commission of inquiry was appointed to investigate the killings but findings have not been made public.</p>
<b>SEP. 7</b>		The new ministerial Committee, the Committee of Inquiry into Undue Arrest and Harassment (CIUAH), [formerly known as the Anti-harrassment Task Force] established in July 1998, headed by Cultural Minister Lakshman Jayakody, issues guidelines to security forces on search operations, arrest and detention. The guidelines say that arrest should be made only if evidence is available against the person, who must be informed of the reasons for the arrest, relatives should receive brief written reasons and informed of the place of detention. Human rights NGOs say that CIUAH's guidelines are already contained in the Presidential Directives under Emergency regulations and have rarely been followed.
<b>Sep. 10</b>		Government troops carry out military operations targeting LTTE defence positions and bunkers near Mankulam town. According to defense spokesman Brigadier Sunil Tennakoon, around 25 Tigers and eight soldiers are killed

		and several others wounded in the battle. There is no immediate response from the LTTE on their casualties.
<b>Sep. 11</b>		A bomb planted in the ceiling of the Jaffna municipality office at Nallur, explodes while top military and police officials are having a meeting with local authorities on traffic arrangements. Twelve people are killed including Jaffna army commander Brigadier Susantha Mendis, Police superintendent Chandra Perera, two police assistant superintendents and Jaffna Mayor P Sivapalan who is also a member of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF). The military spokesman says that their initial investigations confirms that the LTTE is responsible for the explosion.
<b>Sep. 19</b>		The LTTE and Government of Sri Lanka agree for a ceasefire on September 19 and September 20 to facilitate UNICEF's Polio vaccine program for children in Vanni.
<b>Sep. 21</b>		President Chandrika Kumaratunge addressing the UN General Assembly, rule out peace talks with the LTTE without pre-conditions. Subsequently, she also rejected third-party mediation.
<b>Sep. 23</b>		<b>Defence Expenditure:</b> The Sri Lankan Parliament approves an additional Rs. 12.2 billion (\$ 187 million) making the 1998 defence expenditure as Rs. 57.2 billion (\$880 million).
<b>Sep. 27</b>		<b>OPERATION OYATHA ALAIGAL II (Unceasing Waves):</b> The LTTE launch Oyatha Alaigal II to capture Kilinochchi. The following day, five miles of Jaffna-Vavuniya Road and Kilinochchi town, which has been wrested from the LTTE control in September 1996 falls to the LTTE. Large number of soldiers killed and arms and equipments captured by the LTTE. The LTTE handover, 672 dead bodies of soldiers to the ICRC in early October.
<b>Sep. 29</b>		<b>OPERATION CERTAIN VICTORY (Certain Victory):</b> Sri Lankan troops capture Mankulam Town. Operation Jayasikurui was launched in May 1997 allegedly to open a landroute to Jaffna through LTTE-controlled Vanni.
		A plane belonging to the private Company Lion-Air from Jaffna, with 48 civilian passengers and seven crew that took off from Jaffna's palaly airport disappear over Iranaitivu Islands, 22 miles north of Mannar. Later fishermen said that Sri Lankan Navuy had discovered some bodies in the area. Beginning from early August, LTTE is said to have issued several warnings to the Private airlines Monera and Lion Air not to use the flights for military purposes. Monera airlines suspend their



		flights to Jaffna on September 17, following threats from the LTTE. Posters and leaflets appear in Jaffna urging people not to use air travel after September 23 alleging that the air services are being used for transporting troops.
<b>SEP.</b>		<b>SRI LANKAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION APPEALS FOR ASSISTANCE:</b> The Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission appeals to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), Mary Robinson for forensic assistance, after an accused in the Krishathy Kumarasamy murder case claims that he knew the location at Chemmani in Jaffna where the bodies of 400 Tamils murdered in custody are buried.
		The Government refuses to give permission to the UNHCHR to send forensic experts, but invites Amnesty International who refuses to participate in the investigation without guarantee of security.
<b>Oct. 9</b>		Sri Lanka Fisheries Ministry announces the launch of U.S\$ 5.3 million Fisheries harbour construction project at Puranwella in the South of the country funded by the Asian development Bank. The project has been handed over to a Chinese Company. Once completed the harbour will have a depth of 3.5 meters with 10 hectares basin and will be able to accommodate 300 multiday boats at a time. It will also have a fish receiving station, an ice producing factory and auction halls. The project which is expected to end in 18 months time will be the biggest fishery harbour in Sri Lanka.
<b>OCT. 22</b>		Business organisations in Sri Lanka, including the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Exporters Association, urge cooperation between the major political parties to achieve peace, and adopt a 10-point work plan.
<b>NOV. 6</b>		The Government further announces Rs 47 billion (\$ 700 million) for defence in the budget for 1999 on November 6, and increased the National Defence Levy from 4.5% to 5.5%.
<b>Nov. 11</b>		Colombo High Court allows the attorney general's department to file a case against LTTE leader Prabhakaran, intelligence chief <i>Pottu Amman</i> and five other LTTE members for the January 1996 Central bank bombing. Court officials say on 12 November that Sri Lanka will try the LTTE leader and others in absentia as the attempts to arrest Prabhakaran has failed.
<b>NOV. 21</b>		LTTE leader V Prabhakaran, in a message marking annual commemoration of martyred cadre, urge the government for initial discussions to create a congenial climate for

		peace talks.
	<b>NOV. 28</b>	Over 30 Tamil detainees in Kalutara prison begins hunger strike demanding trial or release from custody.
	<b>DEC. 4</b>	<b>OPERATION RIVI BALA (SUN POWER):</b> Over 15,000 people flee to Puthukudiyiruppu from Oddusuddan in the Vanni, when the Army launch Operation Rivi Bala on December 4.
	<b>Dec. 10</b>	The Citizen's Commission on Boarder Villages say in their report that the army is using people in villages bordering the north-east war zones as forced labour without wages.
	<b>Dec. 11</b>	Sri Lanka under severe pressure from the international community moves control over censorship on war news from the military to a civilian and relaxes the rules for foreign media. However, the government retains military censorship of local.
	<b>Dec. 12</b>	The hardline National Movement Against Terrorism attempts to disrupt the inaugural meeting of the National Alliance for Peace in Colombo.
<b>AD 1999</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>MASS ARREST IN VALAICHENAI:</b> The security forces search villages in Valaichenai in the Batticaloa district, and arrest over 200 Tamils.
	<b>Jan. 8</b>	The Vavuniya Government Agent reports that Vavuniya divisional areas are worst affected by floods caused by torrential rains during the period of last two weeks since 26 December. Twenty-five thousand people belonging to 6,781 families have been affected in the Vavuniya District. Eight minor irrigation reservoirs are breached and 1,00 hectares of paddy fields and 11,300 hectares of black gram cultivation are destroyed.
	<b>Jan. 15</b>	Indian Supreme Court reserves judgement in the Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case in which the trial court had awarded death sentences to all the 26 accused.
	<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>PROTEST OVER TRANSPORT:</b> Hundreds among the 5,000 Jaffna people stranded in Trincomalee, demonstrate demanding transport to the Jaffna peninsula.
	<b>Feb. 26</b>	<b>PEACE MARCH IN COLOMBO:</b> Thousands of people march in Colombo demanding the political parties to unite in ending the war.
	<b>Mar. 4</b>	<b>OPERATION RANA GOSHA (BATTLE CRY):</b> The Sri Lankan army launch Operation Rana Gosha in the Vanni displace over 14,000 civilians.
	<b>MAR. 9</b>	<b>BOMB EXPLOSION IN COLOMBO:</b> Over 100 Tamils are arrested in Colombo, after a bomb explode inside a bus killing a passenger and wounding 15 others.

<b>Jun. 16</b>		Forensic investigators Professor Niriellage Chandrasiri and six other Judicial Medical Officers begin excavation of the first site in Chemmani in Jaffna.
<b>Jun. 17-18</b>		The work at Chemmani continues on 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> June. Two sets of human skeletal remains are exhumed on 17 <sup>th</sup> and another two sets on the 18 <sup>th</sup> . The skeletal remains are shown to six persons. Sathis Kumar Shanthi identifies the personal effects found with the set of human skeletal remains as that of her husband Rasiyah Sathi Kumar. Mahendran Vanitha and Sivaneswaran Rita identify the personal effects found with the other set of human skeletal remains as that of their brother Mahendran Baou. Having done 'Mitochondrial DNA Analysis' Prof. Chandrasiri expresses the opinion that Rasiyah Sathis Kumar had died as a result of severe brain injury resulting from one or more blows to the head with a heavy club. Mahendran Baou died due to a blow on the left side of the face over the left Zygomatic arch.
<b>Nov. 15</b>		The Special Rapporteur informs the government of Sri Lanka by letter dated 15 November that he continues to receive information on the practice of torture and other forms of ill treatment in the context of the ongoing armed conflict between the security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.
<b>Dec. 18</b>		Thirty three people are killed and more than 180 wounded in a bomb attack on presidential election meetings in Colombo and Ja-Ela. A suicide bomber targets President Chandrika Kumaratunge while she is leaving the stage in Colombo town hall where the ruling People's Alliance Party holds its final election meeting. President Chandrika, Justice minister GL Peiris, Provincial Councils minister Kingsley Wickremaratne are among the wounded. Colombo's deputy police chief T N de Silva is killed by the bomb. At about the same time, fifteen people, including former Army Commander Lucky Algama are killed in an attack on the main opposition United National Party's (UNP) election rally in Ja-Ela, 11 miles north of Colombo.
<b>Dec. 21</b>		UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances says in its report published today that Sri Lanka remains the country with the second largest number of non-clarified cases of disappearances.  In an election marred by violence, Chandrika Kumaratunge is re-elected for another six-year term,

			defeating Ranil Wickramasinghe by 709,900 votes. Chandrika takes 515 of the 8,635,000 votes cast, while the UNP leader gains 42% winning in only 21 of the 160 electorates. Over 73% of the 11.7 million registered voters turn out to vote.
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