

**SRI
LANKA
SITUATION
REPORT**

EDITOR
S. Sivanayagam

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

SITUATION REPORT

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

DPL 'secrets bag' missing

Airlanka's now too infamous flight UL 527 has done it again. Hot on the heels of the Harare debacle a week before, the ill-starred flight caused a serious diplomatic crisis in West Europe. At the centre of the latest furore, was Lanka's diplomatic bag containing some of the country's top secrets.

The bag consigned on airway's bill No. 60313213583 on September 6, 1986 on Air Lanka flight UL 527 has simply vanished into thin air. One of Lanka's leading missions in West Europe made frantic efforts for one whole week to locate the DPL bag but with no avail until the afternoon of September 12. Telexes and international long distance telephone lines were kept buzzing between several European capitals and Colombo. But the bag could not be located.

The foreign office in Colombo too made desperate attempts to determine where the diplomatic pouch had found its way with the compliments of Airlanka. While its whereabouts still remain a mystery, SUN learns that irate officials at the foreign office decided to seek the services of another international airline to take its regular DPL bags hereafter to Europe.

(Sun - 13th September, 1986)

3 Commandos killed

Security forces yesterday launched a major offensive against terrorist groups in hiding in the Batticaloa district as seven days of fighting in the Eastern Province left three police commandos dead on Tuesday night.

The commandos were killed when a Claymore mine exploded at Vinayagapuram, a half a mile away from the Thirukkivil junction and 35 miles south of Batticaloa...

(Sun - 18th September, 1986)

Fr. Singarayer - separate trial

Colombo High Court yesterday decided to take up the trial against the first accused,

Fr. Abaranam Singarayer in the Chavakachcheri terrorist harbouring case separately from the other four accused.

Colombo High Court Judge T. Suntheralingam made this order on a primary objection raised by the Senior Defence Counsel Bala Tampoe against trying Fr. Singarayer along with the other accused in the case...

(Sun - 18th September, 1986)

Amnesty charge rejected

Government yesterday categorically rejected claims by the international human rights organisation Amnesty International, alleging persecution of political dissidents and minorities in Sri Lanka.

"The Government totally rejects the statements, assertions, conclusions and suggestions made by the Amnesty International in its two part report entitled "Disappearances in Sri Lanka" a statement issued by the Media Centre said. In rejecting the allegations of AI which had documented the alleged disappearances of 272 persons, the Government's 12-page reply said the organisation was free to file action against the alleged disappearances in courts...

(Sun - 30th September, 1986)

Ronnie sees 'bleak future', if...

Sri Lanka Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel, warned in an interview before he left for the Commonwealth Finance Minister's meeting and IMF/World Bank annual meeting, that if the "civil war conditions" in the North and East of Sri Lanka continued not only foreign banks, but many others including foreign airlines and foreign trading companies will put out of Sri Lanka.

"The result will be the most bleak economic future for Sri Lanka", he said. He said however that no foreign bank had as yet pulled out. Some foreign banks had suffered losses in Sri Lanka, while the Sri Lanka state owned banks like the Bank of Ceylon and People's Bank, continued to make profits.

The civil troubles during the last three years had certainly had disastrous effects on foreign investment, foreign trade and foreign tourism. "As a result foreign banks have also suffered", he said.

He said "People should understand this and help the Government to achieve peace, without playing politics, and splitting hairs on various matters and talking without any basis, while the country is slowly but surely going down to complete ruin".....

(The Island - 14th September, 1986)

Plantation situation worsens

The Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC) leadership will meet President Jayewardene at noon today to discuss what a CWC spokesman described as the rapidly deteriorating situation in the plantation area.

The sources claimed that of late the government administrative machinery in the plantation sector have turned aggressively on estate Tamils, arresting them on suspicion of terrorist collusion.

(The Island - 30th September, 1986)

Now, a 4. star General

Joint Operations Command (JOC) Chief Lt. General Cyril Ranatunga has been promoted to the rank of a four-star General. The promotion will take effect retrospectively from August 1.

General Ranatunga is Sri Lanka's second General. The only other army officer to hold this rank is General Sepala Attygala who is Defence Secretary.

(Sun - 16th September, 1986)

P.M.'s man in the news

Police were yesterday conducting investigations into an incident where two persons allegedly attempted to pry open the vehicle of the Prime Minister's Press Secretary Evans Cooray.

They made a getaway after being spotted by a passerby who raised cries, DIG Neil Weerasinghe told SUN. Fifty grams of cannabis and an S.G. type bullet were found near the vehicle which was parked outside Mr. Cooray's residence, he said.

(Sun - 19th September, 1986)

Grenade flung into CWC office

Three persons including a woman were injured when a hand grenade was flung at the Ceylon Workers' Congress office in Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha yesterday night. The injured were rushed to the Accident Service and a Police team began on-the-spot investigations on the incident late last night, Police said.

They said the hand grenade was flung into the compound of the CWC office building. The Government Analyst will complete investigations today, SUN learns.

(Sun - 17th September, 1986)

(Continued on page 7)

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from July 24–August 11 were carried in Issue No. 19 of the Situation Report

AUGUST 12

Three soldiers killed in an attack by LTTE guerrillas opposite Aathikonesar Temple as a convoy of over 100 soldiers leave camp at 13th mile post, Trincomalee for Tampalakamam. A second attempt to proceed to Tampalakamam, with air cover by bombers and helicopters, too foiled after heavy fighting between the parties for several hours. Militants claim to have killed many soldiers and captured A.K. rifles, M 16 grenades and helmets in the confrontation. Aathikonesar Temple damaged in air attack.

Kulasingam Uthayakumar (25), said to be a mental patient, shot dead by sentry at Jaffna Fort, near the Chelvanayakam Memorial Pillar. Body lying at Jaffna hospital mortuary.

Sand bags bunker put up by PLOT shelled from inside Jaffna Fort. PLOT sentries retaliate. Gun battle for over 1/2 an hour.

Stamps and cash to the value of Rs. 128,000 robbed from Kalmunai post office on 9th by armed gang.

AUGUST 13

Over a hundred STF commandos come out of Police - Army Joint camp, Akaraipattu, on foot, for patrolling areas around the camp. LTTE guerrillas fling hand grenades injuring a number of commandos. Firing indiscriminately, commandos retreat to camp carrying injured with them.

Conservancy porter Kokilan Moharasa (27), father of 2 children, shot dead by gun fire from Jaffna Fort as he was going along Muneeswaram road towards Jaffna Fort.

Resident devotees Konamalai (55), his wife Seethaipillai (50), Nadesappillai (50), Tharmarajah (30) and two more elderly men, yet to be identified, killed in air attack on Aathikonesar temple, Trincomalee, yesterday.

More than 8 corpses lying at hospital mortuary, Jaffna without Judicial Medical Officer to conduct post-mortem examinations.

Areas around Navarkuli army camp shelled from inside camp. Shrapnel of shell that exploded on Kopay - Kaithady road hits motor cyclist Velayuthan (47). Admitted to hospital with severe injuries.

AUGUST 14

Brigadier Jerry Silva takes over as Army Co-ordinating Officer, Jaffna District, succeeding Brigadier H.F. Rupasinghe.

Lorry taking chillies and rice from Vavuniya to Colombo waylaid at Katkulam Mihintalai and set on fire along with driver Periyasamy (30), Columpan (35) and Senthil (24) by armed Sinhala goondas.

LTTE guerrillas attack an army contingent of over 50 soldiers on their way to Komarankaduwa from Morawewa camp, on foot, using 'Cannon Charge' mortar and kill 6 soldiers. Many more are reported injured. Soldiers retreat to camp in disarray.

Day and night shell and artillery fire from inside Valvettiturai and Thondamanaru camps, over the past few days, disrupt normal life. Houses damaged, farms, cattle and poultry neglected. Some children and a militant among those injured. Situation being unbearable LTTE conducts 'sniper' attack and sentry at Valvettiturai army camp is killed. Following this, helicopter gunship circles Valvettiturai and strafes the area. Continued tension.

AUGUST 15

Helicopter gunship pounds a fishing boat in Sampaltivu seas. Three fishermen killed and boat completely burnt.

Seventeen members, including 6 girls, of the proscribed Jathika Vimukthi Peramuna arrested by Galle Police; said to have conducted classes and indulged in anti-government activities.

Passenger coach from Colombo to Jaffna stoned by Sinhalese goondas at a point near Anuradhapura. Window shutters shattered. A woman passenger and driver injured.

Kilinochchi Citizens' Committee adopts resolution to request army authorities to refrain from firing artillery mortars and shells from inside army camp so as to defuse tension and thus inducing those who evacuated Kilinochchi to return to their homes.

Unidentified armed youths attack circuit bungalow in Yala Sanctuary from across the river Menik Ganga. Foreign and local tourists were occupying the bungalow at time of attack. Four Wild Life Dept. employees injured.

AUGUST 16

Passengers to Colombo from Jaffna, permitted to entrain at Vavuniya only after approval by masked man at the railway station. R. Jayakkody (30), K. Singaravelu (37), J. Jegatheeswaran (35), P. Selvarasa (20), R. Navaratnaraja (21), and A. Dilip Kumar arrested and detained at the nodding of this individual.

Age old St. Anthony's Church in Kurusaditivu, lying within a radius of a mile from Jaffna, demolished by armed forces camping at Mandaitivu junction. This year's festivities are abandoned, due to army movements in the area.

PLA military wing of EPRLF, firing resolutely for over one hour chases 2 helicopter gunships circling and strafing Kandavalai area. Helicopter returning later in the afternoon fires at a tractor, sets it ablaze and flies away.

STF commandos enter Sinna Uppodai ward in Batticaloa town and arrest more than 300 Tamil youths. Arrested taken to Kalladi camp and lined up before a masked man. Six detained at camp on nodding by him and the rest released.

Thondamanaru camp being expanded in a big way embracing Rice Mill, Textile Demonstration centre, Irrigation buildings area and fortified with sand bag bunkers on the northern end.

LTTE in a statement says that 339 freedom fighters from their group have so far laid their lives in the liberation struggle and proclaims that "Everyone of them will fight to the last to win freedom for our people"

AUGUST 17

In Valvettiturai, LTTE guerrillas mount offensive as a convoy of over 50 soldiers, firing heavily, attempts to come out of army camp. In the gun battle, a guerrilla is injured. Army retreats.

In Mannar town, men, women and children of all ages, numbering over 1000, rounded up and arrested by armed forces. Those arrested are detained near the Mannar bridge for a few hours. All but 10 released later after interrogation.

M. Ponnamma, mother of 7, shot dead by armed forces on 'search operations' in Periyathuraineelavanai. She was preparing tea at time of the incident and died on the spot.

All circuit bungalows in Yala Sanctuary closed down and all tourists and visitors asked to leave consequent to attack on 15th night on Wild Life Dept. staff by unidentified gunmen.

Helicopter strafing over Thirunagar, Kannapuram, Kanagapuram and Jayanthipuram in Kilinochchi, after a few days interval. Men and women engaged in harvesting run wild seeking shelter.

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

AUGUST 18

Army personnel occupying a deserted bungalow lying opposite Valvettiturai camp fire at innocent passers by along a distant road. M. Sunthararajan (29) of Valvettiturai killed and Sinnavan (23) of Oorikkadu injured. Army also fires shells obstructing removal of corpse from site.

Troops from Palaly camp, accompanied by army vehicles, move out on foot and proceed to Keerimalai. This has become routine now.

A fairly lengthy gunboat, escorted by high powered patrol boats, anchors off the seas opposite Valvettiturai camp. Modern militaryware, large boxes, heavy packages, are unloaded and transferred to camp in light plastic boats. Army personnel too arrive in this gunboat.

Arms and ammunition, vehicles and other utensils lying at Vasavilan mini-camp being taken back to Palaly camp. It is believed that the army is to clear the Vidyalayam buildings to enable re-opening of school.

Whilst helicopter strafing was on, navy too joins in attack over Kayts by firing shells. Militants also open fire.

AUGUST 19

A large force of STF commandos leave for Oorani from Pottuvil in armoured vehicles on search operations. One of the vehicles, a Buffel, valued at 30 lakhs runs over landmine at Rotta, between Oorani and Pottuvil and is hurled off the track. 10 STF commandos killed and 12 injured. Injured taken to Amparai in the first instance were later flown to Colombo. LTTE claims responsibility for the attack.

In Valvettiturai, 18th night, militants bomb blast and demolish bungalow situated 150 yards from army camp. During the past few weeks, army snipers have been using this deserted bungalow as a hide-out to shoot down innocent passers by moving along distant roads.

P. Nadarajah (48) and P. Selvarasa (20), both from Gurunagar, admitted to Jaffna hospital with gun shot injuries inflicted by Jaffna Fort sentries.

Repairs to Karadipokku bridge prevented by militants to deny restoration of movement facilities to the army.

AUGUST 20

Heavy shelling from inside Jaffna Fort camp from morning till evening. Many houses in

Koddady, shops in town, and houses and schools on the eastern side of Fort damaged. As shelling is intensified, militants retaliate firing 6" mortars into Fort. Residents of Koddady, Hospital Road, Seenivasagam road, Muthamil Veethi and adjacent areas evacuate and move interior. Kanthasamy Santhikumar (14) and Packiam (60) hit by shrapnel die on the spot. More than 20 including an infant injured and admitted to hospital. Vembadi Girls High School hit again. Heavy damages. Policemen reporting for work from outside stay back at Jaffna hospital police post fearing to approach Fort. Bankmen too keep away. Attendance at hospital out patients dept. practically nil. Jaffna town deserted.

Two European journalists in Jaffna town collecting information in the midst of heavy shelling at personal risk. They also video-film militants in action.

Several coconut palms in Punnalaikadduwan truncated by shell attack from Palaly camp. Shelling and intermittent gun fire through out last night. People spend restless and sleepless night.

Unknown persons shoot and kill Home Guard Jainudeen in Mutur.

AUGUST 21

Continued shelling from inside Jaffna Fort. 3 civilians killed. Ayyanar Kovil and Nachchimar Kovil damaged.

In Kiran, Batticaloa, STF commandos kill 2 civilians. Farmers prevented from going to their fields for harvesting.

Army convoy of over 1000 soldiers and 20 armoured vehicles are on their way to Jaffna from Anuradhapura. Now moving from Vavuniya to Mankulam.

Over 300 passengers miss the only train that leaves for Colombo from Vavuniya as their coaches are held up at Mankulam till arrival of army contingent coming towards Mankulam from Vavuniya, on foot. Vavuniya, Citizens' Committee, arranges for accommodation overnight for the stranded passengers.

PLA, military wing of EPRLF, and LTTE jointly mount offensive on army contingent approaching Hartley College from Pt. Pedro army camp. Fierce gun battle erupts and goes on for hours. In the direct confrontation 8 soldiers are killed and many more injured. Sankar (Udupiddy) and Kumar (Pt. Pedro), of the PLA also killed. EPRLF salutes the freedom fighters and vows fighting to the last to achieve objective.

AUGUST 22

Bridegroom Ratnam Uthayakumaran (29), just returned from Temple with his bride,

immediately after marriage nuptials, hit by shell fired from Jaffna Fort dies on the spot. The tragedy took place at Iyanarkovilady, Vannarponnai, leaving the young bride an instant widow. One of his relatives too is killed.

In Vavuniya, six youths going around in a tractor, announcing over loud-speaker the Puliyanukulam Amman temple festivities, shot at by army men on patrol duty. Two die on the spot. Whereabouts of the rest not known.

M. Mylvaganam and V. Thedchanamoorthy, engaged in Chenai cultivation, shot dead by soldiers from Kiran camp, waiting in ambush in Pulipainthakal for militants. Militants rush to the area and in the shoot-out, 2 soldiers are reported to be injured.

Armed forces out on search operations arrest 7 Tamil youths in Akkaraipattu, Alayadi-Vembu areas.

Attempt made by Navy men to land in the eastern sea coast of Pt. Pedro foiled by militants firing mortars at their power boats. Firing back, they speed out into the high seas.

Patrolling along coastal areas of Delft intensified with regular patrol boats and sea planes.

Shell fired from Valvettiturai army camp lands in Mandan, Karanavai South, a distance of nearly six (6) miles. Many narrowly escape as it fails to explode. Militants come and remove it.

AUGUST 23

In Trincomalee, S. Nadarajah (46), of Kurumbupitti and President, Nilaveli M.P.C.S. shot dead at 10th mile post by unknown persons as he was travelling in his motor cycle. P.G. Gunadasa (36), C.O. of Kantalai, shot dead in his house by unknown persons.

LTTE in a statement says that an army convoy from Mankulam camp accompanied by 8 armoured vehicles, an Elf truck and Delica Van was attacked by their guerrillas at Murukandy and a gun battle went on for 90 minutes. Unable to withstand the blitz army pushes itself into Kilinochchi camp with heavy casualties.

Helicopter flies back as its attempt to land within Jaffna Fort is foiled by heavy firing by militants. Immediately following, shells are fired into town from inside Fort.

Kiran bridge bomb blasted by unknown persons. 3 heavy explosions heard in adjoining villages. It is reported that STF had earlier warned colonists not to go in vehicles or in large numbers over this bridge.

Helicopter flying over Nallur Kanthasamy Temple swoops down and circles the area for

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

a few minutes, alarming the devotees.

Arms and ammunition and additional soldiers brought into Fort camp in a number of armoured vehicles and trucks from Mandaitivu camp. Initially transferred from Palaly to Mandaitivu camp.

More than 500 soldiers cordon off Mamangam, Punnaichcholai, Amirthakali and Rajaduraiapuram in Batticaloa District in the early hours and carry out search operations. Nearly 250 persons rounded up and taken along for interrogation. A human skeleton and motor cycle dug up in the course of the search operations.

In Colombo, Police arrest President of Janatha Sangamaya, his wife and daughter. This Sangamaya is said to be a splinter group of Jathika Vimukthi Peramuna, a proscribed political party. A revolver, Eelam propaganda leaflets, scripts meant for broadcasting over Eelam service found in their possession. Police refuse to disclose names of those arrested.

In Somawadiya, Polonnaruwa district a Sinhalese farmer is killed and 2 others kidnapped by unknown persons.

AUGUST 24

In Talawakelle, Sinhalese youths in unlawful occupation of improvised sheds within Devon Estate boundaries, for the past 2 months, harass, threaten, cause inconvenience and even assault innocent Tamilestate workers. On higher authorities failing to act on their complaints, workers stage a strike. Annoyed over this, the Sinhalese youths attack labour lines. Angered workers join hands and round up the youths and hand them over to Police. Dynamite sticks, grenades, petrol bombs found in sheds occupied by the intruders. Strike in progress.

Residents of Menkamam, Sanguveli and Mallikaitivu who evacuated their homes consequent to theft in granary section of Paddy Marketing Board, Mutur and accommodated at St. Anthony's church and Navaratnam Hall transferred to Muslim Maha Vidyalayam. Reasons are not known.

A large convoy of soldiers, accompanied by 20 armoured vehicles, buses and lorries moving towards North from Anuradhapura, now at Mankulam. Soliders fire indiscriminately on both sides of route. When convoy gets moving, helicopters give air cover.

In Thirukonamadu, Trincomalee, ten civilians shot dead by armed forces. Govt. claims them to be terrorists.

In Panadura, bomb hurled at stage as Sri Lanka Mahajana Party Secretary Vijaya Kumaranatunge moves towards microphone to address gathering. Four persons injured. Microphone shattered.

Shells fired from inside Jaffna Fort kill 4 persons including S. Suriyakumaran, Manager, Hatton National Bank, Jaffna and Satyabhama Visvalingam also working in the said bank. More than 25 injured.

AUGUST 25

In Kilinochchi, in the vicinity of the army camp, soldiers on patrol duty, attacked with mortar shells by militants. Two die on the spot and 8 others injured. Following this incident, helicopter gunship comes out and strafes the area. Details of damages not known.

150 families from Weliyara, Gomathigama and Nagaveethi, villages around Kataragama, move into the sacred city alarmed at movement of 7 armed robbers in commando uniform in their villages.

Landmine explosion followed by heavy gun fire heard in Mamadu, a place 6 miles away from Vavuniya. It is reported that an army vehicle got caught to a landmine. Minor injuries to a soldier. Tension mounts as news reach Vavuniya and Police patrolling is intensified in town. Vehicles are moved out of town and all activities come to a standstill.

Joint operations command Hdgrs. Colombo report that 2 soldiers were injured on militants shelling Jaffna Fort camp on 24th. Adds that retaliatory shelling by armed forces leads to 4 civilian deaths and injuries to over 15 in Jaffna town.

Colombo newspaper "The Island" reports that a clearing patrol at Thalankuda, on the Batticaloa-Kaimunai Road, was attacked by militants and 2 soldiers were killed.

This paper also reports that an attack on a Colombo-bound train from Batticaloa was repulsed by security forces travelling in the train, and that there were no damages.

AUGUST 26

In Batticaloa yesterday, STF commandos drag into adjoining jungles Samithamby (24), Sinnavan (21), Yogarasa (22), Subramaniam (23), Nesarasa (20), Arulrajah (27), Vanniasingam (21), Manoharan (24), and Rajendran (23), members of a funeral gathering at Puthukudiyiruppu, Kiran cemetery. It is reported that they have been shot dead. This wanton unprovoked murder has shocked and brought much grief to the helpless citizens of Batticaloa.

Farmers returning in their van, after disposing harvested paddy, shot at by armed forces waiting in ambush at 1st mile post, Murikandy. Four die on the spot. Rest escape into the jungles leaving behind Rs. 37,000 (sales collection) and damaged van.

Jaffna Co-ordinating Committee of Citizens' Committees reports loss of lives of 106 Tamils in North and East between 1st and 25th August, owing to atrocities of armed forces.

White flags hoisted over Valvettiturai army camp. Public are amazed and puzzled by this army action. No firing or shelling from inside camp since hoisting of white flag four days ago. People of the area, who were living in mortal fear, with strident explosions day and night, are leading peaceful lives for the last four days.

Armed forces after searching house of K. Seethevipillai (40) of Kurukkalmadam, Batticaloa, assault her daughter Kamalavathy (22) despite pleading by both. The daughter is also dragged by tuft of her hair which is placed on a mortar and snipped. Her earrings are robbed and a bicycle lying in the compound smashed up before they left.

AUGUST 27

Despite heavy shelling from inside Jaffna Fort, a mile long silent procession headed by Jaffna Peoples' Action Committee, is taken from Jaffna Railway Station to Jaffna Kachcheri. Memorandum requesting removal of camp from Jaffna Fort is presented to GA Jaffna. Several societies, action fronts and associations partake in the march with large number of mothers and wives. All business establishments in town are closed. Placards carried in the procession read- "Destruction of houses in North-Construction of houses in South". "Is it Dharmista to murder newly married couples". "Do not destroy our city". "Don't destroy schools and murder our children". A First Aid ambulance followed the procession.

In Valaichenai, armed forces on patrol duty trapped in landmine blast. Two soldiers injured and flown to Colombo.

Shell from Jaffna Fort pierces through wall of St. Peters' Methodist Church, Jaffna and explodes within causing much damage to furniture and buildings. A second shell lands inside the church compound but fails to detonate. This incident took place just a few hours after the church priest Rev. K.P. Govinda raj had left for Colombo.

Central College buildings notably Tamber Hall and sewers also damaged by shelling.

Train services towards North to be extended up to Kilinochchi in 2 days of the week.

AUGUST 28

Lt. G. Gamage, Lt. R. Samarakoon and S.I. R. Udawatte, shot dead at point blank range, by private M.A.B. Fernando in the officers mess

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

of Nilaveli Army Camp. He then shoots himself and commits suicide. It is reported that he had an argument with his superiors who ordered him to work in the mess against his wish.

Security arrangements tightened and special police teams are deployed in Galle following Sinhala-Muslim clashes. Several persons were injured and number of houses damaged. Seven persons from both communities arrested and police are hunting for more suspects.

E.P.R.,L.F. warns drastic action against those found guilty of thefts, robberies, dacoities and other anti-social activities. Leaflet adds that undesirables engaging in such nefarious activities in the name of their movement will be sternly dealt with.

Jaffna Central College and Vembadi Girls High School, damaged considerably in the recent shelling from Jaffna Fort, not to be re-opened for the 11th term beginning 1st Sept. Parents, very much distressed at the latest happenings, are also disinclined to send their children on grounds of insecurity.

In Valvettiturai, LTTE guerrillas launch attack with Rambo M.G. 37 on plastic boat engaged in bringing soldiers ashore from gunboat, anchored 75 yards off the coast of Uduthurai. Many soldiers injured and boat damaged. Damaged boat limps back.

In another incident, plastic boat bringing soldiers and approaching Pt. Pedro camp returns to mother ship without touching shore on being attacked by LTTE, guerrillas. At this failure, mortars and shells are fired towards inland from both mother ship and Pt. Pedro camp. In the on-going cross fire, sentry at Pt. Pedro camp is either dead or seriously injured. Eastern wing of LTTE bunker damaged.

LTTE claims to have killed 3 soldiers in 'cylinder' and 'cannon charge' attacks on a army convoy moving on foot from Mankulam to Kilinochchi. Soon after, two helicopters come out strafing around the site of the incident.

An attempt by army men, in civvies to come out of camp along with pensioners, who went inside Fort to draw their pensions, foiled by PLOT militants firing, meticulously, avoiding pensioners.

AUGUST 29

A Railway culvert and Railway bridge between Vavuniya and Omanthai bomb blasted by unknown persons. 'Yal Devi' from Colombo to Kilinochchi terminates at Vavuniya. Sinhala Maha Vidyalayam located in Vavuniya-Mannar road also bomb blasted.

Section of the buildings damaged. Vavuniya town is deserted. Passengers who arrived from Colombo stranded. Transport arrangements made by G.A. Vavuniya later.

In Valvettiturai, LTTE guerrillas who prepare to attack a low flying helicopter, close to the army camp, withhold firing as a white flag is shown from the helicopter. Hoisting of a white flag over army camp, a couple of days back, and this incident have caused much surprise in the minds of the public and the militants.

Areas around Jaffna Fort, shelled without any provocation. Tension builds up and people and all transport vehicles move out deserting the bazaar.

Mini-camp at Vasavilan Maha Vidyalayam established on 17th May, closed and vacated by army.

In Trincomalee, landmine planted underneath a culvert in Inner Harbour Road behind St. Joseph's College is detonated as a police party, on patrol duty moves over culvert on foot. Six constables injured and flown to Colombo.

AUGUST 30

A 2nd lieutenant and 6 soldiers killed when an armoured vehicle on its way to Trincomalee from Kinniya gets trapped to a landmine laid by LTTE in Sambaltivu-108th mile post.

In Mannar, a sub Inspector and 9 STF commandos killed, as they come out of Thallady camp in 3 jeeps on patrol duty. Party attacked by LTTE guerrillas with cylinder landmine and R.P.G. Two jeeps are damaged. In revenge, STF commandos shoot and kill 5 civilians.

Mortar shells fired from Kankesanurai Harbour camp towards Keerimalai and adjoining villages. LTTE guerrillas retaliate. Details of damages not known.

Army re-occupies Vasavilan Vidyalayam mini-camp within 24 hours of its closure, after resistance from militants who demolish a few buildings. Heavy armoured vehicles militaryware and soldiers move in from the main Palaly camp via the exclusive road linking the 2 camps.

Launches with troops transferred from a naval vessel, anchored off the coast of Maruthankerni, make several attempts to land ashore. Militants attack and foil attempts. As the launches return to mother ship, shells are fired from the anchored vessel towards the coastal areas.

Chairman, Myliddy Citizens' Committee meets Northern Division Co-ordinating Officer Mr. Jerry de Silva and complains of fishing boats at Myliddy beach being robbed by army men and sold at Nagercoil. Mr. de Silva promises to make enquiries.

Sand bag bunkers installed opposite Jaffna model market, hospital road and a few other junctions by militants to provide shelter to public from shells fired from Jaffna Fort.

Thailand based reporter of New York Times Barbara Crocbot returns to Colombo after a visit to Trincomalee where she saw the affected places and met the Citizens' Committee.

Foreign correspondents rush into North and East with government permission. South Asian reporter of London Times Mr. Michael Hamlyn arrives in Jaffna by bus from Vavuniya. He meets militants. Marked lessening of shelling from Fort camp. T.V. photographers and reporters visit Batticaloa, Kalmunai and other places and see the affected areas for themselves.

AUGUST 31

President of Citizens' Committee, Jaffna Mr. S. Arumainayagam unanimously elected president of Co-ordinating Committee of Citizens' Committees, to succeed Prof. K. Sivathamby who resigned.

Muslim mob enter house of Janab A.R. Mansoor, Kalmunai M.P. and District Minister, Mullaitivu and cause damage to typewriter, telephone, furniture and files found in his office, angered over certain disturbances in town.

Security forces fire at lorry approaching Vasavilan junction from Atchuvai after distribution of milk food, killing S. Sivalingam (Inuvil) one of the occupants. Karthigesu Nathan (18) escapes with injuries, whilst 2 others escape death jumping off the lorry and fleeing.

Sirens are sounded from protective bunkers put up by PLOT in certain places in Jaffna town as forces from inside Jaffna Fort start shelling. People rush for shelter and also attempt to leave town at the earliest utilising available transport.

In Kinniya, yesterday evening a Tamil family of 7 members (including women and children) and another, 2 Tamils residing at Trincomalee-Anuradhapura road junction shot dead by armed forces and bodies burnt at site. It is reported that this was in reprisal to landmine explosion that killed 7 army men in the morning in Sambaltivu.

In Batticaloa, STF commandos come in private vehicles and arrest youths in Mamankam, Kalladi, Uppodai, Nochchimunai, Navatkuda, Manchadtoduwai, Aryampathi villages and take them to camp at Kalladi. It is reported that the arrested were lined up before masked men for elimination and detention at camp.

In Mutur, six soldiers patrolling on foot, trapped in landmine blast seriously injured. High tension prevails as news spread. Traders put up their shutters and transport comes to a standstill. Town is deserted. More soldiers are brought into town and search operations intensified. Firing heard at intervals.

In Batticaloa, STF commandos fire and seriously injure 2 who were passing in a motor cycle. Admitted to hospital.

SITUATION REPORT

(Continued from page 2)

Bhikkhus denied loudspeakers

Police disallowed the use of loudspeakers after 7 p.m. when a meeting of Bhikkhus organised by the Thrinikayaka Sangha Sanghavidhanaya was held at the Galle Town Hall on Saturday.

The Mahanayake Thera of Asgiriya Ven. Palipane Chandananda addressing the meeting said that he had much to say to the people on the proposed provincial councils but he could not do so as the loudspeakers were out after 7 p.m. due to this decision by Police.

Ven. Maduluwawe Sobitha Thera said there is unrest among Bhikkhus today. During a national calamity of this proportion all Bhikkhus should come to the fore-front to save the country. Today most of the innocent Sinhalese who lived in North and East are in refugee camps.

People live in fear; some have lost their parents and parents are without their children. If provincial councils are established, we have to face untold difficulties. Rev. Sobitha also stressed that they did not have a media of communication except holding meetings of this nature.

(The Island - 15th September, 1986)

I'm no giant— Premadasa

"I'm not a giant or an intellectual to go and argue with great people", Prime Minister R. Premadasa told Parliament yesterday.

Referring to the Indo-Lanka issue, Mr. Premadasa said that India's Prime Minister had accepted that nobody could interfere with the internal affairs of a country, including Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister was answering an adjournment question by Maharagama MP Dinesh Gunawardene who said that there was no civil administration in the North and East. Mr. Gunawardene charged the terrorists were now in complete control of the North quoting two news reports from "The Island" and "Divaina" which said that terrorists had even started their own postal service.

The Prime Minister said Mr. Gandhi is sincerely interested in finding a solution to the problem. He said 'nobody can deny that terrorists are coming from South India'. Mr. Premadasa said: "In this country there is no political division but a class division. I represent the classless society..."

(The Island - 13th September, 1986)

Power lines blasted

The power supply to the Trincomalee town was restored with generators on Saturday, after a break of three days. However, eight other areas in the district - Kinniya, Pulmudai, China Bay, Nilaweli, Gomarankadawala, Muttur, Seruwila and parts of Kantalai are still in darkness.

Terrorists on Wednesday blasted two electricity pylons at Thampalagamam. Two power transmission towers carrying 32,000 volt power lines from Anuradhapura to Trincomalee were completely destroyed at Nadulugamuwa in the blast. Two adjacent ones were also damaged. The repairs are estimated to cost Rs. 2 million.

(Sun - 15th September, 1986)

A Sinhalese says: A Federal solution is the answer

(The Island - 24th September, 1986)

by R.N.B. Senanayake

It is apparent now that the Government in negotiating on Provincial Councils with the TULF has put the cart before the horse. The nature of the Tamil demand is clear. They want a separate Tamil linguistic state for the Northern and Eastern provinces. They have won the effective control of the Jaffna peninsula. What the Government should negotiate is how to resolve the conflict by offering autonomy instead of separation. The first thing to do is to negotiate on the boundaries of the proposed Tamil state to which autonomy is to be granted and to secure agreement of the fighting Tamils to join the political spectrum. Does the chanting of slogans such as there will be no merger of North and East help in this matter? The Government must address its mind to the concrete issues in the conflict.

The land area the Tamils are fighting for is the main issue. The issue is complicated by the attitude of the Muslims. But it is the voice of the Muslims in the Eastern province that ought to count. Shouldn't there be tripartite discussions between the Tamils, Muslims of the Eastern province and the Government. If the Tamils and Muslims of the Eastern province can be left to resolve their differences, the task of the Government would be made easier. The Sinhalese villages will undoubtedly have to be detached from such a Tamil linguistic unit, both to cater to the Tamil demand and also to protect these villages better. This boundary question is the most fundamental and touching issue which should have been discussed first.

Isn't it also essential to negotiate with the Tamil terrorists or militants? It is essential that they accept the boundaries of the Tamil linguistic state. It is only after the boundaries of such a state are negotiated that the question of the form of autonomy becomes relevant.

If the militants do not accept a boundary, which is fair by the other communities, the whole issue of Provincial Council becomes irrelevant. This is the point made by the opposition. The Tamil militants must not only accept the boundaries, but must also agree

that such a unit will be a constituent unit of the political whole of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka. They have to voluntarily accept the boundaries and agree to become a part of the Sri Lankan state. It is to these two matters that negotiation should have been directed. Instead we find an elaborate scheme of Provincial Councils being discussed. We seem to be mistaking the wood for the trees...

The Tamils have consistently put forward these issues at stake and called for Tamil militants to participate in negotiations. But the call has been ignored perhaps out of a false prestige. If the Tamil militants agree to join the Sri Lanka state, then it has to be federal relationship. A division of powers is necessarily a federal solution. Nothing is gained by calling it by other names.

The people who are ignorant of federalism have to be educated and not deceived by propaganda. It is better to face up to the principles of federalism and act consistently on a federal form of government. Such a federal solution is basically between a Tamil state in the North and East and the rest of the country. Two autonomous units, a Tamil unit and the rest of the country are all that is involved. Perhaps special governmental units for Muslims may have to be worked out in the Eastern province which could be best negotiated by the Tamil and Muslims of the Eastern province.

Why should there be nine Provincial Councils when what is required is two states in a united Sri Lanka. The provinces were drawn to administer a centralised state on a territorial basis ignoring divisions on linguistic, racial and religious basis.

Why mix the demand for an autonomous Tamil area with the need for administrative devolution in the rest of the country. Can't this area be administered as one unit with a suitable administrative devolution which can be put into effect at a later stage. This will mitigate the criticism that nine Provincial Councils will accentuate differences between communities throughout the country.

SITUATION REPORT

Obituaries

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

MANICKAVASAGAR, Nadarajah. Area Manager, Nestles, Jaffna, husband of Damayanthi, father of Gajendran (St. John's, Jaffna), Gajaluxmy (Ghundikuli Girls College). Funeral 23rd September, 1986. Manipay Road, Uduvil, Chunnakam.

MEENADCHI, Ponniah, wife of late M.S. Ponniah, mother of Dayanithi, late Thayaparan, Thayanesan and Thayarathi. *Cremation 25th September, 1986. General Cemetery Kanattee. 15, Palm Grove, Colpetty.

RATNADURAI, Sinnadurai, husband of Dhanaluxmi, father of Shankar, Muhundthan Udeskar, and Dinakar. Cremation 23rd September, 1986. General cemetery Kanattee. 30, Fife Road, Thimbirigasyaya.

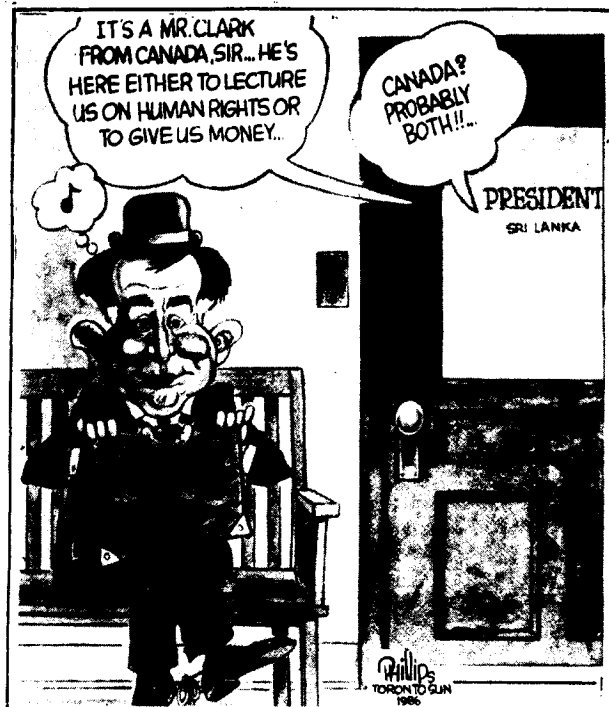
SIVAGURUNATHAN, Kumaraswamy, Advocate, husband of Thilagawathy, father of Murukesan, Sakuntala, Ranjini, Nalayini and Kumerasen. Funeral 15th September, 1986 in Madras.

RATHNASABAPATHY, (Retd. Chief Designs Engineer P.W.D.), husband of late Kanagamma, father of late Sabanathan, Linganathan, Loganathan (Kuwait "Saraswathy Vasa", Tinnelveli North, Jaffna.

THURAISSINGAM, Velupillai, husband of Grace, father of Selvayohini, Dr. Vasanthayohini, Saroj Kumar, Dr. Vasantharajah (Presently in U.K.) 9/6, National Housing Development Authority Building, Colombo - 2.

ARUMUGAM, Dr. (Mrs) Thanaluxmi, Wife of E. Arumugam, sister of Shamugananda Dr. Satchithananthan (UK), Vivekananda, Seetha. Funeral 18th September, 1986. General Cemetery, Kanattee. St. Kildas Lane, Kollipitiya.

ARUMUGAM, Mayithiridevi, wife of late N. Arumugam, mother of Udayashankar. Cremation 20th September, 1986. General cemetery, Kanattee. 12/5, Andarawatte Road, Polkengoda, Kirillapone, Colombo - 5.



From the Canadian newspaper "Toronto Sun" 16th September, 1986



Photograph from the Daily News (September 18, 1986). The Daily News caption says: OFF TO ASIAN GAMES: The Sri Lankan Rifle shooting and Boxing contingent left yesterday for the 10th Asian Games to be held in Seoul in South Korea from September 20 - October 5. From left: Rifle shooting - Zal Chitty, Rohana Nanayakkara and Daya Rajasinghe.

SEOUL: TAMIL RIFLE - SHOOTERS POSED OFF AS SINHALESE

Seoul. Sept. 23 (DPA) - by Tarun Basu

Two Tamil shooters in the Sri Lankan team to the 10th Asian Games have come here under assumed Sinhalese surnames to avoid possible retaliation from Tamil terrorists, the chief of the Sri Lankan Olympic Committee said here on Tuesday.

Roy de Silva who is also President of the Sri Lankan Hockey Federation told the German Press Agency DPA that Daya Rajasinghe and Lucky Rajasinghe, both brothers in the Army, had participated in the New Delhi Asian Games under their Tamil surnames of Nadarajasingham.

"They might have feared terrorist reprisals," De Silva said of the two men assuming Sinhalese names. De Silva said the ethnic strife between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority had affected sports in his country but insisted it had nothing to do with the much reduced composition of the squad. At the Asian Games in New Delhi Games in 1982, Sri Lanka had sent 60 athletes, compared to 18 to the Seoul Games...

(Sun - 24th September, 1986)