

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY EELAM NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (ENLF)
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE LATEST PROPOSALS OF THE
SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT.

Subsequent to the request from the Government of India and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to state our position on whether we accept the latest proposals of the Sri Lankan government as a basis for negotiations, we give below our collective decision and the rationale behind it. Our position is derived from a careful and a thorough consideration of factors pertaining to the structure and essence of the proposal, as well as the overall politico-military and civil situation prevailing in the country.

DECISION

We do not perceive the latest Sri Lankan proposal as a basis for negotiations for the resolution of the nationality problem or, to what could be termed the Tamil National Question in Sri Lanka.

RATIONALE

1. THE PREVAILING POLITICO-MILITARY AND CIVIL SITUATION

- A. The Sri Lankan armed forces acting under instructions from the Sri Lankan government is continuing with its military offensive in the Tamil areas in the Northern and Eastern provinces.
- B. Although our armed resistance has been successful in repelling and blunting these offensives, the loss of civilian lives has increased. In short the genocidal situation has further deteriorated and the Sri Lankan government has openly admitted to this as being inevitable in its pursuance of a military option. It has further stated that the military offensive would continue till the Eelam liberation movement is militarily annihilated or accepts an imposed solution. This is tantamount to blackmail and threat and our acceptance of this would imply an unconditional surrender. Although our people are peace-loving they are not prepared to accept peace at any cost.
- C. Search and cordon operations by the Sri Lankan security forces have been intensified after the submission of the proposal to

the Government of India. In these operation more than 5000 Tamils have been rounded-up over the past week, particularly in the sensitive area of Trincomalee. The deliberate displacement of Tamils from their domicile and disruption of their socio-economic existence through the destruction of crops, curbs on fishing activities and transport of essentials makes a total mockery of the offer of a negotiated settlement by the Sri Lankan government.

- D. Despite the restoration of citizenship rights to plantation Tamils, there has been a drastic deterioration in their fundamental democratic and human rights, in addition to, immediate threats to their to their to lives and property. The incidents in Talawakelle over the past few days where plantation Tamils were brutally attacked by Sinhala goondas by the security forces is a case in point.
- E. There has been an increase in the arrests and incarceration of Sinhala human rights and political activists who have been expressing their opposition to the genocidal situation facing their Tamil brethren as well as against the increasing pauperization of the Sinhala masses. At the other end of the spectrum, the forces of Sinhala-Buddhist chauvinism have intensified their campaign to oppose any political concessions to the Tamil People.

Thus, given the above politico-military and civil situation prevailing in the Island, it is clearly evident that a congenial atmosphere does not exist for the renewal of direct talks with the degenerate, racist Sri Lankan government.

2. THE PROPOSAL

- A. The proposal by stressing on the permanence and the misplaced sanctification of the unitary character of the Constitution, prevents any meaningful dialogue on the further widening and deepening of devolution of power. This belies the claim made by J.R. Jayawardene that the proposal is only a minimum and there is scope for further expansion.
- B. The proposal does not recognize the concept and the reality of a Tamil homeland. Instead, it seeks to bifurcate the Tamil homeland

by treating the Northern and Eastern provinces as two distinct entities. The proposal also seeks to separate the plantation Tamils and the areas developed and inhabited by them from the Tamil homeland.

- C. The proposals do not recognize the Tamils of Sri Lanka (or the Eelam People) as a distinct nationality or of Sri Lanka as a country inhabited by two distinct nationalities with their respective languages, culture, heritage, contiguous territories and socio-economic and political histories. More importantly, it does not recognise the fact that the Eelam People are oppressed as a distinct nationality. As a matter of fact, nowhere in the proposal is there a reference to the Tamil people or to their homeland; instead, it merely speaks of communities and arbitrary provincial boundaries.

The delegation of power mentioned in the proposal is a mere exercise in administrative reforms in relation to delegation of power from the centre to the periphery and does not even pretend to be a solution to the nationality problem which has shaken the very fabric of the Sri Lankan polity.

In addition to the above, the decision by the Sri Lankan government to unilaterally implement the proposal is a flagrant violation of the inalienable right of self-determination of the oppressed Tamil nationality of Sri Lanka. Not only does this stand tantamount to a blatant act of provocation, but it exposes the insincerity and the insensitivity of the J.R. Jayawardene regime.

AN APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the government of India for the support that it has extended to our beloved People who have been displaced and dislocated from their domicile and have sought refuge in India. We also call on the government of India to continue with its efforts to bring about a negotiated

settlement to the nationality problem that would ensure and guarantee a just, fair and a permanent solution and enable our beloved People to live with honour and dignity. In the meantime we appeal to the government of India to extend maximum political, moral and material support to the Eelam liberation movement in enabling it to protect the Eelam People from national oppression, state terrorism and genocide.

A. *Selvam*

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