

***Sri Lanka:***  
***Chronology of Events***  
***1991***

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***Sri Lanka Resource Centre - Oslo - Norway***

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**Short history of Sri Lanka 1505 - 1990**

1505	Portuguese occupy low-country Sinhalese areas
1621	Portuguese conquer and occupy Tamil Jaffna kingdom
1656-1796	Dutch occupy low-country Sinhalese and Tamil areas
1796-1802	British East India Company administration from Madras
1802	British Crown colony established over low-country Sinhalese and Tamil areas
1815	Sinhalese Kandyan kingdom cedes to British
1833	British unify low country Sinhalese, Tamil and Kandyan areas and establish Government of Ceylon. Legislative Council established.
1911	Legislative Council included elected "Unofficial".
1915	Sinhalese-Muslim riots.
1919	Ceylon National Congress formed.
1921	"Unofficial" expansion within Legislative Council.
1924	Further expansion of "Unofficial" in Legislative Council.
1928-29	Donoughmore Constitutional Commission
1931	Donoughmore Commission introduced. State Council elected by universal suffrage. Board of Ministers formed.
1935	Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) founded.
1936	Elections for second State Council.
1937	Sinhala Maha Sabha founded by S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike.
1943	Ceylon Communist Party (CP) formed.
1944	Tamil Congress (TC) founded by G.G. Ponnambalam. Resolution on Sinhala and Tamil as official languages adopted by State Council.
1944-45	Soulbury Constitutional Commission.
1945	Select Committee of State Council on Sinhala and Tamil as official languages appointed.
1946	Select Committee reported on transition from English to Sinhalese and Tamil as official languages. Soulbury Constitution. United National Party (UNP) formed.
1947	General election for House of Representatives returned UNP (led by D.S. Senanayake).
1948	Ceylon gained independence from Britain. Ceylon Citizenship Act denied citizenship to Tamils of Indian origin.
1949	G.G. Ponnambalam joined Senanayake cabinet. Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Amendment Act deprived Tamils of Indian origin of franchise. Federal Party (FP) formed by S.J.V. Chelvanayakam.
1951	S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake resigned from UNP and formed Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP).
1952	D.S. Senanayake died. Dudley Senanayake became Prime Minister. General Election returned UNP to power.
1953	Hartal. Dudley Senanayake resigned. Sir John Kotelawala became Prime Minister. G.G. Ponnambalam and TC left cabinet and government. Revolt in the Temple published.
1954	Kotelawala declared intention to amend constitution giving "parity of status" to Sinhala and Tamil as official languages.
1955	Bandaranaike announced SLFP's language policy as Sinhala with "reasonable use of Tamil". "Sinhala only" campaign started by Meitnanada and Kularatne.
1956	Kotelawela sommersaults and announced UNP's official language policy as "Sinhala only". Mahajana Eksath Peramuna formed. Betrayal of Buddhism published. General Election returned MEP coalition. Bandaranaike became Prime Minister. "Sinhala only" Official Language Act passed. Anti-Tamil rioting.
1957	July: "Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact" to protect Tamil interests. October: J.R. Jayawardene marched to Kandy against "B-C Pact". Anti-Sri Campaign of Federal Party.
1958	"B-C Pact" abrogated by Bandaranaike. May: Anti-Tamil riots. Emergency declared and continued through March 1959. FP MPs detained. Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act passed.

(Continued on the last page)

## Sri Lanka:

# Chronology of Events

## 1991

Compiled by: Anton S. Philip

Sri Lanka Resource Centre - Oslo - Norway

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## Introduction

Sri Lanka is a country in serious crisis - economic, political and military. The ethnic conflict on the island has had many ramifications. Inability to find an amicable settlement for both Sinhalese and Tamils led in 1987 to the Indian intervention which complicated the conflict even further. The Indian Army spent billions of rupees; by the time Indian forces left more than a thousand soldiers had been killed and another three thousand wounded. Peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which had begun prior to the withdrawal of the Indian Army, foundered. The next phase was a new military confrontation which started on 11. June 1990. The intensification of the military aspect of the conflict continued throughout 1991. Although that year started with a ceasefire agreed to by both parties, this was broken after each accused the other of violating the terms of the ceasefire.

In the North, the offensive of the security forces on Tigers camps and aerial bombing continued; likewise, the Liberation Tigers attacked security forces camps throughout the year. Over one thousand security personnel are estimated to have been killed or gone missing; another three thousand have been injured. For the Tigers, casualties figures and loss of life are even higher. International human rights organisations like Amnesty International have focused attention on the human rights violations, disappearances and extra-judicial killings perpetrated by all parties to the conflict.

The chances for negotiations and for a peaceful settlement seem remote. Various unsuccessful initiatives towards a peaceful settlement have been made by the Scandinavian countries, Canada, Australia and the Commonwealth. The All Party Conference which for the past two years has met with the participation of the main opposition parties has not borne any fruit. The attempt undertaken by the Minister and Leader of the Ceylon Workers Congress Mr. Thondaman has created a controversy amongst Sinhalese nationalists groups. Whether the Select Committee of Parliament under the chairmanship of Mangala Moonasinghe of the SLFP will be able to advance the process towards a peaceful settlement is yet to be seen.

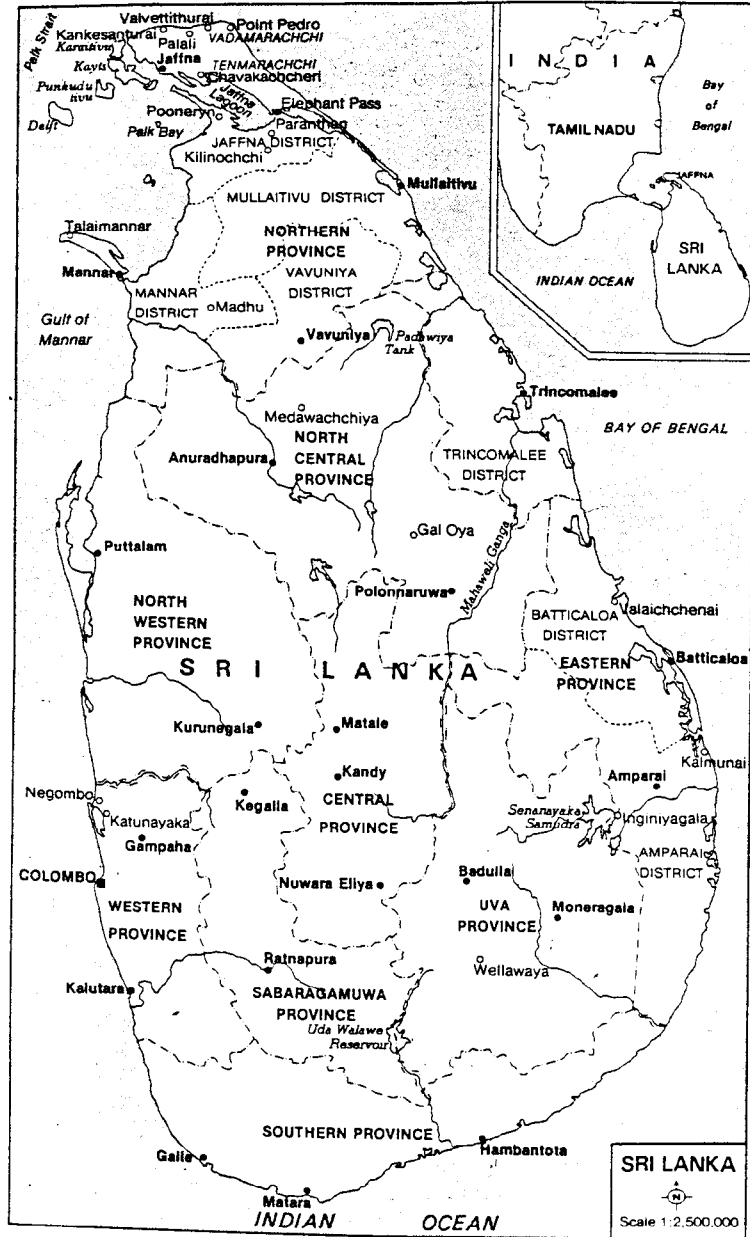
In response to the recommendations of donor countries and international human rights organizations, the Sri Lankan Government has agreed to accept 28 of the 32 recommendations made by the Amnesty International to improve the human rights situation. President Premadasa has also appointed various commissions to investigate matters related to human rights abuses by the armed forces.

Anton S. Philip has recorded the events for the year 1991, under different classification terms selected on the basis of their relation to the ethnic conflict and human rights situation. Some highly significant events such as the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the battle at Elephant Pass, the impeachment motion, and the constitutional crisis have been recorded under separate headings. In this chronology we may not have managed to include all that happened in the year 1991, but we hope that our effort can be continued and can provide assistance to those seeking to understand the complexity of the problems in Sri Lanka.

This compilation would not have been possible without the help of the press cuttings service of the Civil Rights Movement of Sri Lanka, or the assistance of Berth Verstappen from HURIDOCS.

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A LIST OF ACRONYMS



- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| ACTC  | All Ceylon Tamil Congress                       |
| AGA   | Assistant Government Agent                      |
| CID   | Criminal Investigation Department               |
| CM    | Chief Minister                                  |
| CP    | Communist Party                                 |
| CRM   | Civil Rights Movement                           |
| CVF   | Civilian Volunteer Force                        |
| DJVP  | Deshapremi Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna            |
| DMK   | Dravida Munnetta Kalagam                        |
| DPLF  | Democratic People's Liberation Front            |
| DUNF  | Democratic United National Front                |
| EDF   | Eelavar Democratic Front                        |
| ENDLF | Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front      |
| EPDP  | Eelam People's Democratic Party                 |
| EPRLF | Eelam People Revolutionary Liberation Front     |
| EROS  | Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students    |
| GA    | Government Agent                                |
| ICRC  | International Committee of the Red Cross        |
| IGP   | Inspector General of Police                     |
| IPKF  | Indian Peace Keeping Force                      |
| JVP   | Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna                       |
| KKS   | Kankesanthurai                                  |
| LMG   | Light Machine Gun                               |
| LSSP  | Lanka Sama Samaja Party                         |
| LTTE  | Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Tigers)       |
| MP    | Member of Parliament                            |
| MPC   | Multi-Purpose Cooperative                       |
| N-E   | North and East                                  |
| NSSP  | Nava Sama Samaja Party                          |
| OIC   | Officer In Charge                               |
| PFLT  | People's Front of Liberation Tigers             |
| PLOTE | People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam |
| PM    | Prime Minister                                  |
| RAW   | Research and Analysis Wing                      |
| SAARC | South Asian Association of Regional Conference  |
| SLFP  | Sri Lanka Freedom Party                         |
| SLMC  | Sri Lanka Muslim Congress                       |
| SLR   | Self Loading Rifle                              |
| SP    | Superintendent of Police                        |
| TELO  | Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization             |
| TNA   | Tamil National Army                             |
| TNC   | Tamil National Council                          |
| TULF  | Tamil United Liberation Front                   |
| UDI   | Unilateral Declaration of Independence          |
| UN    | United Nations                                  |
| UNDP  | United Nations Development Programme            |
| UNP   | United National Party                           |
| USA   | United Socialist Alliance                       |

## 1. Political Violence

### 1.1. General

#### January

07. The government accused the LTTE of 19 ceasefire violations in the period upto 6 January, and said that it would maintain a ceasefire for seven days, as originally announced. Four of the 19 violations occurred near Elephant Pass and six violations near Palaly.

(Daily News 910108)

The Tigers attacked the Welloya Army Camp, one soldier was killed in the incident. (Daily Observer 910108)

16. The State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne reported on the casualties of the armed forces. The army lost 543 men and 186 were reported missing. From the navy 5 were killed, from the air force 7, the STF lost 8, the homeguards lost 20 and the police 310. The Police reported 352 men missing. The dead and missing totalled 1441. He added that 608 men were in the hospital and 1 309 had been discharged, bringing the total to 1 792. (Daily Observer 910117)

#### March

02. The State Minister for Defence Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne was assassinated at the Havelock road, close to the Colombo depot Police. He was killed when a bomb exploded in the path of his convoy on a busy public road in Colombo at 8.30 a. m. It is estimated that over 20 civilians were also killed as a result of this explosion which is said to be the biggest of its kind in Colombo. Police are investigating the explosion. Many people have been questioned regarding the incident, including many Tamil youth from Colombo, in particular members of EROS. The LTTE formally denied any involvement in the killing. There was speculation on whether the casino owner recently deported from the country could have been behind the bomb, as well as rumours assigning the responsibility within the UNP itself. (Inform 910312)

#### June

01. The Sri Lankan Government resumed its military operations against the Tigers. (Inter Press service 910601)

*Political Violence - General*

08. All 33 PLOTE members involved in the abortive coup against the Maldivian government in 1988 have been released on a special directive by the Defence Ministry. They were taken to fight against the LTTE in the Vavuniya district. (Sunday Times 910609)
13. The Commission appointed by President Premadasa to inquire into the firing on the vehicle of Medicins Sans Frontieres, (where four french nationals were wounded) released a report claiming that no wrong doing was committed by the security forces. (Xinhua General Overseas News Service 910613)

The report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the helicopter attack on the MSF vehicle in Vavuniya District was called a total white wash of the army by the MSF. Medical Coordinator Dr. Anne Vincent said that the Commission's report put blame on the MSF, while refusing to accept that both parties were at fault, and should equally take the blame. She added that following the report, the MSF gave the government a period of one month to reorganize all the security measures for NGO's operating in the conflict zones. If the government fails to outline adequate and proper security measures within this period, it is almost certain that the MSF will start pulling out of Sri Lanka. (The Island 910620)

One thousand three hundred and sixty-nine armed forces personnel were killed and 585 others have been missing in action since June 1990, when hostilities broke out between the Tigers and the government, Air Marshal Walter Fernando told the pressmen. Those killed include: Army: 969, Navy: 18, Air Force: 7, STF: 8, Police 339 and home guards 27. (The Island 910614)

14. Tamil members of parliament protested in parliament against the massacre at Kokkadicholai which killed 150 people. (Kyodo News Service 910614)
21. Two men killed themselves and at least 58 others after detonating a van packed with explosives near the military headquarters for operations against the Tigers in Colombo, military officials said. The explosion destroyed a barrack and blew the roof off the command centre's main office. A military official said 20 civilians and as many as 40 soldiers were killed and that up to 150 others were wounded. The explosion left a crater in the street two meters deep and 6 meters in diameter.

*Political Violence - General*

22. The Sri Lankan government ordered the defence Ministry to set up temporary headquarters for the Joint Operation Command to establish contacts with operational commandments in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

A large number of files, maps and other material containing classified information including battle plans were completely destroyed in the blast.

The damage to houses, buildings and property were estimated at more than Rs. 150 million, an official of insurance company said. (Sunday Times 910623)

27. The investigators were looking for two Isuzu vehicles one used in the bomb explosion at the operational headquarters. They have sought the assistance of the public to track down these two vehicles with a reward of Rs. one million offered to any one who gives vital evidence which could lead to the apprehension of these two vehicles. (Daily Observer 910628)

**July**

01. The Sri Lankan Police said that they have identified the person, who masterminded the June 21, attack on the Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence(JOC) as Varathan. He and his close associate, Ravi had been trained in Lebanon. (Daily News 910702)
03. Varathan who masterminded the bomb attack on the Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence committed suicide just as police team attempted to arrest him in Kotagala in the Central Province. (Daily Observer 910704)
23. The bodies of 29 soldiers, killed in the Elephant Pass battle were handed over to the Navy by the ICRC, who had received them from the LTTE. (Daily Observer 910724)
27. Hundreds of Tamil militants opposed to the LTTE are to be brought back from Tamil Nadu with assistance of the government to join in the anti-LTTE operation, Tamil political sources said. (Sunday Times 910728)

## August

24. Two Muslims and two Sinhalese including one woman were killed and around 25 houses were damaged in clashes between Muslims and Sinhalese in Beruwala in the Southern district. Prompt action was taken by the Police authorities to restore peace and normalcy. (Sunday Times 910825)

## November

02. At least eleven civilians were wounded, one of them seriously, when a person threw a hand grenade at the stage of a UNP dissidents meeting at Pannala. Policemen said that no arrest have been made. Mr. Lalith Athulath Mudali accused the government of resorting to undemocratic means to disrupt their campaign. All dissident leaders were on the stage when the explosion took place. (The Island 910411)

## Sri Lanka

Area: 64,453 sq km

Population: 17,200,000 (UNEP est.)

Languages: Sinhala, Tamil and English

Religion: Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam

Armed Forces: 70 000 (1991)

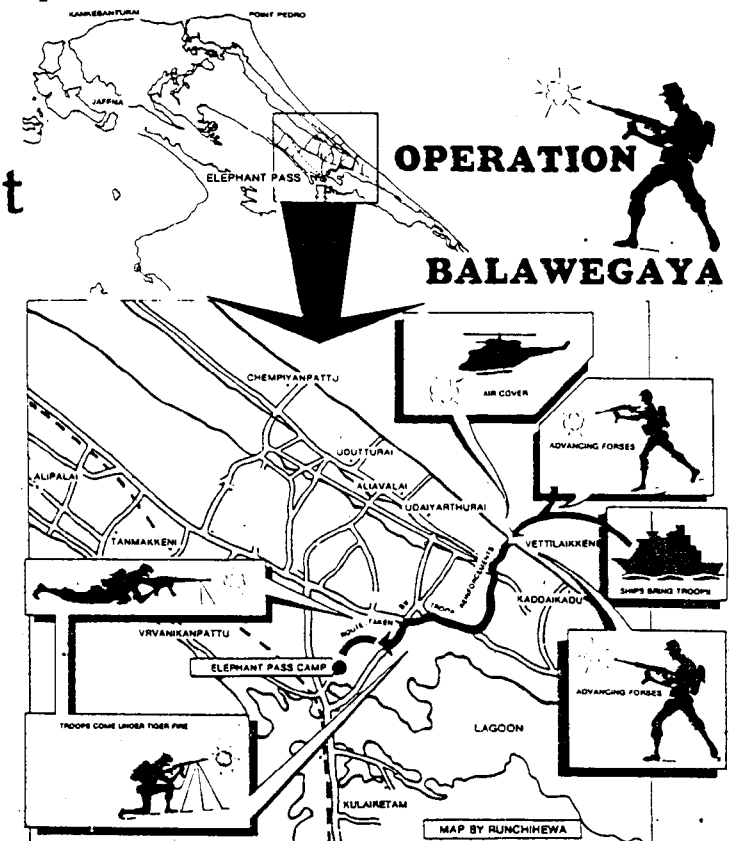
Currency: Sri Lanka Rupee (US\$ 1.00=41.8083)

Major International affiliation: ADB; NAM; SAARC

Political system: Known as Ceylon until 1972, and an independent state within the Commonwealth since 1948, under the 1978 Constitution the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has a presidential form of government; the President is directly elected for a six-year term, appoints the Prime Minister and cabinet, and is also empowered to dissolve the 225-member parliament which is elected by proportional representations.

## 1.2. Battle at Elephant Pass

# Elephant Pass battle crucial in Eelam war



(from Sri Lanka News July 31, 1991)

10. An indefinite curfew was clamped from 6 p. m. in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu district as heavy fighting broke out between security forces and LTTE at Elephant Pass. The fierce fighting sparked off by LTTE launching an attack on the Elephant Pass army camp with mortars and small arms. Security forces said the militants fire was so intense that helicopters were unable to land at the base to evacuate nine injured soldiers who were injured seriously. Security sources said that Air Force planes assisting the ground forces have observed that dead bodies of Tigers were taken away by their colleagues. (The Island 910711)



**Battle of Elephant Pass**

11. The battle at Elephant Pass between the security forces and the LTTE continued with the army loosing a Major and three other soldiers while 20 soldiers were injured. The indefinite curfew is continued in the three districts. (Daily News 910712)
12. Six more soldiers were killed when an LTTE mortar hit a military vehicle that was moving around the camp. Security forces said that 50 militants would have been killed and 150 would have been wounded so far. They estimated that between 1000 to 2000 militants are engaged in this battle. (Daily News 910713)
13. The fight continued for the fourth day at Elephant Pass as the army casualties rose to twelve and nearly 30 were wounded. The Air Force bombers and helicopter were forced to fly over 5000 feet in order to avoid the LTTE's long range anti-air craft guns. (Sunday Times 910714)
14. Security forces said that the fresh siege by the LTTE was repulsed and over 70 militants were found dead around the camps perimeter. On the army side, Deputy Commanding Officer and Commanding Officer of the Elephant Pass camp Lt.Colonel Lalith Budadasa(32) and Sarath Karunaratne and three soldiers reported were killed and another three are missing in action. Security forces said that landing forces secured the beach at Chundikulam after fierce fighting. Light Landing Craft(LLC) of the Navy had ferried soldiers, armored personnel carriers, jeeps fitted with recoilers rifles(RCL) among other military hardware to the coast where the foot soldiers of the army launched an attack towards the Elephant Pass army base. Around 800 soldiers are believed to have been in the army camp. (The Island and Daily News 910715)
15. Two thousand soldiers backed by air support were fighting their way to the beaches of Chundikulam to break the siege at Elephant Pass army camp. Nine soldiers were killed and other 30 wounded when they reached the Vettilankeni Beach. Another Major identified as Angelo Peires of Light infantry was also killed while he attempted to rescue another injured soldier at Elephant Pass. Security forces said that four area leaders and 30 other Tigers were also killed while they making their way towards Elephant Pass. (Daily Observer and The Island 910716)
16. The army has overcome stiff LTTE resistance to consolidate its positions in and around Kaddiakadu, a village less than two miles from

**Battle at Elephant Pass**

- Vettilaikerni, military sources said. So far upto twenty-five soldiers had been killed and about 80 wounded, some of them seriously in this operation. (The Island 910717)
17. The operation of security forces moving towards Elephant Pass army base, named as "Operation Balavegaya" has encountered heavy resistance from the LTTE. Seven soldiers were killed and 30 more wounded while they advanced towards the camp. At Elephant Pass, the security forces have lost 49 men, including two majors. (Daily News 910718)
18. Defence Secretary General Cyril Ranatunge told at the press conference that the troops fought their way to about three or four kilometers of the besieged camp and killed over 500 LTTE cadres. He said that the best LTTE cadres were involved in this battle. One officer and eleven soldiers were killed and 56 were wounded at the army base. (Daily News 910719)
19. More than 100 Tigers and at least 15 soldiers including an officer were killed as fierce fighting continued around Elephant Pass army camp. According to a Reuter report these casualty figures have raised the estimated death toll to 750 rebels and 75 soldiers since the fighting began on July 10. According to the report reaching Colombo the relief column is two and half kilometers away from the army base and the number of wounded soldiers is around 250. (The Island 910721)
20. Army Commander Lt.Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe told the press that the troops would reach the army base within 24 hours. The armed forces were bombarded with heavy fire from fortified bunkers and well entrenched hideouts. So far 81 soldiers have been killed and another 340 injured. Security forces estimate at least 600 Tigers had been killed since the beginning of the confrontation. Meanwhile at least one powerful anti-aircraft gun which was detected by Air Force pilots is seen by defence analysts as the most powerful weapon in the hands of the LTTE. (Sunday Times and Sunday Observer 910721)
21. As troops of "Operation Balavegaya" advanced towards the Elephant Pass base, the fighting shifted from the Elephant Pass area to the jungles of Niththihankulam, west of Mulaitivu. Security forces said five soldiers and 40 militants were killed in this incident. Senior army officers refused to provide the numbers of casualties as they were more concerned with the ongoing battle around the Elephant Pass army base. (Daily News 910722)

**Battle of Elephant Pass**

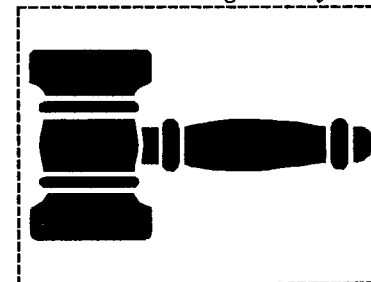
22. The army relief column backed by Air Force was still fighting bitter battles with the LTTE cadres in their bid to reach the besieged Elephant Pass Army camp, security sources said. Another twelve soldiers died of rebels sniper fire, when an attempt was made to advance forward. Later it was told that another 25 soldiers were missing in action. When the bodies of 29 soldiers were handed over, it was speculated that they were the soldiers who had been previously missing. (The Island 910723)
23. Security forces said that they had received intelligence reports that the Tiger leader Prabhakaran himself was directing the operation to resist the advance of security forces. (The Island 910724)
24. According to intelligence reports, about 2000 more Tigers were summoned from Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Jaffna in an attempt to prevent the Army's reinforcement columns from reaching the camp. They are reported to be armed with a 23 mm anti-aircraft gun which is the latest weapon in their arsenal. (Daily Observer 910725)
25. Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando told the press at the weekly briefing that the forces had lost 138 men in the following three operations. Elephant Pass - one officer and 16 others. Operation Balavegaya - five officers and 103 soldiers, Weli Oya - one officer and 12 others. The militants lost 900 of their men. Elephant Pass - 150; Operation Balavegaya - 650 and Weli Oya - 129. When he was asked to comment on the nature of the battle, the Air Marshal said that it was a hard fight. (Daily News 910726)
26. The army has inducted four infantry battalions, the 4th Sinha Regiment (4SR) and the 5th Gemunu Regiment (5G) (approximately 4000 men) to the Elephant Pass battle field to increase the number of soldiers to push towards the camp. (The Island 910727)
27. The Navy Commander Vice Admiral Ananda Silva told the press that the Tigers might be using sea or land based radar stations to monitor the activity of Sri Lankan Navy vessels in their efforts to penetrate the surveillance zone covering the Palk Strait. Naval official said that every ship in the Trincomalee area had been sent to the North to support the operation. About 50 ships of all kinds, including gunboats, fast attack crafts, command ships, landing crafts, passenger crafts and supply ships have gathered off Vettalaikerni in support of the operation. The troops are still about three kilometers from the Elephant Pass army camp. (The Island 910728)

**Battle at Elephant Pass**

28. During the weekend, the fighting at Elephant Pass between the security forces and the LTTE claimed five soldiers, who were trapped inside the camp. Military sources said that for security reasons, the 6th Sinha Regiment vacated the Kurinchativu Saltern quarters as the LTTE were planning to overrun the camp. (The Island 910729)
29. Six more soldiers were killed and thirty wounded, while fifty Tigers were killed in the ongoing battle at the Elephant Pass. The troops were still two and a half kilometers away from the Camp. (Daily News 910730)
30. Operation Balavegaya moved another 500 meters towards its goal the Elephant Pass camp, killing 70 Tigers and losing one officer and four soldiers. (Daily News 910731)
31. Senior army officials said that the army columns had captured several LTTE positions in the outer perimeters of the Elephant Pass army base. Five soldiers were killed and nine others injured, some seriously. The military officials described this as the most fierce fighting since Operation Balavegaya commenced. According to the officials, several LTTE bunkers and at least two anti-aircraft positions were also smashed in the thrust and a large number of Tigers were also killed. (The Island 910801)

The Tigers claimed that they had lost only 200 men and women cadres and killed 600 army in the ongoing battle between the government forces and them. In their news broadcast they confirmed that LTTE leader Prabhakaran himself directed the action, which was led by one Major Soranam. (Ullagath Thamilar -Canada 910801)

(Security forces entered the besieged army camp on the 3. August)



## 1.3. Northern Region

## January

04. The Navy seized a twenty foot long fibre glass dinghy with seven Tamils aboard roughly five miles north of Mathahagal in the Jaffna peninsula. The dinghy was equipped with two powerful outboard motors and was heading from Mathagal to South India. (The Island 910107)

05. Security forces reported that the Sri Lanka navy fired at a high speed boat carrying suspected Tigers at northern Pungudutivu. The boat was believed to have sunk, and all its occupants were feared drowned. They added that the Navy detected around 200 unauthorized Indian trawlers in Sri Lankan waters and escorted them away (Sunday Times 910106)

A statement from the PFLT accused the armed forces of breaking the ceasefire and putting the blame on the LTTE. The PFLT statement accused the government troops of directing artillery and gunfire on LTTE bunker positions near northern Palaly. It claimed that government forces moved out of their Elephant Pass army detachment and fired rockets into LTTE bunker positions and injured a rebel. It further charged that unidentified persons entered the Tambiluvil village and abducted 40 villagers. The fate of 15 abducted wealthy Tamils and 25 Tamil youths is not known. (Sunday Times 910106)

During the ceasefire, the army shot dead two Tigers at Mavidapuram in Jaffna when they attempted to infiltrate forward defence positions, army sources said. At Elephant Pass, in a separate incident, soldiers gunned down another militant while he was spying. (The Island 910107)

08. Tigers attacked four army camps under cover of the ceasefire as well as killed one soldier and wounded a civilian near Manipay in the Jaffna district.

09. The Army shot dead a LTTE militant as he was walking towards defence lines in the Kadduwan area. The army while observing a ten-day ceasefire in North-East from the beginning of January has killed eight Tigers in confrontation. (The Island 910111)

10. Two soldiers were wounded at Elephant Pass when Tigers attacked the army detachment. Military sources said that five Tigers were killed

when the Navy returned fire at a boat off the island Delft in the Northern region. (Daily Observer 910111)

11. Fourteen militants and two soldiers were killed and twenty militants and two soldiers wounded on the first day of the resumption of the army offensive against the militants. At Mullatitivu, troops were attacked by militants with one soldier killed and one wounded. another. The security forces recovered a number of anti-personnel mines at Poonthodam in Vavuniya. (Sunday Observer 910112)

13. Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed areas in Kilinochchi and Elephant Pass. Ten civilians were killed and fourteen injured. (PFLT News Release 910113)

21. An air raid by Air Force planes and helicopter gunships in Valvettithurai in the Jaffna district killed seven civilians and wounded 23. An estimated 60 houses, Hindu temples and a catholic church were damaged. (PFLT Press Release 910121)

24. According to a statement from its London office, the LTTE called off the unilateral ceasefire it had declared on January 1st and accused the government that it was bent on pursuing its genocidal attacks against the Tamils. (AFP News agency 910115)

27. A major Tiger camp located near the Thannimurrippu tank, 12 miles southwest of Mullaitivu and about a square mile in size, was set ablaze by Air Force bombing. Air Force sources said that the blaze from the main explosion had risen to about 2000 feet. Unfortunately they were unable to estimate the number of Tigers in the camp, but were hoping to receive the figures from the Tigers' radio messages. (Daily News 910128)

According to a Reuter report, the Tigers stated that they shot down a helicopter strafing Navatkulam village in northwest Mannar district. "The damaged helicopter, emitting smoke and flames, made an emergency landing inside the Thallady army camp", according to the Tigers statement from their London office. The Military denied the report but they admitted that the Tigers had retaliated attacks by aircrafts and helicopters with heavy .50 machine guns and other automatic weapons. (Daily News 910128)

Security sources said that they had identified an LTTE major who was killed in operations in the Mannar district.

**Political Violence - Northern Region**

29. Four soldiers, two civilians and a home guard were killed and three persons wounded in an ambush by Tamil rebels. The rebels attacked a patrol near Padaviya in the North-Central Anuradhapura district.  
(The Island 910130)

**February**

04. An Israeli built Fast Attack Craft (FAC) of the Sri Lankan Navy seized a boat with two Tamils aboard north of Valvettiturai in the Jaffna district. 869 liters of diesel was recovered by the Navy.  
(The Island 910105)
06. The security forces said that they repulsed the attacks by the Tigers when they tried to breach the defence of the Kankesanthurai factory. The forces said that one officer was killed and three were wounded, and confirmed that they had killed 29 Tigers and 69 were wounded.  
(Daily News 910208)
07. The Deputy Defense Minister Ranjan Wijeratne informed at a press conference that he wanted over a million Tamils from Jaffna to leave the areas to clear the way for a major military assault on the LTTE. He said the government was prepared to accommodate civilians in camps in the south of the island until the security forces were able to overcome the Tigers.  
(PFLT Press Release 910209)
11. A Reuter report stated that five Tamil separatist guerillas and two soldiers were killed in clashes in the Northern Vavuniya district.  
(The Island 910212)
- Air raids on Mullaitivu killed thirty-five rebels, and over ten vehicles used by the LTTE were also destroyed during the same aerial bombing, an Air Force spokesman said.  
(The Island 910212)
12. Heavy fighting continued between the government troops and Tigers north of Vavuniya. It is reported that while the security forces have suffered some casualties, the rebels have suffered heavier losses. A large haul of their weapons has also been recovered.  
(Daily Observer 910213)
14. Military sources said that in the fighting in Vavuniya, 39 rebels and six soldiers were killed.  
(Daily News 910215)

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17. Forty-four soldiers including two officers were killed by Tamil Tigers at Kondachchi in the Mannar district in one of the largest single attacks on the Sri Lankan troops recently. Official sources said that the soldiers were returning to their camps early in the morning after waiting in ambush for a group of rebels, and that they in turn were ambushed and killed by the rebels.  
(The Island 919218)
19. Three soldiers were killed when they were blown up by a landmine during an operation in the Mullaitivu area, security sources said.  
(The Island 910221)

**March**

09. Fierce fighting broke out between the LTTE and the PLOTE at Thandikulam in the Vavuniya district. Two PLOTE members were killed and two others injured. The wounded were rushed to Anuradhapura hospital by the Army.  
(Sunday Island 910310)
13. Security forces in Colombo said the LTTE had suffered heavy casualties in the North of Vavuniya during a major ground/ air offensive by the security forces. Gen. Cyril Ranatunga confirmed at the press briefing that the casualties included eight dead and 31 wounded. On the security forces side, a corporal, a lance corporal and two privates were killed when their armoured car was blown up by a land mine.
14. The Defence Ministry decided not to move the 18 000 refugees in Madhu out of the camp, but to conduct military operations to clear the LTTE from the area without approaching Madhu Church. Defence Secretary Gen. Cyril Ranatunge said, "We have asked the NGOs to keep the refugees within the camp, so that they may not be harmed. We will carry out the Madhu operation but will be careful not to go near the Church. Even if the LTTE run into the Church we will not follow them there."
- The UNHCR officials expressed their appreciation of the humanitarian response on the part of the government in their decision not to proceed with proposals to evacuate refugees from the Madhu Church Camp.  
(Daily News 910315)
16. The Tigers attacked the Silavatturai army camp in the Mannar District, killing four soldiers and seriously wounding eight others, just hours after Prime Minister Wijetunga (also State minister for Defence)

accompanied by security forces top officials visited the Vavuniya - Mannar region, senior military officials disclosed.

(The Island 910318)

22. After three days of intense assaults on two Sri Lankan army camps at Kokupadayan and Chilavathurai in the Mannar district, the LTTE captured the Kokupadayan camp. Fifty Sri Lankan soldiers were killed while several others escaped to reach the Chilavathurai camp. Twenty Tigers were killed and weapons including rifles, machine guns, mortars and armoured vehicles were seized by the Tigers from the security forces. The attack on Chilavathurai camp persists.

There was heavy aerial bombardment and helicopter strafing and over one hundred civilians were killed. The LTTE denied the Sri Lankan government's claim that over 300 Tigers had been killed.

(PFLT Press Release 910323)

According to a government press release, the security forces lost 27 men and 68 were wounded. The Security forces recovered 115 bodies belonging to LTTE cadres as well as many weapons left behind by the fleeing Tigers. (Sri Lankan Government Press Release 910326)

24. Three soldiers were killed in a fierce gun battle with LTTE militants at Thammannakulam, near Madawachchiya. Another five soldiers were wounded and taken to Madawachchiya hospital. (The Island 910325)

#### April

01. The LTTE made a diversionary move by firing mortars at the naval base at Karainagar in order to divert the attention of the security forces' which were attacking the LTTE bases in Vavuniya and Mannar. A curfew has been imposed in these districts by the security forces.

(Daily News 19910401)

02. Sixty militants were killed by the Sri Lankan security forces in operations conducted in the Vavuniya district. In other incidents in Vavuniya the Air Force destroyed several buildings where the militants were taking refuge.

(Sri Lankan News 19910410)

Twelve Tamil youths were stabbed mysteriously with sharp weapons at Iruthayapuram in Batticaloa district. Members of the ICRC who found these bodies took them to the Batticaloa hospital. Most of the bodies were identified by relatives and handed over to them.

(Virekesari - Tamil Daily) 19910403)

03. The LTTE are reported to have carried out an attack on Sinhala fishermen at Sampur, south of Trincomalee. Two boats were burnt and eleven fishermen killed during this attack. (Daily News 19910404)

The ICRC handed over to the Navy the bodies of 23 soldiers killed in action at Vappankulam in the Mannar district. The dead were from the First Battalion of the Gemnu Watch, and included two junior officers.

(The Island 19910404)

04. Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando, Secretary to the Ministry of State for Defence, said at the weekly press briefing that intense fighting started on April 1st between the Tigers and Sri Lankan forces. The Tigers rained the camp with about 50 'Passilans' mortars and the forces suffered 37 casualties. He said that 26 soldiers and one sailor died in the Silavaturai sector in the last few days, and that 68 were wounded. In the Vapankulam sector, two officers and 21 soldiers died, 31 were injured and five reported missing. The LTTE casualties were estimated at 150: 115 bodies were recovered at Silavathurai and over a hundred killed at Vapankulam. He also said that 267 wounded Tigers were receiving treatment in the Jaffna Hospital. The army did not protest to the ICRC about this.

A total of 1108 security forces personnel including police have been killed in the battle against the Tigers since 11 June 1990, and 2 427 injured. (Sri Lankan News 19910410)

The number of casualties among the Tigers given by the government was denied by the LTTE. The LTTE charged the government with the statement that most of the people killed were innocent civilians and that the numbers were provided in order to satisfy the Sinhalese people.

04. The co-ordinating officer for the Jaffna peninsula Brigadier Wijaya Wimalaratne was wounded when the LTTE attacked with mortars, security forces said. The Brigadier was hit when he was directing a security forces ground operation. (Sunday Island 19910407)

05. Military sources said that the armed forces killed 25 militants when they took control of Nanatan Junction in the Mannar district.

06. The Sri Lankan army handed over eight bodies of LTTE cadres to the ICRC in Vavuniya. These bodies were brought to Mankulam and

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- handed over to the LTTE the same day, an ICRC release said.  
(Daily News 19910409)
07. A sub. Lieutenant of the Navy Manoj Perera was killed in a mortar attack directed against the Elara Naval base in the Karativu island.  
(The Island 19910409)
08. Nine police personnel, including an Inspector, two reserve Sub-inspectors and six reserve police were ambushed and killed in the Mannar district.  
(Daily Observer 19910409)
09. An offensive operation was carried out by the security forces against the LTTE in the Mannar district resulting in the capture of Manthai junction.  
(Daily Observer 19910410)
20. Government troops backed by air cover overran areas held by Tamil guerrillas in the Northwest of Sri Lanka, killing 18 rebels and losing nine of their own men.  
(AFP News Agency 19910420)
25. In a major offensive conducted against the Tigers in the North, Security forces captured a part of Karativu island and destroyed LTTE bases on Kayts island. Six soldiers were killed and 21 wounded during the operation while the Tigers lost 26 men. (Daily Observer 19910426)
27. The LTTE intensified attacks on the Elephant Pass army base. Twenty-three soldiers were killed and 36 injured. The reports reaching Colombo indicated that 100 Tigers were killed and 150 injured.  
(Daily News 19910429)
29. The LTTE killed at least 43 soldiers in an ambush at Nanattan in the Mannar district. The dead included two junior officers. At least 60 soldiers are known to have been killed in the same district over the past three days, General Ranatunga said. (Daily Observer 19910430)

**May**

01. A curfew was declared in the district of Mullaitivu as the security forces launched a major operation to hit the Tiger bases. The area of the operation included Alampil, between the Nayar lagoon and the sea.  
(The Sunday Island 19910505)

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02. The security forces backed by Air Force helicopters and Siai Marchetti aircraft moved in to Nochchimodai, six miles of north Vavuniya. One soldier was killed and five wounded during the operation.  
(Daily Observer 19910503)
03. The Secretary to the State Ministry of Defence, Air Marshall Walter Fernando announced that a total of 1282 Security Forces personnel were killed during the period from June 1990. In addition 480 security forces personnel were reported missing in action. The deaths are divided as follows: Army 896, Navy 10, Air Force 7, Police 336 and home guards 24.  
(The Island 199105604)
- Four members of Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF) were shot and wounded in Vavuniya, when their vehicle was attacked by Sri Lanka Air Force helicopters. The French team was returning from a refugee camp in a church when their vehicle with Red Cross flags came under fire. It is said that they were wounded by the helicopter fire and shrapnel from bombs dropped by planes. The MSF refuted an account of the attack by a state run newspaper, which said that the helicopter had been fired upon by another vehicle in the vicinity. They said there were no other vehicles in the area and that no shooting took place before the attack.  
(Sunday Island 19910505)
- Following the shooting incident, the French mission asked for an explanation from the Government. Meanwhile, UNHCR has suspended its food convoy to Madhu, pending a discussions on last week's incident at Thandikulam where a convoy of UNHCR vehicles was caught in a crossfire.
04. An LTTE suicide squad rammed their explosive-packed boat into a navy surveillance command ship off the Jaffna peninsula, damaging it badly, killing five men and injuring twenty on board. The surveillance command ship was identified as SLNS "Abitha", one of Sri Lanka Navy's three such vessels. The Navy deployed these surveillance command ships better known as "mother ships" to control and direct its Fast Attack Crafts (FAC) and gun boats which maintain the naval surveillance cordon around the North Eastern coasts.  
(The Island 19910506)
06. In an operation carried out by the security forces at Omanthai in Vavuniya district, military sources estimated that the death toll of the Tigers was around 60; they confirmed that they had lost eighteen

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personnel, including two officers, and fifteen men were wounded.  
(Daily Observer 19910507)

13. Military officials said that security forces captured the LTTE's biggest camp complex in the Wannai after a fierce battle in which conservative military estimates put the number at a hundred Tigers killed and several more wounded. The 150 acre camp complex west of Omanthai which included training grounds, stores, ammunition, dumps and series of underground bunkers was destroyed. (Daily News 19910514)

Eight soldiers were killed by the Tigers while attempting to enter a house in Kayts in the Northern District. (Daily News 19910515)

25. Navy fast-attack craft and patrol boats detected and destroyed eleven Tiger boats and killed 35 Tigers who had been trying to cross the Palk Strait during the previous three weeks, military sources said.  
(Island International 19910529)

29. Two soldiers were killed and four others injured when Tigers ambushed an army patrol at Kokkalai near Vavuniya. (The Island 19910630)

30. Security forces killed ten Tigers in a counter attack, after two soldiers died in an ambush in Vavuniya district. (Daily News 19910631)

**June**

03. A super davora fast attack craft of the Sri Lankan Navy destroyed a Tiger boat and killed at least two Tigers and four others were believed to have escaped. During retaliation from the Tigers boat, two sailors were injured and the craft was slightly damaged. (The Island 910606)

07. Security forces captured the town of Potkerny in the northwestern district of Mannar. The Tigers reportedly offered no resistance.  
(Lankapubath 910608)

10. LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran made a surprise appearance at a Tamil cultural festival in Jaffna. It was the first time in four years he had made a public appearance in the North. (Reuter 916012)

12. The UNHCR said Tamil separatists apologized for the shooting at one of the UNHCR vehicles and gave assurance that it would not happen again.  
(Daily News 910613)

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13. Three soldiers were killed and four wounded by a landmine in Manner, security sources said. (The Island 910612)

14. The security forces launched an offensive against the Tigers in the North-west of Vavuniya. There were heavy losses on both sides. An indefinite curfew was imposed in the north. (Reuter 910615)

15. Twelve soldiers were killed and approximately 40 wounded during fierce fighting with the LTTE at Sinna Thampanai and Poovarsankulam in the Vavuniya district. The amount of LTTE casualties was estimated at 30 by the army. (The Island 910616)

16. An American-built Bell 212 helicopter of the Sri Lanka Air Force crash landed at a spot five miles west of Vavuniya, killing Air Force gunner and wounding three other airmen, a security forces spokesman said. The helicopter, which caught fire during a forced crash landing was completely destroyed, due to a technical defect. (The Island 910617)

17. Five soldiers were killed and one seriously wounded at Wahalkada in the Anuradhapura district when a mine planted by the LTTE exploded, ripping apart the vehicle in which they were travelling. They were on their way to reinforce an army detachment which was under Tiger's attack. The army said that they had killed at least five Tigers who took part in the attack. (The Island 910618)

18. The attack on the Tigers in Pandivirichchan area since 14 June, 120 LTTE cadres and 25 soldiers were killed, said the Secretary of State for Defence. (The Island 910620)

24. The Sri Lankan Government lifted a ten day curfew in four northern districts following a government offensive that killed 250 militants and 36 soldiers. (The Island 910625)

**July**

02. Security forces said that the LTTE leader for Pesalai in the Mannar region, and three other militants were shot dead by the army following a brief exchange of fire. Two T-51 rifles, T-81 hand grenades and communication equipment were also recovered from them.  
(Daily Observer 910703)

09. The operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence announced the lifting of the curfew in Mannar. (Daily Observer 910710)

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19. Thirty-two Tigers and three soldiers were killed during an operation conducted between Mannar and Uyilankulam.

(Sunday Observer 910721)

**August**

01. The battle at Elephant Pass between the Security Forces and the LTTE continued for the third week. Government troops were reported to be fighting off stiff resistance while advancing towards the besieged camp, but they were confident to reach the camp at any time.

(Daily News 910803)

03. The soldiers of "Operation Balavegaya" who have fought a long battle against the LTTE linked-up with the Elephant Pass Army Camp at 6.40 p.m. The clearing up of the LTTE resistance was expected to take place over a radius of 5000 meters to enable helicopters to land at the camp safely and out of range of the Tiger's new 23 mm guns. This was done to evacuate 40 wounded soldiers who had been struck at the camp since it came under siege on July, 10. According to the military sources, 149 soldiers including seven officers and around 1500 Tigers, have been killed in these operations. However, the Tigers have denied the numbers of casualties given by military sources.

(Sunday observer 910804)

04. A Fierce battle began in the north of the Elephant Pass army camp between the security forces and the Tigers; two soldiers were killed and 24 were injured. According to the military sources, 24 Tigers were killed. It is reported that the Tigers concentrated on cutting the supply lines to the camp.

(The Island 910806)

06. Five soldiers and 21 Tamil militants were killed in a clash at Elephant Pass as government troops continued to clear the army garrison. Military sources said that another 21 soldiers were wounded on the previous day, while clearing the mines and other explosives from the camp's perimeter. The military's figures and version of events could not be independently verified.

(Reuter 910806)

07. An officer and seven soldiers were killed in a militants ambush at Mullaitivu.

(Daily News 910808)

08. A military spokesman said that the troops lost 165 men in the Elephant Pass operation - seven of them officers and three from the Navy. The injured numbered 722 - nine officers and three sailors.

(Daily News 910809)

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09. The LTTE attack on army troops advancing towards old Paranthan Chemical Corporation, south-east of the Elephant Pass camp, left six soldiers dead and at least fifty-two others wounded, a military spokesman said. The wounded included a junior commissioned officer and several non-commissioned officers. Later it was announced that the number of soldiers killed was twelve.

(The Island 910810)

10. About twenty militants and three soldiers were killed during the security forces mopping up operation south of Elephant Pass. Five soldiers were critically wounded during the confrontation.

(Sunday Observer 910811)

11. Three soldiers were killed and sixteen wounded in fierce gun and grenade battles south and south-east of the Elephant Pass army camp, including twelve Tigers, a military source said. The army said that they recovered eleven automatic rifles and a quantity of ammunition and other military items.

(The Island 910812)

15. Wing commander Mark Seneviratne said that 178 soldiers were killed and 790 wounded in the Elephant Pass operation from July 10 - August 13. The troops believe that over 2000 Tigers were killed. The Tigers claim that only 250 Tigers were killed and the troops lost around 1000 soldiers. Another military source said that four LTTE men had committed suicide in protest against the leadership decision to deploy them in the North.

(Daily News 910816)

The Tigers have accused the government's malicious campaign to divide the Tamils in the North and East, reported in their news service.

19. Y2 Air Force planes began their air-strikes on Paranthan areas, ten kilometers from the Elephant Pass army camp, in order to secure the area from an attack by the Tigers.

(Lankapuvath 910819)

26. Military sources said that the forward defence lines in Palaly camp came under attack by the LTTE. A Defence Ministry spokesman confirmed the attack and said the militants had fired rocket-propelled grenades and rifle grenades at the forward lines of the camp.

(The Island 910827)

29. Nine of the ten soldiers who were on their way from Vankalai camp to Thalladi camp were ambushed and killed by the LTTE, a military spokesman said.

(Daily News 910839)



## September

02. Twelve soldiers and over seventy-two Tigers were killed and several injured in a confrontation between army and Tigers in Weli Oya.
04. Nearly fifty Tigers and four soldiers have been killed, and thirty others were wounded in heavy fighting in Weli Oya and Mullaitivu, according to the military sources. (The Island 910904)
05. A military spokesman said that thirteen soldiers had died and 42 wounded in the current military operation at Weli Oya where Tigers lost 226 of their men. The Tigers have always denied these figures given by the government. (Daily News 910906)
06. Four soldiers were killed and five other were wounded in an explosion in Mannar. According to reports, the vehicle in which they were travelling had gone over a pressure mine activating it. (Sunday Observer 910908)
07. Military sources said that 251 rebels and nineteen soldiers had been killed in the battle at Mullaitivu. (Daily News 910909)
08. Four soldiers were ambushed and killed by the Tigers at Thandikulam in Vavuniya district, according to the military sources. (Daily Observer 910909)
09. About thirty Tigers and four soldiers were reported killed in the army's ongoing operation in the Weli Oya area. According to senior military sources, the security forces have attacked the Tigers main training camp named Michael Camp. (Daily Observer 910910)
10. Security forces were continuing their assault on the in Weli Oya area and reported the death of 50 Tigers and the loss of twelve of their men. (Daily News 910911)
12. A military spokesman said at a weekly press briefing that they have captured two main camps of the Tigers and killed 397 Tigers. He added that thirty five soldiers, including a few officers were killed, and that 42 soldiers and five officers were injured in Weli Oya Operations. (Daily News 910913)
13. Heavy fighting continued in the jungles of Mullaitivu, north of Weli

Oya. The troops encountered stiff resistance and the dense jungle was also heavily mined. Six soldiers were killed and 16 were injured, bringing the figures to 41 killed and 63 wounded in this campaign. (Daily News 910914)

17. Security forces reported that they had lost four more soldiers, and that thirty were injured in their way towards Camp Michael in the deep jungle of Mullaitivu. While the number of casualties among the Tigers is unknown, the military sources confirmed that they have lost 53 soldiers and that 500 are injured. (Daily News 910918)
20. Security forces claimed that they have captured the biggest Tigers camp housed with eight bomb and weapon factories, a massive fuel tank and detonator dumps and huge food stores. The battle lasted for 22 days and took the life of sixty security personnel. (The Island 910921)
22. An explosive device in the Nainativu channel at Karainagar caused damage to a moving naval craft and killed seven navy men, including two officers. Six bodies were recovered. (Daily News 910924)  
Twelve soldiers were killed and twenty-nine were wounded in fierce fighting around Weli Oya LTTE base code-named "Michael". (The Island 910924)
26. Government troops captured Camp Michael after heavy resistance from the LTTE. The army has lost seventy soldiers and a large number injured in this operation code named "Akunu Pahara". (Daily news 910927)

## October

01. A military spokesman said that the rebels had attacked a naval craft between Nainativu and Pungudutivu. One sailor was wounded and another one reported missing after the clash at sea. (The Island 911003)
07. A PLOTE statement said that their members shot dead two suspected members of the LTTE at the Thandikulam checkpoint in Vavuniya District. (Daily Observer 911008)
13. The military sources said that about 250 Tigers stormed the south-western bunkers of the camp at Muallaitivu. The Tigers attacked on a broad front and suffered heavy casualties, and five soldiers from the security forces were also killed. (Daily News 911014)

**Political Violence - Northern Region**

Eight soldiers including a second lieutenant, were seized by the Tigers in a fierce confrontation in the Northern District, military sources said. (The Island 911016)

14. The Tigers reported that they have destroyed a security defence point at Mullaitivu army camp killing 27 soldiers and injuring 45 others. While Military sources accepted the number of casualties on their side, they claimed that they had killed 65 Tigers in this attack. (Daily Observer 911017)
17. A curfew was clamped down in the entire Jaffna District as the Security forces prepared an offensive against the LTTE in the peninsula. The warning to the civilians, delivered by thousands of air-dropped leaflets and radio broadcasts, requested the people of the area to gather in churches and kovils by 2 pm on the following day. (Daily Observer 911018)
18. The security forces informed that they had entered the heartland of the Jaffna peninsula following the capture of several strategic islands south east of Kayts. They said that the Tigers who withdrew offered very little resistance which surprised the advancing security forces. Army Commander Wanasinghe added that the final objective of the offensive would be to capture the main Jaffna town and finally enter the peninsula; this had always been the objective of the security forces. (The Island 911019)
19. Army Commander Wanasinghe said that the new operation launched in Jaffna against the Tigers named as "Operation Valampuri" (a Tamil word indicating a rare kind of conchshell which is considered to bring good luck). (Sunday Observer 911020)
20. Brig. Wijaya Wimlaratna, commander of the Northern Armed Forces was wounded in the battle against the Tigers. The Army said that they had destroyed four Tiger camps in Vadamarachchi district. They also reported that the Tigers had been mining the sea around Jaffna in order to prevent naval vessels bringing in soldiers and supplies to the forces in the north. (The Island 911021)
22. In an effort to isolate the LTTE activities to a small area in the Northeastern part of Sri Lanka, government forces mined a thirteen-mile stretch of jungle across the Jaffna peninsula from the air. (Reuters, 911022)

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The Security forces cut off access to the whole of the Jaffna peninsula from the mainland by landing several seaborne battalions at Comar Beach and gaining control of the Sangupitty causeway. Three soldiers were killed and four wounded in this operation. The number of casualties of the LTTE is not known. (Daily Observer 911023)

23. Seaborne troops captured the last highway to the Jaffna peninsula. As a result of these two government manoeuvres during the last two days, the Tamil separatist heartland has been effectively sealed off from the rest of Sri Lanka. (AFP, 911023)

Military sources reported that an LTTE headquarters building in Jaffna Town was destroyed by air raids conducted by the Sri Lankan air force. In addition, reports indicated that the air strikes resulted in the deaths of numerous high ranking and provincial LTTE leaders. (Xinhua, 911023)

**November**

10. Sri Lankan air force planes attacked a Tamil rebel camp in the Mullaitivu jungle and killed fifteen guerillas, the state-run Lankapuvath news agency said. (The Island 911112)
20. A major security operation was launched at Pooneryn, in the Jaffna district, after the Tigers ambushed and killed nine soldiers and wounded six. (Daily News 911121)
28. Militants killed seven soldiers and a policemen when they attacked an army bunker at Mamaduwa in Vavuniya district, security sources said. They said the killings were the result of a gun battle when militants attacked the bunker by firing mortars from a distance. The sources also said that a curfew was still in force in the Jaffna and Mullaitivu districts. (The Island 911129)

**December**

03. Security forces captured the village Potkerny in Mannar after heavy resistance from the Tigers. An official report said one Tiger was killed and 15 others injured. Six soldiers were also wounded in the confrontation. (Daily News 911205)

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Aerial bombing took place in the villages of Kuppilan, Erlalai, Kurumpaciddy, Chavakachcheri and Pollikandy in Jaffna, Several houses have been damaged. (Virekesari 911206)

04. Military sources said that in a troops had an encounter with the Tigers in Jaffna, one soldier was killed and casualties among the Tigers seemed to be heavy. (Daily News 911205)
05. The Security forces have captured an abandoned Muslim village in Mannar, Vappankulam, and the adjoining areas in the rich green belt of Mannar, military spokesman Col Munasinghe said. He said, "The aim of operation Green Belt is to liberate the rich farming area of Mannar district." (Daily News 911206)
07. Five Tigers and three soldiers were killed when troops moved out of the Palaly camp to attack the positions of militants. (Daily News 911210)
08. An army spokesman said that five Tigers and two army men died in the fighting near Palaly in Jaffna. (The Island 911209)
20. Chief of the Joint Operations Command General Hamilton Wanasinghe said the LTTE was getting weaker and weaker every week, and that the Jaffna mainland should be liberated within a couple of months. (Daily News 911221)
- Four Tigers were killed following close range shooting west of Vavuniya district. (Daily News 911221)
23. Fierce fighting erupted south of Mullaitivu, and more than 17 Tigers and 11 soldiers were killed, said military spokesman Col. Sarath Munasinghe. (Daily News 911225)  
According to the Tamil daily Virekesari, 21 soldiers were killed and 30 injured in the fighting at Mullaitivu.

**Political Violence - Eastern Region****1.4. Eastern Region****January**

04. A father and son who were travelling in a bullock cart from the 35th village to the 36th village were abducted by Sinhala home guards. They are presumed dead. (PFLT Press release 910105)
- The Sri Lankan armed forces abducted two Tamil villagers and raped three women at the Kiliveddi refugee camp. The details of the victims conditions are given in their statement. (PFLT Press release 910106)
05. Sri Lankan security forces shot dead a Tamil militant, the first death since the Tigers declared a unilateral ceasefire, military sources said. They said the militant, who had tried to grab a gun from a soldier guarding a brigade in the eastern Batticaloa district, was shot by another soldier. (Sunday Observer 910106)
- At Iruthyapuram in the Batticaloa District soldiers on guard duty shot dead another Tiger who was armed, army sources said. (The Island 910107)
13. Two soldiers were killed and five seriously injured in clashes between the advancing security forces and the LTTE at Chenkalady road in the Eastern region. (The Island 910114)
14. Forty Tamil youths were found in a pit in the special task force camp at Akkraipattu in the Amparai district. They bore severe injuries and fractures due to torture. Another four youths were found dead in the pit. The request by ICRC was rejected and the detainees taken to another army camp. (PFLT News release 910114)
23. Suspected Tiger guerrillas shot dead 27 villagers in Eastern Sri Lanka, military sources said. About 300 members of the LTTE raided Bogamuyaya village in Amparai district. (Daily Observer 910124)
29. One soldier was killed and three others wounded when the rebels exploded a claymore mine in the path of a security force vehicle at Kumburumulai in Batticaloa. The three wounded personnel include an army officer a police constable and a Reserve Police Constable(RPC). Meanwhile at Mohotwaran in Batticaloa, a soldier shot dead a rebel who had fired at an army patrol. (Daily Observer 910130)

**Political Violence - Eastern Region****February**

04. Two soldiers were seriously wounded in two separate anti-personal mine explosions in the Polonnaruwa district, army sources said.  
(The Island 910205)
06. Nine servicemen were killed and 36 wounded when a bus transporting security force personnel, most of them on leave, from Podiwakattu to Kuchchuveli in the Eastern District of Trincomalee, was blown up by a fifty kilogram landmine.  
(Daily News 910207)
07. Eight soldiers were killed and four others injured when nearly one hundred Tigers attacked an army camp Post at Kent Farm Road 10 miles North of Padaviya. The Tigers removed four T-56 rifles, four 303, one SLR and one LMG when they retreated following the arrival of reinforcements from the Gajabapura Army Camp.  
(Daily Observer 910208)
09. Security forces said that the Tigers shot dead two women at Navatkuda in Batticaloa district, one was a gramaseveka (30) and another an old LTTE supporter.  
(Sunday Times 919210)
10. A soldier and an RPC were killed and five others critically wounded, in Udawa Kattu in Kuchchuveli Police area of the Eastern District.  
(The Island 910212)
11. Four policemen, including an officer in Charge (OIC) were killed and another was critically wounded, in a guerilla ambush along the Ampara-Mahaoya road.  
(The Island 910213)
12. The Tigers ambushed an army patrol at Vavunativu in Batticaloa killing a soldier and injuring three other soldiers. In another incident three army personnel were injured when one of them stepped on a 'Johnny' mine at Poonani.  
(The Island 910212)
13. The Tigers ambushed an Army Truck near Pulmodai Army Camp, near 11th mile post killing five Army personnel. It is believed that only five soldiers travelled in the truck. The vehicle was totally demolished.  
(Daily Observer 910213)
15. Six policemen were killed and two other injured when LTTE ambushed their route clearing patrol at Arantalawa. The police were attacked with

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grenades and automatic rifle fire. Five policemen died instantly, security forces said.  
(Daily News 910216)

20. A private bus plying between Eravur and Batticaloa was set on fire by a group of armed youth. The 45 passengers are missing.  
(Daily Observer 910221)

Later it was confirmed that all the Tamil passengers were killed by the Muslim home guards.

25. Police commandos shot dead seven Tigers and lost one of their men in continuing violence in eastern Sri Lanka, while three other militants died elsewhere in army gunfire, security officials said. Among the weapons seized from the dead rebels were five T-56 rifles, one G-3 rifle and a light machine gun, the spokesman said. (Daily News 910226)
27. One Officer and five soldiers were killed when the LTTE ambushed a route-clearing patrol at Palampattu, in the Trincomalee district.  
(Daily News 910301)

**March**

10. Fifteen soldiers were killed and three others seriously wounded when the LTTE attacked an army patrol with automatic weapons and grenades in Trincomalee district. Arms, ammunition, communication sets and other items in the possession of the soldiers were confiscated by the attackers.  
(Virakesari 910311)
18. Military sources stated that two soldiers were killed in a mine explosion at Kuchchuveli in the Trincomalee district. They said that during the last week 41 Tigers had been killed and over 10 000 litres of diesel had been seized. Twenty-two soldiers had also been killed during the week, military sources said.  
(Daily News 910318)
24. A bomb exploded in the crowded Akkaraipattu fish market, killing nine people and injuring fifty. Residents said the entire Akkaraipattu area was rocked by the explosion. The military sources said that the LTTE were suspected of having set off the bomb. (Daily News 910325)

The LTTE launched an attack on the security targets in Batticaloa which included, the Old Police Station, Deputy Inspector General's Office, Assistant Superintendent Police's quarters and a building where several suspects were said to be held.

**Political Violence - Eastern Region****April**

06. Eleven Sri Lankan soldiers were killed when the LTTE attacked a route clearing patrol on the Batticaloa - Trincomalee road at Vakarai. Ten other soldiers were wounded and admitted to the Polonnaruwa hospital. (Daily News 19910406)

At Lahugala in Amparai district, one STF constable was wounded in a confrontation with a group of militants.

Sixteen fishermen were reportedly missing following an attack by the LTTE. Eleven fishermen were killed and nine wounded in the attack.

An army officer and a soldier were killed and six other were wounded when militants exploded a landmine at Itcyalampattu in the Trincomalee district.

Two soldiers and four civilians (three women and a child) were killed when militants opened fire at a group of people bathing in a stream in Mollipatana in Trincomalee district.

07. Captain Raj Fernanado and a private of the second battalion of the CLI were killed and four other soldiers were wounded when the LTTE attacked troops advancing to Toppigala from Valaichchanai in the Trincomalee district. (The Island 19910408)

14. Twenty-three villagers in Athimale in the Moneragala district were killed by the Tigers on Sinhala new year's night. (The Island 19910414)

Five soldiers were killed and five others injured when the LTTE attacked an Army outpost at Welioya, security sources said. (The Island 19910416)

16. Sixteen members of two families from Kattaiparichchan in Trincomalee District, escaping from the Sri Lankan Army operations, were killed by Sinhalese homeguards at Veli Oya. (PFLT news release 19910419)

19. Official sources said four soldiers were killed by an LTTE laid Claymore mine, between Wedamune and Wedikande in the North Central District of Polonnaruwa. (Daily News 19910420)

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20. Twenty-one villagers at Niyadala in the Moneragla district were killed by the Tigers. The security forces maintained that they killed 542 Tiger guerillas during this month. (Daily News 19910422)

23. The LTTE activated a claymore mine in eastern Batticaloa killing, a civilian and two soldiers, security sources said. (The Island 19910421)

24. After the massacre in Niyadella in the Moneragala district, the Sinhalese have attacked a number of Tamils and killed two of them at Badalkumbura. A large number of terrified Tamils living in the area sought police protection in fear of further attacks, the officials said. (The Island 19910425)

The Tigers ambushed an army vehicle killing four soldiers in Trincomalee. Military sources said that the army vehicle came under fire between Thoppur and Seruvila. (The Island 19910425)

29. The LTTE ambushed an army patrol vehicle in the Amparai district, killing at least two soldiers and a civilian driver. Another soldier died with gun shot injuries in a confrontation with the Tigers at Palugamam, south of the town of Batticaloa.

**May**

01. Eight soldiers including two officers were killed in a confrontation at the Naval head quarters in Trincomalee. The security sources reported that troops were carrying out an operation in the area when they were confronted by the Tigers. Approximately twenty Tigers were reported killed during this operation. (The Island 19910504)

03. Reports reaching Colombo stated that a group of men in a white van abducted six youths from the town of Batticaloa. A state of panic prevails in Batticaloa, which was deserted before noon with no bus service. (Virakesari 19910605)

04. Two bodies of unidentified persons were found in Mandur with their heads and hands cut off. These bodies were found tied with wire on either side of the Moolkirilaru Bridge on the Mandur-Vellavel road. Later, they were buried by the army. (Virakesari 19910504)

19. The OIC of the Batticaloa Police Crime Branch, SI Munithias and a constable were gunned down by LTTE at Batticaloa, Police said. The

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weapons of the dead service men were not removed by the Tigers. In another offensive by the security forces, fifteen Tigers were killed.

(Daily Observer 19910591)

20. Five Muslim villagers and a Sinhalese were killed by a group of 15 people claimed by security forces to be Tigers in Eragama in the Ampara district. The villagers were travelling in a tractor when they were shot at. Meanwhile in Addakaliachcheni in the Batticaloa district, security forces with Air Force assistance attacked the Tiger communication centre. Fifteen Tigers were killed in an attempt to escape.

(The Island 19910521)

28. Eight soldiers were killed when Tigers opened fire at their jeep on the Padaviya - Pullmodai road and they took away the soldiers' weapon. It was the first attack by the Tigers since the three day suspension of offensive operations by the security forces came into effect in observance of the Buddhist festival of Vesak.

(Daily News 19910529)

**June**

03. A lance corporal and an infantryman of the Wijayaba Regiment were killed while another soldier was seriously wounded when LTTE ambushed an army foot patrol at the 6 mile post between Unnachchi and Aiytimale in Batticaloa district.

(Daily News 910604)

05. The LTTE attacked a village guard post in Trincomalee district in the East, killing one soldier. In another incident in Batticaloa district two Tigers were killed.

(Daily Observer 910606)

07. Security forces captured two LTTE bases at Palugamam in the Eastern district of Batticaloa.

(Lankapuvath 916008)

08. Four soldiers were killed and one critically wounded when LTTE militants attacked an army contingent at Sittandi in Batticaloa district.

(Daily News 910609)

10. Six Sri Lankan soldiers and six Tigers were killed in a confrontation in the Trincomalee district.

(All India Radio 910610)

The arms, ammunition, communication equipment etc., belonging to the dead soldiers were taken away by the Tigers.

(The Island 910611)

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11. The LTTE kidnapped eight veddahas (aboriginies) who were hunting in the Henannigala jungles in the east. Two were found dead, four were found unhurt and two others were missing.

(Xinhua General Overseas News Service 910612)

A government official reported that all major towns in the east had been cleared of Tamil rebel operatives. Additionally, the security forces consolidated and continued their positions in the north and maintained its sweep of the jungle in the east.

(The Xinhua General Overseas News Service 910611)

12. Two government soldiers were killed and three others were injured in an explosion of a land mine in the eastern district. Military sources blamed the Tigers for the blast.

(Reuter 910614)

The above incident allegedly touched off a rampage by the government forces in the Batticaloa district in which people in the villages of Kokadicholai, Mahilditivu, and Munaikadu were dragged from their houses, shot, mutilated and burned to death. Although the numbers of those killed in the slaughter was disputed, villagers in the area report that 150 people were killed, several thousand fled into the jungle to hide and 520 houses were burned. Some witnesses claim that several Tamil women and girls were raped. Many school children were reportedly victims of the attack. Sixteen bodies were found in the crater created by the land mine explosion.

(Reuter 910615)

Kokkadicholai, Ampalthurai and Mahiladitivu villages looked like cemeteries. Many houses were burnt to the ground and hundreds of civilians suffered injuries. The security personnel didn't allow anyone to enter the village. There was no one available to transport the injured to the hospital nor to bury the dead bodies.

(Virekesari 910614)

13. A special task force of government commandos destroyed the larger Tiger base in east Sri Lanka. Pararajasingham Joseph, a Tamil M. P., sent a letter to President Premadasa protesting the massacre in the Batticaloa district.

(The Independent 910615)

14. President Premadasa responded to Pararajasingham Joseph's letter, expressing "shock and sorrow" at the killing of Tamils in the eastern part of the country. It was the first time ever that the President had sent condolences following the killing of Tamils.

(Independent 910615)



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President Premadasa directed Prime Minister D. B. Wijetunge, Leader of the House Ranil Wickremesinghe and the acting secretary to the Defence Ministry to fly to Batticaloa and the three villages of Mahilditivu, Munikadu and Mutalaikudah where a number of innocent civilians had been massacred. A series of instructions were also given to the officials to ensure that:

- \* Post-mortem are held and death certificates issued forthwith;
  - \* All assistance extended to perform the last rites and meet funeral expenses;
  - \* Provide medical assistance to the injured;
  - \* Immediately institute an impartial inquiry and report;
  - \* Provide immediate relief to the families that been rendered destitute and homeless.
- (Daily News 910615)

In a statement to the press, TELO MP G. Karunakaran and PLOTE Secretary described the events in the Batticaloa district as a terrible tragedy and said that over 135 innocent civilians including women and children had been brutally murdered and others seriously injured in a reign of terror by the security forces.

(Daily News 910615)

TELO spokesman Sri Kantha stated that the incident would slow down the process of finding a political settlement for the ethnic issue of the country. The PLOTE leader emphasised the need for discipline among the forces fighting against the LTTE.

(Sunday Observer 910616)

Both groups (TELO and PLOTE) warned the government that failure to control forces in the region may force them to withdraw assistance to the government in the fight against the Tigers.

(The Island 910616)

One of the victims described how she was severely beaten, displaying her scars and how a girl was molested, while another reported seeing 38 bodies set on fire, during the evidence given before the high level team led by Prime Minister D. B. Wijetunga.

(The Island 910616)

15. Thousands of villagers are reported to have fled to the jungles after a massacre of numerous civilians early this week. MP of the district, P. Joseph, described the grisly scene to the reporters and told that the villagers were trying to bury the dead which were being eaten by dogs.
- (Reuter 910615)
16. The MPs of the Eastern Province have lodged a protest against the failure of the P.M.'s team to visit Kokkaddicholai where the massacre

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took place before their return to Colombo. Mr. Joseph blamed the army for the extent of the havoc wrought by the armed forces and the PM team excused themselves on security grounds.

(Virekesari 910617)

17. Five soldiers were killed in an LTTE land mine explosion at Welj Oya in Trincomalee.
- (Lankapuvath 910617)
18. President Premadasa appointed a three-man commission to investigate the allegations of a government-force massacre in the Batticaloa district. Retired supreme court judge D. G. Jeyalath was appointed to head the commission.
- (Reuter 910617)

President Premadasa appointed a Presidential commission of inquiry under the Commission of Inquiry Act to investigate and report on the Kokadicholai incident. The decision was made based on the findings of the three member investigation team which carried out on the spot investigations in Kokadicholai.

The members of the presidential Commission of Inquiry will be Mr. O. S. M. Seneviratne, retired judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. Siva Selliah, retired judge of the Supreme court and Dr. A. A. M. Shahabdeen, former civil servant.

The Commission has been asked to inquire into and obtain information on the circumstances relating to the death of sixty-seven civilians and the destruction of property in the 3 villages as well as the land mine explosion which resulted in the death of the two soldiers on June 12th.

The Commission was directed to submit its report within three weeks (10. July).

(Daily News 910618)

Premadasa's office released a statement that the preliminary finding of a group of ministers, advisors, and opposition parliamentarians who visited the area was that 67 civilians were killed. The military version of June 12th reports that the cause of the 57 civilian deaths was a "crossfire".

(Agence France Presse 910618)

19. Secretary to the Ministry of State Walter Fernando said the Commanding Officer of the Kokkaddicholai camp was suspended and a court of inquiry appointed to inquire into the incidents. The military tribunal will await the findings of the three member commission appointed by the president.
- (Daily News 910620)

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20. Nineteen soldiers were killed when they were ambushed by LTTE at Weli Oya in the Eastern Trincomalee district, security sources said.  
(The Island 910621)
23. Two LTTE militants were killed by the security forces at Kovillady in the Trincomalee district.  
(Daily News 910625)
24. Military sources said that the Tigers had killed nine civilians in the farming village of Weligahakandiya, on the southern border of the Batticaloa district.  
(Daily News 910626)
27. Twelve civilians including a Danish national were killed and nine wounded when the militants exploded a claymore mine and then opened fire with automatic rifles at the passengers in a bus. The bus was ambushed between Hulannuge and Lahugala, closer to the Badulla district.  
(Daily Observer 910628)

**July**

06. Military sources said that the Tamil militants shot and hacked to death fifteen Muslims and nine Sinhalese in the Polonnaruwa-Welikanda region and withdrew before the security forces arrived.  
(The Island 910708)
10. Security sources reported that the Army had captured an LTTE base at Wellawali in Batticaloa district and six Tigers have been killed and explosives and 500 liters of diesel were recovered.  
(Sunday Observer 910714)
16. The Special armed Forces lost six commandos including a Captain Janaka Francis Sean de Fonseka in the Padaviya Weli-Oya region while fighting with the Tigers.  
(The Island 910717)
17. The fighting continued at Janakapura, north of Weli Oya where security forces killed 29 Tigers and lost ten of their men while 18 were wounded.  
(Daily News 910718)
22. Two soldiers were killed and three others injured when the LTTE ambushed an army unit between Miyankulam and Nawaldi in Valachchenai in the Batticaloa district.  
(Daily News 910723)
27. Seven soldiers and a member of TELO were killed when Tigers

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- exploded three claymore mines on the path of a route clearing at Sittandi in Batticaloa district.  
(Sunday Observer 910728)
28. Chief Inspector Ashok Kumar and constable Wimalaratne were killed and nine other police Special Task Force(STF) commandos wounded, five of them seriously when their two vehicles were blasted by an LTTE landmine on a jungle track at Kanchikudichchiaru, in the eastern Ampara district.  
(Lankapuvath 910728)
30. One officer was killed when his security patrol was fired at by the Tigers at Muttur in Trincomalee district.  
(Daily News 910731)

**August**

02. Three officers and twenty soldiers were killed when about 100 Tigers attacked a group of soldiers led by Capt. Shantha Edirisinghe was returning to the Madumunai camp off Welikanda (on the borders of Polonnaruwa and Batticaloa). Reinforcement troops who rushed to the scene were also fired at by the militants and two lieutenants who led the reinforcements W. Silva and Chandrasiri were also killed.  
(Sunday Observer 910804)
08. A military spokesman said that the Tigers attacked a Muslim village west of Sammanthurai, killing six Muslims.  
(The Island 910810)
12. One Police Constable was killed and four others critically wounded when suspected militants fired at a police jeep in Ampara District.  
(Daily Observer 910813)
13. Three soldiers were killed and another was wounded in a grenade explosion at Kalmunai. According to military reports, the soldiers were returning after an operation when the explosion took place.  
(Daily Observer 910814)
15. Military sources said that the Tigers ambushed a van carrying a group of TELO cadres; killing two persons and injuring two more at Araipattu in the Batticaloa district.  
(The Island 910816)
20. Five soldiers were killed and four injured when the tractor they were riding in at Ampara ran over a buried landmine, military sources said. At Pallavelikulam, in the Batticaloa district, troops ambushed and killed three Tigers and sized a T-81 rifle, three magazines and 120 rounds of ammunition.  
(The Island 910822)



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25. A member of the Special Task Force (STF) was killed and two others were wounded when an STF food patrol came under a militants' attack between Rufus Kulam and Kanjikudichchiaru. (Daily News 910826)
26. A group of army men on a road-clearing operation near Welikande in Polonnaruwa was attacked by a group of LTTE men. One soldier was seriously wounded and six others were reported to be missing. In an exchange of fire between the army and the LTTE, several LTTE cadres were reported killed. (Daily Observer 910827)
27. Four security personnel, including an army sergeant were killed and three others injured when Tigers ambushed a military patrol at Vappenkulam in Trincomalee district.

**September**

01. Six civilians were killed and many others injured in a car bomb explosion in Kattankudy in the Batticaloa district (Daily News 910902)
02. Four Muslims of Kuchchaiveli in Trincomalee were killed by the Tigers, according to Kuchchaiveli police. (Daily Observer 910903)
08. Security forces have discovered a mass grave in Pasikudah, North of Batticaloa where 35 bodies of policemen were buried. These policemen were believed to be the captured men by the Tigers from the Police stations of the east. (Daily observer 910909)
12. Two policemen were killed and ten others injured when Tigers attacked a police station and escaped with weapons. Four soldiers also injured when army detachments from Sithandi went to help the police. (Daily news 910913)
18. It is reported that the Tigers had attacked the Police guard room at Palliyagodella in Medirigiriya and five police men are reported to be missing and ten villagers killed. (The Island 910919)
21. The Tigers attacked two vehicles of the army and killed ten army men including an officer and injured another four between Valachchenai - Wakanari road in the Batticaloa district. (Sunday Island 910922)

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25. Tamil rebels killed three airmen and wounded eight in an ambush in Eastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said. (Reuter 910925)
30. Eleven army patrolmen were killed by the Tigers while they were moving from the thirteenth colony towards the central camp in Ampara district. Weapons and communication equipment belonging to the soldiers had also been removed by the attackers. (The Island 910829)

**October**

01. Three sailors were killed and six others were wounded in a landmine explosion at Trincomalee. According to the security sources, the sailors were in a Buffel APC armoured personnel carrier which was leading a Navy convoy from Trincomalee to Naval headquarters. As the convoy neared Palampataru, the rebels exploded a landmine under the leading vehicle. (Daily Observer 911001)
02. Four soldiers, including an officer, suffered injuries when rebels fired at an army foot patrol at Puliantivu in Batticaloa district.
10. The Air Force continued its attack in the Eastern Province, especially in Batticaloa and Amparai.
25. One lance corporal and five soldiers were killed and six others wounded when LTTE militants ambushed a patrol between Kakkadicholai and Batticaloa. Two seriously injured soldiers were flown to the Army hospital in Colombo. A vehicle transporting civilian employees of the Deutsche Welle German Radio station was ambushed and six people including the driver, were killed. (Daily News 911026)
27. Fourteen Sri Lankan soldiers and thirteen LTTE militants were killed in fighting after the Tigers ambushed an army convoy between Welikanda and Wadamunai in the Polonnaruwa district. Four soldiers including a Lieutenant were also injured when platoon of 53 soldiers came under heavy Tiger attack. Military sources said that the Tigers removed T81 weapons of the fourteen dead soldiers. (The Island 911028)
29. Tigers in the East ambushed and killed eight soldiers and home guards in Serunuwara while they were on mobile patrol on Arippu road in Trincomalee, security sources said. The Tigers also seized the weapons of the dead soldiers and home guards before fleeing from the scene of the attack. (The Island 911031)

**November**

03. The Security forces continued their search operation in the Eastern Districts, code named as Dragnet in Amparai District and as Boomarang in Batticaloa District. In these operations one militant is reported to have been killed and several detained. One school and a place of worship also were damaged by an aerial attack conducted by Air Force planes.  
(Virakesari 911104)
09. One army officer was killed and four others were critically wounded in a fierce battle with the LTTE in the jungles of Toppigala on the Polonnaruwa-Batticaloa border, security sources said.  
(Sunday Times 911110)
15. Suspected rebels from the LTTE abducted four engineers including two Thai nationals in Punanai in the Polonnaruwa district. A military spokesman said the abducted men who were electrical engineers were taken away by the rebels while they were supervising an underground cable-laying project.  
(The Island 911116)
20. About 300 Tigers ambushed a security forces route-clearing party between Mahawelitenna and Sinhaura in the Polonnaruwa district, killing twenty soldiers and wounding four. Military sources said that an immediate counter operation was launched, in which five militants were killed.  
(Daily News 911121)
29. Twelve Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and eleven others wounded when LTTE militants attacked troops carrying food rations between Karadiyanaru and Chankaladi in Batticaloa district. The injured were airlifted to the Polonnaruwa hospital.  
(The Island 911130)
30. Security forces informed that they had killed the leader and two senior members of the LTTE group which was responsible for an ambush in which 12 soldiers were killed. Security forces said that they had found solar panel items, large stocks of anti-personnel mines and rifle grenades, torch batteries and many other items, in a search operation called "Wata Raum".

**December**

01. The Joint Operation Command reported that the army had attacked a big LTTE base, named "Jeevan's Base" which was accommodating 700 militants. The base was destroyed while two officers were wounded due to the explosion of anti-personnel mines. In another search operation in the East, the security forces said that they had found a camp known as Ramanan Base. They recovered 286 rifle magazines, 870 rounds of ammunition, seven T-81 grenade launcher attachments and 20 pull switches. In Trincomalee district, the police arrested a militant; from the information obtained from him, they found one 9mm automatic pistol with the magazine, 65 rounds of 9mm ammunition and other small items.  
(The Island 911202)
03. A police constable was blown up by a pressure mine during a route-clearing operation at Pulmodai.  
(Daily News 911205)
11. About 40 militants ambushed a road clearing patrol between Kuchchaveli and Salpearu in the Trincomalee district; they killed six soldiers and wounded three.  
(Daily News 911211)  
LTTE militants attacked a group of Air Force personnel and killed four of them. The airmen were escorting the students to the G.C.E.(O/L) examination centre in Morawewa in the Trincomalee district.  
(Daily news 911211)
21. The army lost three men in a fierce battle with the Tigers in the Trincomalee district. Three other were wounded. The soldiers were from the fifth battalion of the Ceylon Light Infantry (CLI) deployed in the Muttur section.  
(The Island 911223)



**Political Participation****2.1. Political Participation****January**

05. Eight opposition parties that met at the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party headquarters decided to make representation to President Premadasa on comments made by LTTE's central committee member, Sathasivam Krishnakumar that the LTTE would not lay down arms.  
(Sunday Observer 910106)
12. Yogaratnam, the secretary of the PFLT announced over the Tiger Radio, that the LTTE declared a ceasefire and explained the following matters regarding the decision. The reasons for restarting the war are: the Government was continuing the colonization scheme while denying it in spite of evidence. - They were bringing the anti LTTE groups and arming them. They were postponing to repeal the 6th amendment. They were arming the policemen in the eastern region with R.P.T. firearms, used by only STF.  
(Sunday Times 910113)
29. Indian Foreign Minister Vidya Charan Shukla met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herat in Colombo. Discussion focused on the situation in the North and East. Sources said that both sides felt that devolution of power to the provincial council as set out in the 1987 accord would be the best solution to the problem. Assurance was also given that India would send troops to Sri Lanka in the future and that Delhi would not allow Indian territory to be used as a base for militants activities against Sri Lanka.  
(Daily News 910130)

The seven Tamil parties met the Indian Foreign Minister Shukla and urged him to take up the matter of indiscriminate military action including aerial bombing in the North and East, to strengthen the process of devolution according to Indo-Sri Lanka accord, to insure that the merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces to be made permanent, and that the sixth amendment be repealed.

(The Island 910130)

**February**

03. PLOTE made a special appeal to the British High Commissioner David Gladstone to expel the LTTE from the United Kingdom and prevent them from operating and using the country as a base for propaganda. The High Commissioner has assured the senior members of PLOTE that he would convey the request to his government.

(The Island 910291)

**Political Participation**

15. President Premadasa spoke at a seminar in Batticaloa for people's representatives and government officials held at the Town Hall. He said that no ethnic group can complain about discrimination at present due to the government policies now.  
(Daily News 910216)
17. LTTE released a press statement stating they were amused to hear about the Sri Lankan government's accusation. The intelligence services said that they had uncovered a plan by the LTTE to plant bombs at the place where the Mothers' Front rallies were to be held. While the Tigers condemned the charges, the LTTE stated that they fully supported and extended its solidarity to the Mothers' Front in its initiatives against the human rights abuses by the Sri Lankan Government.  
(PFLT Press Release 910217)
19. A huge rally of the Mother's front was held in Colombo, presided by Dr. Manohari Saravanamuttu, the mother of the late Richard de Zoysa. The women who were gathered at the rally were wives and mothers of the persons killed by the military or para-military forces.  
(The Island 910220)

**March**

09. The EPRLF leader MP K. Premachandran said that neither the government nor the major opposition parties in the south seemed to have the political will to reach a lasting solution. He said that his party was unhappy with the lack of progress in the talks at the All Party Conference, which dragged on for months with no sign of permanent settlement.  
(Sunday Island 910310)
14. The Presidential Advisor on International Affairs, Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, said that he had a 45 minute meeting in Geneva with the LTTE spokesman in Paris, Lawrence Thilakar and found that the LTTE held fast to its demands on the right of self-determination, Tamil homeland and Tamil army. He said the door for negotiations remains open as the Prime minister and new State Minister for Defence had indicated in parliament. The Government would talk to the LTTE if the three conditions it had specified in January were met that Prabhakaran attends to the talks; that the LTTE declares its will to lay down arms; and that other Tamil parties are included in the talks.

(Daily News 910315)

**Political Participation**

The Election Commissioner Chandananda de Silva announced that the PFLT (the Political Wing of LTTE) along with 29 other political parties could contest elections to the Urban, Municipal and Pradeshiya sabhas.  
(The Island 910315)

The DPLF (Political Wing of PLOTE) spokesman Kandasamy said that the All Party Conference had failed to find a solution to the ethnic problem despite months of talks because the Tamil and Muslim parties had been unable to reach an understanding on power sharing. He said that they may hold another meeting shortly and if no understanding could be reached, the DPLF was likely to tell the government that they were unable to agree and withdrew from the talks, leaving it to the government to propose its own solution.  
(The Island 910316)

15. Representatives of five Tamil political parties (EPRLF, PLOTE, TELO, TULF and EROS) met the Indian High Commissioner Mr. Nagendra Nath Jha. Their talks centred on the security situation in the North and East and negotiations between Tamil and Muslim parties. For reasons unknown, the Tamil Congress and EPDP were not represented in the meeting.  
(The Island 910316)

18. Mr. K. Sirinivasan is expected to take oaths as an MP for the Jaffna District this week. The TULF-EPRLF seat was rendered vacant when MP Yogasundari was killed in Madras last year. Mr. Sirinivasan is a resident of Thirunelveli, Jaffna and was living in London.  
(The Island 910319)

21. President Premadasa directed the Foreign Ministry to invite an observer mission from the SAARC countries to watch the forthcoming local government elections. The observer mission will oversee the election process from the nomination day, March 28 until the election day.  
(Daily News 910322)

**April**

01. The 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka has adopted a resolution expressing deep concern about the tragic situation that the people of the Northern and Eastern areas face as a result of the civil war in these areas. The Congress demanded a return to the search for a political solution within the framework of Sri Lanka while recognising the national aspirations of the Tamil people.  
(Daily News 19910406)

**Political Participation**

03. The LTTE's spokesman in London, Sathasivam Kittu told in an interview that the LTTE was prepared for talks with Colombo provided no conditions were made. Kittu said that the LTTE is ready to face a referendum among the Tamil people to find out who represents them. The referendum would put two separate questions to the Tamil people: whether they desire Eelam and whether they accept the LTTE as their representatives.  
(The Hindu 19910403)

08. President Premadasa said if the LTTE failed to resolve their problems and settle the present differences during his term of office, they would never be able to do so in the future. He said, "I say this as one dedicated to deliver justice to all sections of the people."  
(Daily News 19910410)

13. The Sri Lankan Government is studying the LTTE proposals for negotiations and a referendum on the ethnic issues, before making its response to Kittu's suggestions from London (Sunday Times 19910414)

23. Muslim Parties have rejected the proposals submitted to them by the Tamil parties on the North-East merger issue. SLMC leader A. H. M. Ashraff said that the proposals contained nothing on law and order, and that the aspiration of the Muslims were not fulfilled. He wanted the government to come out with its own solutions for the North-East issue.  
(Daily Observer 199120424)

**May**

11. The UNP swept the local government general election taking 193 of the 237 Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas that went to the polls covering all parts of the country, except the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Of the ten municipal councils, the UNP took nine, with the SLFP able to retain only Ratnapura. The score for the urban councils was 28 for the UNP against 5 that the SLFP won. Of the 194 pradeshiya sabhas, the UNP won the overwhelming majority with at least 156 victories.  
(Sri Lanka News 19910522)

14. Six Tamil political parties presented a joint memorandum listing their proposals on the North - East question when the All Party Conference resumes.  
(Daily Observer 19910514)

The 16 member International observer team which observed local authority polls has concluded that the election was conducted in a free and fair manner. The team was led by Australia's former minister for Media, Douglas McClelland.  
(Daily News 19910515)

**Political Participation****June**

10. Industries Minister Ranil Wicremasinghe said that the government was giving serious consideration to the proposal of holding local government elections in the North and East in a staggered manner. Once Police take over the maintenance of law and order from the army and thereafter, it will be possible to hold the local election.  
(Daily Observer 910611)

**July**

05. The LSSP released a statement describing the two sets of propositions which could become the basis for the solution of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The first set of propositions were contained in Part 11 of the program of the Democratic People's Alliance put forward on behalf of Mrs. Bandaranaike at the last presidential elections. The second one is the formulation of the proposals by the Tamil representatives in the all party conference (APC).  
(Daily News 910706)
11. Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, president of the newly formed Bahujana Nidahas party (BNP) provided insight when she addressed the Sri Lanka Law College students Union (LSU) on 11 July 1991. She said, "We are prepared to rally round any party to save democracy. We have to decide how to contain terrorism. We are prepared to give maximum devolution to the North and East short of Eelam. We are not opposed to the merger of the North and East. This is one point where the SLFP does not have solution. We are against the open economy. We are for a mixed economy."  
(Sunday Times 910714)
20. President Premadasa announced that he was prepared to extend to the LTTE an opportunity to face an election in the North and East and prove to the country and the world at large its assertion that it is the sole representative of the Tamil people in the North and East.  
(Sunday Island 910721)
23. The EPRLF has sent a letter to President Premadasa clarifying its stand on the eight points program submitted to the drafting committee by five parties, viz the ACTC, DPLF, ENDLF, EPRLF and TELO.  
(The Island 910624)
29. A new initiative was taken by Parliament to appoint a Select Committee headed by the Speaker of the House Hon. M. H. Mohammed, to examine the ethnic question and formulate proposals to resolve the problems.

**Political Participation****August**

03. President Premadasa made a statement after the linking-up by the security force with the Elephant Pass army camp. He said, "I hope at least now the LTTE will give up their terror campaign and save innocent lives. In war no one wins. All are losers. It is in peace that all are victors. It is through consultations that we can find solutions to human problems and not through confrontations. At this moment my thoughts are with our brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives and suffered injuries."  
(Sunday Observer 910804)

The DPLF (the political wing of PLOTE) has asked the government not to allow the Speaker M. H. Mohamed to head the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Ethnic problem. A party spokesman said the request was made because Mr. Mohamed has already taken a stand on the Ethnic issue by saying that the merged North-Eastern province should be de-linked.  
(Sunday Island 910804)

05. The SLFP parliamentary group unanimously decided to support Mr. Mangala Moonasinghe's motion to appoint a Select Committee of Parliament to find ways and means of settling the country's ethnic problem.  
(Daily News 910806)
07. President Premadasa issued an order under the Provincial Council Act, postponing the referendum six months further to decide whether the Northern and Eastern Provinces should continue to be merged or separated. The new date for the poll will be 24 February, 1992.  
(Daily News 910808)
09. Mr. Mangala Moonasinghe's private members motion for the appointment of a parliamentary select committee to recommend ways and means of achieving peace and political stability was passed in Parliament.  
(Daily News 910810)
22. The leaders of the parliamentary groups decided that the parliamentary Select Committee should comprise 43 members - 23 from the government and 20 from the opposition, leader of the house Ranil Wickremesinghe announced. He said the Select Committee will be formally constituted once the political parties nominate their representatives.  
(Daily news 910823)

**Political Participation**

28. President Premadasa suspended Parliament until 24. September after 120 MP's signed an impeachment motion in an attempt to remove him from office. The motion specifies 24 allegations of corruption and abuse of power by Mr. Premadasa under article 38 of the Constitution, including illegal land deals and involvement in the murder of journalist Richard de Zoysa. (Sri Lanka Monitor 910800)

**September**

03. All party conference met with the seventeen political parties representatives at the Presidential secretariat and chaired by the President. Minister Hameed briefed the meeting with regards to Devolution, the seventeenth amendment to the Constitution, media Commission, the nominations commission and the human rights commission. (Daily News 910905)
09. Rebel UNP Parliamentarians said that they still consider themselves as members of the UNP and MPs. Dayan Jayatilala, Deputy Secretary and Sarath Kongahage, Provincial Councillor for Central Province were suspended from SLMP. (Inform 910900)
12. Attempts were being made by EROS to fill the twelve vacancies created in parliament due to the prolonged absence of MPs who contested in the North and the East as independent candidates, according to political sources in Colombo. It is reported that EROS is sending its MPs to parliament in view of the present political crisis. (Daily Observer 910913)
25. The motion to extend the state of emergency was passed in parliament with 131 voting for and 72 against. The other parties which voted for were TELO 1, EROS 2, and SLMC 4. (Daily News 910926)  
A copy of a motion of no-confidence in the Government was handed over to the Secretary General of parliament, signed by SLFP, MEP, EPRLF, and USA. (The Island 910926)
27. The EROS team came from Jaffna, under the leadership of Mr. Sebastiampillai to meet the President. EROS leaders said the discussion concerned the situation in Jaffna. There was speculation regarding an unofficial ceasefire. (Sri Lanka News 910731)

**Political Participation****October**

07. The six EROS members of parliament who were expected to take their oaths were in Colombo. When the Parliament met today, they returned to Jaffna escorted back by the ICRC. (Daily News 911008)
21. Four opposition parties (SLFP, MEP, USA and EPRLF) announced a boycott of the party leaders' meeting chaired by speaker M. H. Mohamed, stating that a large number of MPs had expressed their lack of confidence in Mr. Mohamed by voting for the no-confidence motion. (Daily News 911022)
24. Eleven MPs belonging to five political parties (SLMC, TULF, TELO, EROS and ENDLF) have decided to function as a separate independent unit within the opposition. (Daily News 911025)
- The Parliament passed the motion for the extension of the Emergency with 127 voting for and 62 against. The SLFP, MEP and USA voted against the motion while TULF which comprises the EPRLF, TELO and ENDLF were divided. The Majority dissidents including Lalith Athulathmudali and Gamini Dissanayake voted with the government in favour of the extension. (The Island 911025)
25. SLFP leader Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranayike will give up the party leadership in order to pave the way for her son Anura to lead the party, SLFP sources said today. They said that the move did not mean that she would give up politics. She would try to strengthen the opposition alliance. (The Island 911026)
26. The APC decided to finalize its proposals on Human Rights Commission, the 17th amendment to the Constitution, and the establishment of a Second Chamber before the end of this year. The representation of each party in the APC will be increased to five; three members and two observers. (Sunday Observer 911027)
30. Former Minister of Labour and Vocational Services, Mr. G. M. Premachandira, one of the UNP dissidents told a meeting held at the Aluvihare Stadium that on 6. November the dissidents would form a party, to be called the United National Democratic Party. (Daily News 911031)

**Political Participation****November**

14. Mr. C.V.K. Sivagnanam and Mr. Edward Sebāstianpillai, who planned to take their seats in the Parliament on behalf of the independent group from Jaffna, have requested that President Premadasa provide security, accommodation and facilities to attend the parliament session and express the view of the people from the North. They also stated that 500 000 people are displaced and 85% of the population in the North has lost its employment and savings. (Virekesaari 911116)
20. The Select Committee of Parliament is expected to recommend ways and means to achieve peace and political stability in the country met in Parliament. The Committee decided to call for written representations from members of the public. To find a political solution, and for the devolution of power in the Northern and Eastern provinces. This would prevent the disintegration of the nation, the killing of civilians, armed forces and youth fighting for causes as well as the increased militarization and the culture of violence in the country. (The Island 911121)
27. The Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) has adopted a resolution advocating the right of self-determination of the Tamil speaking people inclusive of the right to separation as a means of unifying the nation on a voluntary basis. The resolution was adopted with several others at the eight Congress of the NSSP which was held at the New Town Hall in Colombo. (The Island 911128)
- LTTE Leader V. Prabhakaran has repeated that the LTTE is ready for unconditional talks with the Sri Lankan Government. He made the announcement soon after midnight on 27. November to mark the "Hero's Day". He has said that the LTTE had not given up the struggle for Eelam, but that it was prepared to participate in any unconditional talks with the Sri Lankan government. He further said that the willingness of the LTTE for unconditional talks would prove to the world and the Sri Lankan government the stand that it had taken in the fight for freedom. (Daily Observer 911128)
27. The LTTE organized celebrations from 21 to 27. November to mark the National Hero's Day in the districts of Mannar, Mulaitivu, Jaffna and Kilinochchi. An impressive parade took place at the Jaffna University premises by the Tiger Cadres. (Virekesari 911130)

**Political Participation****December**

03. Two judges of the Supreme Court held that the expulsion of the eight dissident UNP members from the party on 6. September, 1991 for backing an impeachment motion against President R. Premadasa was valid. However, Justice Mark Fernando who chaired the three member bench which heard the petition by the dissidents challenging their expulsion from the party, held that only the expulsion of the former Ministers Lalith Athulathmudali and G. M. Premachandra was valid. (The Island 911204)
05. The APC met at the Presidential Secretariat under the chairmanship of President Premadasa. The President stressed the need to win over the people of the North and East through dedicated efforts and to find political solutions. Such solutions can only be found through the consensus of all parties. The APC also decided to obtain the views of all political parties regarding the desirability of establishing a Second Chamber, and the proposal for the establishment of a Human Rights Commission. This proposal has been discussed at several meetings of the APC, and a draft bill for the consideration of the government is expected to be finalised within two weeks. (The Island 911209)
06. The Working Group of the UNP expelled two more MPs from the party, Mr. S. A. Muthu Banda (Polonnaruwa District MP) and Mr. Ariyaratna Jayatilleke (Gampaha District MP) who signed the impeachment motion and had expressed their support to the dissidents.
- Election Commissioner Chandranda de Silva announced that the UNP vacancies in parliament has been filled with eight new MPs. (Daily News 911207)
22. The six newly appointed MPs from the Jaffna district would lose their seats in Parliament if they fail to take oaths before 27. December. Earlier these members asked the President and Secretary General of the Parliament to provide them accommodation and security, to which they have not received any reply.

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## 2.2 Political Crises

## September

01. The controversy around the impeachment motion and the discussion of article 38 of the constitution on the office of the President escalated on many fronts. The President addressed a meeting of all Ministers and service Chiefs and expressed the confidence that majority of UNP MPs would back him. Rebel Leaders Lalith and Gamini expressed confidence that out of all the UNP Parliamentarians who signed the petition, at least 47 would stick to it to the very end. (Sunday Island 910901)

Among the Tamil parties, TELO rejected the impeachment motion, TULF remains undecided and the EPRLF supports the motion. SLMC leader M.H.M. Ashraff denied that the SLMC signed the impeachment motion. (Sunday Observer 910901)

State Minister for Handloom industry Chandra Gankanda announced that he has resigned from office and his resignation has been accepted. (Daily News 910902)

The Speaker of the house complained to the Inspector General of the Police that his vehicle was followed by two unidentified vehicles. (Sunday Times 910901)

02. One hundred and sixteen government MPs pledged their support to the President and decided to call on the Speaker to present their counter-petition. President Premadasa told the Parliamentary group that he was not opposed to holding a referendum on whether the country should continue with the executive presidency or revert to the Westminster system, if the members of parliament desired so. (Daily news 910902)

03. Lalith and Gamini group have welcomed the President's offer to hold a referendum on the issue of doing away with the executive presidency and handing power back to the parliament. They accused the President of handing over weapons to the LTTE during the negotiation period last year, an allegation which was vehemently denied by the Defence sources. One hundred and sixteen members of the government parliamentary group handed over to Speaker M. H. Mohammed the resolution they adopted on the previous day expressing explicit confidence in President Premadasa. (Daily News 910904)

05. Minister Ranil Wicramasinghe said that there was no provision under the standing orders of Parliament for the holding of a secret ballot. The manner of voting as set out in the standing orders should be either in form of "voice vote", "head count", or "by name". The minister was expressing his opinion after the controversy about the secret ballot on the impeachment motion on the President. (The Island 910906)

06. The working committee of the UNP unanimously approved the recommendation of the disciplinary committee of the party to expel eight members from the UNP with effect from September 6, 1991. Consequently, their seats in parliament fall vacant under the provisions of the constitutions. (Daily News 910907)

The District Judge of Colombo, Mr. P. Wijeratne refused to grant an enjoining order of interim injunction restraining the working committee of the UNP from suspending and/or expelling eight members of UNP. (Daily News 010907)

08. SLMR's central committee has made unanimous decision to support the move to abolish the Executive presidential system (The Island 910909)

09. The eight members of the UNP who were expelled from the party have decided to the Court of Appeal against their expulsion. (Daily Observer 910910)

10. Dissident UNP members first public rally was held at Nugegoda to inform the people about the impeachment motion and the struggle to restore parliamentary democracy. It is reported that a massive crowd attended the meeting and ended peacefully in spite of a smoke bomb went off at the meeting. (The Island 910911)

13. President Premadasa wrote to the Speaker of the house that the impeachment motion cannot be placed in the order book according to the advice of the Attorney General, due to the provisions of Articles 70(4) of the Constitution. (Letter to the Speaker from the President)

15. According to reliable sources, the Speaker of the house replied to the President that the question whether this motion could go through in Parliament at its next session will not arise, because the resolution had been given to him in accordance with all the provisions of the constitution. The Speaker further stated in his letter that he had accepted the resolution in terms of Articles 38(2) of the Constitution on August 28 and handed it over to the President.





- The leaders of the joint opposition have condemned the action of the President with regard to the resolution to impeach him which had been entertained by the Speaker, which ceased to be valid upon the prorogation of Parliament, because it had been placed in the order book. They also pointed out that on many occasions the Attorney General's submissions on the law have been rejected outrightly by the Supreme Court. (The Island 910916)
16. In a series of meeting held by the Lalith group, Lalith Athulathmudali accused Premadasa of providing arms, cement, communication equipment and money to the Tigers. He said, "From 1984 to 1987 in the whole of the security operation, up to the end of the Vadamarachchi operation we lost 738 lives but within the last 15 months, over 2000 security forces lives have been lost." (The island 910917)
- The Speaker of the house received a letter again from the President, reiterating that he would adhere to the advice given by the Attorney General with regard to the impeachment resolution against him, which had lapsed with the prorogation of Parliament. He also said that the President was not barred from dissolving the Parliament. (Daily Observer 910917)
17. President Premadasa told the government parliamentary group that there would be no dissolution of the parliament for the next four years and that there will be no disciplinary action against UNP members who have retracted their signatures from the impeachment motion. The allegation that the LTTE were given arms to kill our own people is a canard. (Daily News 910920)
- A number of lawyers expressed the view that if the parliament was dissolved, the war in the North-East have to be stopped and about 8 000 Sinhalese and Tamil youth held in custody have to be released and that many serious crisis would emerge. (The Island 910918)
- Lalith said that they would consider bringing impeachment resolution No. 2.
18. Minister of State for Cooperatives Ravindra Samaraweera and Minister of State for Mineral Resources and Industries, Ariyaratne Jayatilleke, resigned from their positions. The Opposition group met Speaker M. H. Mohamed for a discussion relating to the security of parliamentarians and the need to ensure their safety and protection. (The Island 910919)

19. Speaker M. H. Mohamed sent a letter to President Premadasa. The letter stated that the Speaker was not obliged to accept the advice of the learned Attorney General who is a part of the Executive and its legal adviser in a matter on which there is an apparent conflict of interests between substantial number of Member of Parliament and the Executive, unless he himself was convinced of its correctness. (The Island 910920)
20. Another UNP Parliamentarian, MP for Polonnaruwa H. A. Muthubanda joined the rebel group and appeared at a well attended meeting at MC playground at Mahaiyawa, Kandy. (The Island 910921)
21. The Speaker, M. H. Mohamed met President Premadasa at the Presidential Secretariat. The meeting took place at the request of the Speaker and lasted for nearly two hours. (Sunday Observer 910922)
- It is reported that Lalaith Athulathmudali had recommended a select committee comprised SLFP national list MP S. L. Gunsekara, UNP member K. N. Choksy and himself, to recommend amendments to the Constitution.
24. Opposition members of the parliament rose to their feet and began to speak, over-riding the speech of the President Premadasa, throughout the ceremonial opening of the Parliament. The Speaker appealed to the SLFP members to maintain order in the house. Later, The Speaker made an apology to the President for the behavior of the opposition members during the sitting. (Daily News 910925)
25. At the commencement of parliament sitting, the Speaker M. H. Mohamed made announcement to the House, "I wish to inform the House that I have been receiving written and oral representation, questioning the validity of the signatures to the resolution against the President. I am looking into this matter at present. My decision will be conveyed to the House soon." (Daily news 910926)

## October

04. The eight dissident members of the UNP filed papers in the Supreme Court challenging their expulsion from the party on 6. September. The petitioners submitted that as Members of Parliament they have a right to sign the impeachment motion against the President in terms of article 38(2) of the Constitution. (The Island 911005)



*Political Crisis*

07. The Speaker M. H. Mohamed conveyed to the President Premadasa that he had ceased entertaining the impeachment resolution presented to him in August by the opposition MPs and few UNPers. The Speaker stated that he was of the view that the resolution did not have the required number of valid signatures and that accordingly the resolution would not be proceeded with in the Parliament. (Daily News 911008)

Dr. P. M. B. Cyril (M.P) joined the dissidents group at a propaganda rally held by the group in Galle, so that the group now has 12 MPs. (The Island 911008)

08. The Supreme Court issued notice to the Chairman, General Secretary and the Treasurer in connection with the application filed by UNP dissidents challenging their expulsion from the party. The respondents were allowed until 23. October to file objections. (Daily News 911009)

The Parliament's sitting abruptly adjourned within half an hour of its inception, after a row that flared up over the Speaker's decision on the impeachment resolution, stating that it did not have the valid number of signatures. Opposition leader Mrs. Bandaranaike made a statement saying that the Speaker had not specified which signatures were not valid. She also called for a select committee of parliament to go into the question of the validity. (Daily News 911009)

In a public meeting held in Homagama, Mrs. Bandaranaike told that the opposition had handed over notice of a motion of no confidence in the Speaker to the Speaker himself. (The Island 911009)

10. The motion of no confidence against Speaker M. H. Mohamed was rejected by Parliament with 123 voting against the motion and 85 for. (Daily News 911011)

15. The Supreme Court refused to issue notice on Speaker M. H. Mohamed and the Attorney General, in a petition filed by Mr. P. Dharmadasa Gomaz, President of the Independent Lawyers Association, challenging the Speaker's order rejecting the impeachment motion against President Premadasa. (Daily News 911016)

Dr. P. M. B. Cyril one of the twelve dissidents rejoined the government group of MPs after being with dissidents few days. (Daily News 911016)

19. President Premadasa accused powerful external forces of trying to topple the government with the help of the rebel UNP parliamentary group and some other politicians. (Sunday Island 911020)

*Political Crises*

22. The Parliament adjourned within half an hour after the session had commenced as the opposition members disrupted the proceedings of the house. The opposition members refused to ask questions as long as Speaker M. H. Mohamed presided over the proceedings. (Daily Observer 911023)

23. Two Cabinet Ministers, two Ministers of State, a Project Minister and two MPs have written to Mr. Victor Ivan, the publisher of the Ravaya newspaper denying references to themselves in the news report published in the Sunday edition of this newspaper on October 20 under the headline, "The names of UNP MPs who signed revealed". (Daily News 911024)

President Premadasa released a letter which was addressed to Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, holding him responsible for the burning of the Jaffna public library in 1981. (Daily News 911014)

Objections were filed in connection with the petitions filed by Lalith Athulathmudali and Gamini Dissanayake and others challenging their expulsion from the UNP. The respondents prayed that the court would dismiss the petitioner's application, and award costs and further relief to the respondents. (Daily News 911024)

The joint opposition parliamentary group decided to move a second no-confidence motion against Speaker M. H. Mohamed over the manner in which he handled the previous day's business in the House. (The Island 911024)

24. The Supreme Court allowed the petitioners Lalith Athulathmudali and Gamini Dissanayake and others until 28. October to file counter-affidavits strictly in reply to the objections filed by the respondents. The case will be called on 30. October while the hearing will begin on 31. October. (Daily Observer 911024)

28. The UNP dissidents Lalith Athulathmudali and Gamini Dissanayake and others filed counter affidavits in the Supreme Court in reply to the objections filed by the UNP. In their counter-affidavits they stated that they deny all averments contained in the statement of objections of the four respondents and in the corresponding averments in the affidavits. (Daily News 911029)

31. The case at the Supreme Court with regard to expulsion of Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali and others from the UNP commenced and Mr. H.L. de Silva was making his submission on behalf of the dissidents. (Daily News 911101)

## 3. Negotiation

## January

01. In a first public response to the LTTE's surprise move towards a ceasefire, the President Premadasa said that the government's reactions would be made known only after consulting the various political parties, the Maha Sangha and other religious leaders as the Tigers had once betrayed the trust reposed in them. Several Tamil and Muslim parties-TULF, DWC, EPDP, EPRLF, TELO, TC and the SLMC while welcoming the ceasefire urged that the government must both insist on the Tigers laying down their arms and allowing all political parties to operate in the North and East. (Daily News 910102)

The Government temporarily suspended all offensive operations against the Tigers in the North - East Provinces for 72 hours starting at midnight. The decision to cease operation for 72 hours was in response to the Tiger's ceasefire communicated to the Government. However, the ceasefire initiated by the Tigers did not prevent their cadres in the North from attacking the Elephant Pass army camp, military sources said. (The Island 910102)

A Tiger leader Sathasivam Krishnakumar (Kittu), in an interview from his London residence, laid down three basic conditions for talks with the Sri Lanka Government: the Tamils right of self determination, a Tamil national army and acceptance by the government that the North and the East of the island is the traditional Tamil homeland. (The Hindu 900101)

03. The government welcomed the unilateral declaration of a ceasefire by the LTTE and said it had decided as an interim measure to suspend offensive operations against the LTTE in the Northern and Eastern Provinces for a period of seven days starting at midnight January 3, 1991. (Daily News 910104)
04. The Centre for Society and Religion issued an appeal to President Premadasa and Opposition leader Bandaranayike to agree to take the ethnic problem out of politics and to formulate reasonable solutions to the damaging problem. The appeal was signed by the organizations director Rev. Fr. Tissa Balasuriya. He catalogued the events that created the situation for the Tamil youth to take up arms - beginning from the Citizenship act, Sinhala only, the abrogation of the B-C pact,

the abandoning of the Dudley-Selva pact, the failure to implement the District Development Act and the sixth amendment. He said all these were due to the political rivalry between the two major political parties. (Daily News 910109)

08. The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) has turned down a request by the Sri Lanka Government to monitor the unilateral ceasefire declared by the LTTE, and the offer of an Air Craft to carry out their own reconnaissance missions to monitor the ceasefire. The whole affair is a matter for the government of Sri Lanka to handle and ICRC was only a neutral intermediary in the scenario, the ICRC said. (The Island 910109)
10. Eleven political parties, including two (TELO and PLOTE) which have deployed fighters along side the army against the LTTE, requested that President Premadasa extend the ceasefire for another week. (The Island 910111)

The government's seven-day ceasefire which began on January 3rd is over. An official announcement is due to be made by the State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne at a special press briefing. The sources said that it had been disclosed that there had been 30 ceasefire violations by the LTTE from January 1st. It was also disclosed that the LTTE allegation that the government forces had violated the ceasefire were baseless and untrue because the forces had not moved out of their camps. (Daily Observer 910111)

11. A news release from the Presidential secretariat states, "The continuing violations of the ceasefire unilaterally declared by the LTTE, leaves the government with no alternative course of action." The government called upon the LTTE's military leader, V.Prabhakaran to resume talks with the government, saying such talks should be preceded by a declaration against the illegal bearing of arms. (Daily News 910112)

## June

05. Presidential advisor Bradman Weerakoon warned that even if the LTTE is eliminated, India would continue with the belief that the political framework created by Indo - Sri Lanka agreement provided a viable basis for a reasonable and enduring settlement of the ethnic problem. It appears that a bi-partisan policy on Sri Lanka will follow, he said. (Daily News 910606)



**Negotiation**

08. The Tamil and Muslim parties which participated in the All Party Conference have been given two weeks to come to an agreement on an amicable solution to the ethnic crisis, informed sources said. Minister Hameed who is the chairman of the drafting committee told the heads of the political parties that if the Tamil and Muslim parties were unable to agree on a solution within the next two weeks, he would report their position to the President, who would then make a decision on it.  
(Sunday Times 910609)
11. The drafting Committee of the APC decided to invite the envoys of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland to explain how their countries solved the minority problem.  
(Daily News 910612)
12. There were reports that the Tigers have unofficially begun to express interest in the resumption of peace talks(Kyodo News Service 910614)
13. Presidential advisor on International affairs Bradman Weerakoon said the government had not received any proposal for talks from the LTTE, even though there were some reports from the Western newspapers suggesting that Tigers were ready for talks. He said the government stood by the pre-requisites enumerated in January 91 and thereafter. The government was not insisting on Prabhakaran participation in talks in earlier stages.  
(Daily News 910614)
15. Responding to intimations of an offer of peace talks by the Tigers, senior government officials said that they would wait for an official offer. They further stated that in light of the implication of the Tigers in the Gandhi assassination, this is not an appropriate time for talks.  
(Kyodo News Service 910616)

**August**

06. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. H. Herat in answering the question in Parliament said that the government would prepared for negotiations with the LTTE only with the following conditions. 1. The LTTE should announce a clear, credible intention to give up arms. 2. The views of all other Tamil groups should be considered. 3. The LTTE leaders and those in authority should come for the talks. 4. The LTTE should be willing to face free and peaceful elections.  
(Daily News 910807)
22. Mr. Anton Balasingham told at a press conference in Jaffna that the LTTE leadership is prepared to talk to the President of the Ceylon

**Negotiation**

Workers Congress, Minister S. Thondaman, if he visits Jaffna. He added, "If Minister Thondaman is genuinely interested in bringing the suffering of the Tamil people to the end, if he is genuinely concerned about peaceful negotiation, he can come to Jaffna. We are always ready for peace negotiation, but they must be without any pre-condition."  
(Daily News 910824)

24. Minister S.Thondaman said that he was willing to go to Jaffna to meet the LTTE leadership if the LTTE contacts him directly and gives him a clear indication of their intentions. He added that his move, however, would depend on the decision of the Parliamentary Select Committee.  
(Sunday observer 910825)
23. Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe said that the door for negotiation was always open and the move should come from the Tigers. The ball has been in their court for a long time and the President had indicated his readiness for talks soon after the Elephant Pass victory.  
(Daily News 910823)

**September**

01. LTTE leader Prabhakaran said in a statement at a press conference held in Jaffna, that the LTTE leadership was ready for any unconditional talks with the government and preferred to conduct talks in an international forum. He also denied that the LTTE had any connection with the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi(Daily News 910902)
02. Deputy leader of the LTTE, Mahathaya said, "We believe a separate state identified as Tamil Eelam would be the only solution. This is our sole political objective. Our struggle to achieve this goal. But there is immense pressure from the international community to submit to an alternative solution, such as an autonomous state. The international community advises us to find an alternative solution through peace negotiations, but we know those will fail."  
(Daily News 910903)
17. Minister Thondaman had sent a letter containing fresh peace package to LTTE leader Prabhakaran through the ICRC. He said that LTTE would need time to study the peace package offered by the CWC.  
(The Island 910918)
26. The Tigers invited Minister Thondaman to Jaffna for peace talks. This invitation has been sent to him through a letter from the leader of the political wing of the LTTE.  
(Daily News 910927)

**Negotiation**

Minister Thondaman called on LTTE to give written response to his peace proposals. (The Island 910927)

**October**

12. CWC leader and Minister for Tourism and Rural Industrial Development, Mr. Thondaman said that the LTTE had not put any conditions for the resumption of talks with the Government. He told that his intention was to bring an understanding which could lead to a lasting political solution. He also quoted the President's and the Prime Minister's latest statements in support of his initiative. (Sunday Observer 911013)

Minister Thondaman proposal's were revealed in the Jaffna based newspaper "Eelanadam". The LTTE stated that the proposals include that the North and East would be permanently merged and that the LTTE would be granted control over the autonomous North and East within the unitary Sri Lanka. (Sunday Times 911013)

13. President Premadasa spoke at the National Meelad-Un-Nabi Celebrations at Zahira Central College, inviting the LTTE to lay down arms and come for a settlement, saying that he was prepared to provide them with an opportunity. (The Island 911015)
18. A London based international peace organization, the Quakers Peace and Service Organization delegation consisting of Phil Esmond, Joel McLean and N.Ramamoorthy, met Mr. Anton Balasingham and the deputy leader of the LTTE, Mahendrarajah, requesting to announce their proposals for solving the ethnic issue. (Sunday Observer 911020)

**November**

01. The government has recommended the appointment of a 43 member Select Committee of Parliament to recommend ways and means of achieving peace and political stability in the country. The Leader of the House, Ranil Wickremesinghe, said in a news release that he had requested the Secretary-General of Parliament to inform the Speaker that the government had recommended the appointment of 23 Government MPs and 20 Opposition MPs to this Select Committee with Mangala Moonasinghe as its chairman. (Daily News 911102)

**Negotiation**

02. The APC decided to make the proposals which have been submitted to it by political parties, be available to the Select Committee of Parliament on Ethnic Question.

The General Secretary of the PFLT (political wing of the LTTE) announced through their radio broadcast in the North that there was no room for negotiations in their current struggle and that the LTTE was not going to engage in any negotiations which would be suicidal to its activities. Earlier talks with the government, he said, in order to stabilise their position and to take forward their cause. (Sunday Observer 911103)

12. Tourism and Rural Development Minister S. Thondaman who had received a second letter from the LTTE, met with President Premadasa. He said that he expected to meet the Opposition within a day or two and expressed the hope that peace would be possible through his efforts. (Daily News 911114)
29. Minister Thondaman said that he had held talks with the Opposition Leader Srimavo Bandaranayake, the SLMC and the MEP regarding the solution of the ethnic problem and that he was hopeful that positive developments would take place in 1992. (Virekesari 911130)
30. SLMC leader Mr. Ashroff said that he was satisfied after a discussion with Minister Thodaman on the ethnic issue. (Virekesari 911201)

**December**

03. The LTTE has invited Minister Thondaman to come to Jaffna for the proposed peace talks, and a letter has been sent to him. (The Island 911205)
08. The Council for Monitoring and Implementing matters pertaining to Buddha Sasana and Buddhist Affairs has informed President Premadasa that the North and East provinces should not be accepted as traditional homeland of the Tamil people, and under no circumstances should these two provinces be merged. (The Island 911209)
11. The SLFP leadership has decided to enter into a dialogue with the Tamil groups, including groups supporting the government's military campaign to find a solution to the ethnic conflict, political sources said. (The Island 911212)



13. Ceylon Workers' Congress leader and Minister S. Thondaman made public his organisation's proposals for a durable solution to the Tamil problem. He told a well-attended press conference at his Kollupitiya ministry office that he had presented the new proposals to the President, the leader of the Opposition, the party leaders of the Parliament and the LTTE. He had also submitted a copy to the Select Committee of Parliament on Peace and Political Stability.  
(Daily News 911214)
14. Mangala Monasinghe, Chairman of the Select Committee, who returned from Canada after studying the Canadian models of co-existence between two communities, said, "If a ceasefire is declared, Canada will agree to monitor the it if invited to do so. About 90 memorandums have been received so far by the Select Committee." (Virekesari 911215)
16. A Christian goodwill mission headed by the former head of the Methodist Church Rev. Soma Perera met the LTTE leaders and urged them to enter the political mainstream in order to solve the ethnic issue.  
(Daily observer 911217)
18. The Parliamentary Select Committee which was appointed to find a solution to the Ethnic problem had received over 200 memorandums. A good number of them are from the North. The main parties UNP and SLFP have not submitted their proposals yet. (Virekesari 911219)
19. The Membership of the Parliamentary Select Committee has been increased from 43 to 45, Speaker M.H. Mohamed announced in Parliament. He said the two new members will be Mr. Hudson Samarasinghe (UNP) and Mr. Basheer Segudhawood (EDF).  
(The Island 911220)
- The LTTE said that they are examining the proposals of Minister Thondaman and would consider seriously how the Sri Lankan Government could satisfy the aspirations of the Tamil people.  
(Virekesari 911220)
23. The Ven. Dr. Walpola Rahula Thera, Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya said that the Thondaman proposals were vicious and destructive and should be totally rejected by all patriotic clerics and laymen.  
(The Island 911225)

## 4. Human rights and Legislation

## January

11. President Premadasa has appointed a Commission of Inquiry to investigate and report on any complaints of alleged involuntary removal of persons and the subsequent lack of information of the whereabouts of persons so removed with effect from January 10, 1991. The Commission is headed by Mr. H. A. G. de Silva, retired judge of the Supreme Court as Chairman, with Mr. B. E. de Silva, retired judge of the Court of Appeal, and Mr. A. C. M. Uvais, Attorney-at-Law, as members.  
(Daily News 910112)
12. The Bar Association welcomed many features of the proposed 17th amendment to the constitution, including the restoration of the right-to-life clause and wrote to President Premadasa requesting him to delete clause 13 (d) of the proposed amendment. It provided that a person will be informed that a statement made in the presence of his attorney-at-law will be admissible in court.  
(Sunday Island 910113)

## February

05. Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs Festus Perera presented in the parliament the Official Language Commission Bill and said the government wished to appoint a commission to look into the working of the official languages Sinhala, Tamil and English as it was felt that there was a necessity to evaluate the use of languages according to the amendments embodied in the constitution.  
(The Island 910206)
06. The Official Language Commission Bill was passed by Parliament with 137 members voting in favour and none against. (The Island 910207)
07. The opposition motion calling for the appointment of an independent commission of inquiry by the President to inquire and report on the abduction and killing of Mr. Richard de Zoysa was defeated in Parliament by a majority of 49 votes with 71 for and 120 against.
14. The government has approved the Foreign Ministry recommendation to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children, Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wicremesinghe said. The Convention which sixty countries have already ratified is a binding international legal



instrument which provides protection to the children and guarantees their freedom, dignity and security. (Daily News 910315)

16. The Presidential Commission appointed to inquire into the whereabouts of persons reported missing since January 11, 1991 has so far received complaints concerning 300 persons allegedly abducted by certain groups, informed sources said. However, only about ten of the complaints fall within the commission's terms of reference. (The Island 910317)

#### April

23. The United Kingdom's policy on granting asylum was scrutinized in the European Court of Human Rights. Five Tamils were claiming that British law provides no effective remedy for refugees who have been refused asylum. Three of the five were jailed and ill treated after being repatriated in 1988. From Sri Lanka, the five appealed to the immigration adjudicator who said the Home Office had been wrong. The Tamils who were allowed to return to Britain say British law should allow an appeal before repatriation. (BBC Text TV News 19910423)

#### June

02. A two member delegation from Amnesty International arrived in Colombo. The delegation is headed by Mr. Derek Evans, Head of the research department of the Asian Region. The AI team was officially admitted after their visit in 1982 to Sri Lanka. (The Island 910604)
05. Justice J. F. A. Soyza is appointed as the Chairman of the Human rights Task Force. The other two members are Sam Wijesingha and Mr. Chunk Wijeynathan. The Task Force will monitor human rights of detainees. (Daily Observer 910606)
06. Sri Lanka was elected to the United Nation Commission on Human Settlements by acclamation for a four year term, beginning January 1, 1992. Sri Lanka was also elected by acclamation to the United Nation Commission on Human Rights for a three year period, beginning January 1, 1992. (Daily News 910607)
15. The visiting two member-Amnesty International delegation cancelled a proposed visit to Batticaloa due to threats, informed sources said. (Sunday Island 910616)

#### July

01. The Colombo embassy of a leading Western country has turned down a visa application of a senior security forces officer on the grounds that he committed human rights violations. The officer had been selected to go on a scholarship to this Western country for advanced military training. (The Island 910702)
11. The Presidential Advisor on International Affairs Bradmen Weerakoon, called Amnesty International's comment on Sri Lanka's Human rights record grossly exaggerated and made without proper investigation. He said that disappearances should take into account the 230,000 refugees in India and those fled to other areas within Sri Lanka. The AI's annual review for 1990 issued on 8. July said, "In Sri Lanka, where security forces continued to have the power to dispose bodies secretly, thousands of civilians were extrajudicially executed or disappeared in the northeast after war resumed in June between government forces and the Tamil separatists and in the south. Disappearances and extrajudicial executions continued to be committed by government forces and death squads linked to them". (Daily News 910712 and AI annual report)

#### August

03. The Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Involuntary Removal of Persons begun its public sittings. It had summoned ASP M. K. Sugathadasa who is now attached to the Bureau of Special Operations (BSO) to testify regarding the disappearance of Police Constable B.M.G. Bassanayake. It is learnt that investigations conducted by the Commission has revealed that certain police officers had arrested PC Basanayaka and handed over him to ASP Sugathadasa. The Commission is chaired by former Supreme Court Judge H.A. G. Silva and includes four former judges of the Court of Appeal. The Commission has so far received complaints on behalf of 661 persons reported missing. However, only 60 of these complaints come within the Commission's term of reference. (Sunday Island 910804)
13. Three personal of the Bureau of Special Operations (BSO) have sought the Supreme Court's leave to proceed with a fundamental rights action against five senior Police officers including a DIG. The three BSO men claim that they were taken into custody by the Modera Police on 13.July while attempting to arrest a smuggler. (Daily Observer 910814)



**Human Rights and Legislation**

The Supreme Court granted the three officers of the BSO leave to proceed with the fundamental rights application. (The Island 910821)

25. President Premadasa has appointed a four-member Human Rights Task Force for a period of three years with effect from 23 August 1991, in terms of section 3 and 4 of the regulations made by the Sri Lanka Foundation under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Sri Lanka Foundation Law No. 31 of 1978 Constitution. The members of the Task Force are: Mr. J. F. A. Soyza (retired Supreme Court judge), Mr. Sam Wijesinha, Mr. C. Wijenathan and Mr. P. A. de Z. Karunaratne. (Daily news 910827)

**September**

01. The Supreme Court allowed the petition filled by Nimalasiri Gamlath Liyanwela, Padukka complaining that his fundamental rights had been violated by the two Police officers of the Padukka Police and granted compensation, payable by the State, for the infringement of his right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, guaranteed in article 13(1) and infringement of the right to freedom from torture, in Article 11 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka. (Sunday Island 910901)
04. President Premadasa published in Gazette an order to remove the requirement that non-commonwealth citizens registering at the Aliens branch of Police Department, if they have to extend their visas for more than one month.

**October**

01. Mr. K. T. Chitrasiri, Addl. District Judge and Chief Magistrate assumed his duties as Director of Human Rights in the Commission for Elimination of Discrimination and Monitoring Fundamental Rights in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 911001)
02. The Supreme Court directed the immediate release of a graduate teacher Mrs. B. D. Padmakanthi from the Welikada remand prison holding that her detention was illegal and in violation of her fundamental right of freedom from arbitrary detention. The court also directed the state to pay Rs. 25 000 as compensation. (The Island 911003)

**Human Rights and Legislation**

04. The delegation of the United Nations Commission Human Rights Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances arrived in Colombo. The group led is by Prof. Ivan Tosevski of Yugoslavia and its members are Agha Hilary of Pakistan, Mrs. Teitslbaum of Argentina, Van Dongen of Netherlands, Jonas Foli from Ghana and Lara Gabriel from Mexico. The team intends to visit Batticaloa and the southern districts and to obtain first hand information. (Sunday Times 911006)
26. The Supreme Court directed the state to pay compensation up to Rs. 30 000 to Dayani Dissanayake (31) of Colombo who was detained at Welikada Prison in violation of her fundamental rights, and subject to illegal arrest and detention. The Court also directed the respondent police officer to release her from detention. (Sunday Observer 911027)

**November**

11. President Premadasa has appointed the following members to the Official Language Commission, in terms of Section 5 of the Official Languages Commission Act No 18 of 1991 with effect from December 12, 1991. They are Mr. Desmond Fernando, PC (Chairman), Mr. K. Viknarajah, Mr. Leel Gunasekera, Professor K. N. O. Dharmadasa, Mr. S. M. Jiffrey and Mr. P. P. Manikam. The main object of the Commission is to recommend principles of policy relating to the use of Sinhala and Tamil as Official Languages of Sri Lanka and to monitor and supervise compliance with the provisions contained in Chapter IV (Language) of the Constitution.

**December**

01. The Civil Rights Movement (CRM) of Sri Lanka recommended that the government, political parties and the public to take serious note of the recent recommendations made by Amnesty International aimed at adopting practical measures to end human rights violations in Sri Lanka. The statement recommended that a climate be created in which human rights violations are less likely to occur, to put a halt to disappearances, to promote respect for the rights of detainees and their families and to bring a halt extrajudicial executions. (The Island 911202)
02. The LTTE has established an internal security network in the peninsula calling it "Tamil Eelam police force". According to reports from Jaffna, the police station in Jaffna has been opened and the police force consists of both men and women. (Daily Observer 911204)

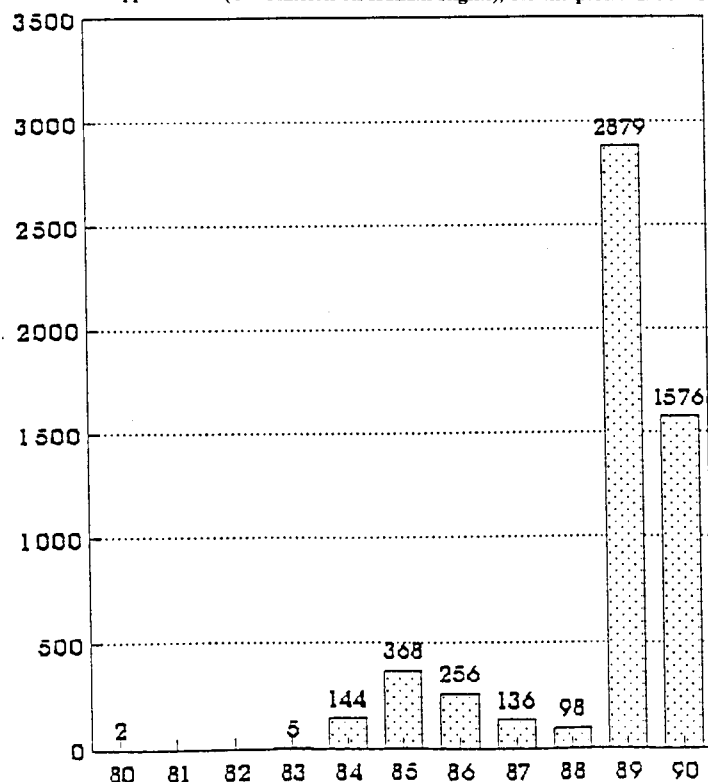




**Human Rights and Legislation**

12. The government has decided to accept some of the 30 recommendations contained in the report of Amnesty international published in September, the Presidential Advisor on International Affairs Mr. Bradman Weerakoon said. (Daily News 911213)
21. Fifty cases of alleged violation of human rights by members of the armed forces have been taken up for inquiry as part of a new plan to enforce strict discipline, a top army official said. Under a government directive, the Defence Ministry will move in to monitor the performance of the security forces. (Sunday Times 911222)

Cases of disappearances transmitted to the Government of Sri Lanka by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Commission on Human Rights), for the period 1980 - 1990.



From the report on the visit to Sri Lanka by three members of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Commission on Human Rights), 7-18 October 1991.

**Detention and Disappearances****5. Detention and Disappearances****January**

12. ICRC visited 43 Sri Lankan policemen held captive for over six months by the LTTE, the Red Cross announced. (Sunday Times 910113)
14. The ICRC handed over to the Sri Lankan Army and to a representative of the Police, a police constable released by the LTTE, who had been held since June 1990, an ICRC news release said. At the same time, the ICRC handed over the mortal remains of another policeman to the Sri Lankan Navy off Point Pedro, the release said. (Daily News 910115)

**March**

09. The fifteen members of EROS who were arrested at their official residence in Colombo, for their alleged involvement in the assassination of Minister Ranjan Wijeratne were released. (Sunday Island 910310)
11. The three Police officers accused in the Wijedasa Liyanarchchi murder case were convicted by the Colombo High Court on two new indictments of conspiracy to wrongfully confine and wrongfully detain the late lawyer Liyanarchchi. (The Island 910312)
14. Lieutenant Colonel Shantha Dharmaratna was sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment by a court martial for failing to carry out orders from the Army High Command. The court was appointed to probe into Lt. Col Dharmaratne's failure to report to the operational area in Mullaitivu in June last year when he was the co-ordinating officer of the district at the time when operations against LTTE were intensified by the security forces.

The court also ordered the terminations of Dharmaratne's commission and dismissal from the army without a pension. (Daily News 910315)

The military police arrested an army captain for his alleged involvement in an armed robbery while he was on his way to board a military aircraft. He is claimed by the police to be the first high ranking officer arrested for alleged involvement in criminal activities in the recent past. (The Island 910315)

15. The Batticaloa Sri Lanka Transport Board depot superintendent Mr. S. Ravindran was taken into custody for his alleged involvement with the



**Detention and Disappearances**

LTTE. He was arrested hours after LTTE robbed about Rs 40 000 from the Batticaloa SLTB depot. Authorities believe the suspect was responsible for informing the LTTE about the money which was to be brought to the depot. They did not rule out the possibility that the LTTE had pressurized Ravindran to help them. (The Island 910316)

19. Twenty-nine Tamils who were staying at a lodging house in Dematagoda were arrested by Maradana Police and produced before the Magistrate. The Magistrate remanded the suspects till April 1.  
(Daily Observer 910320)

**April**

20. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, former Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development and MP for Nuwara Eliya, who returned from London was taken by the C.I.D for questioning and produced before a Colombo magistrate; he was later released on bail.

**May**

06. One thousand four hundred fundamental human rights violation pleas are to be filed in the Supreme Court by the Legal Aid Centre of the Bar Association on behalf of the Boosa detainee, by the end of May.

Project officer of the Legal Aid told that the 1,400 detainees had written to the Supreme court alleging illegal arrest and illegal detention.  
(The Island 19910507)

10. The Supreme Court ordered the state to pay Rs 3500 as compensation to Mr. B.M.M. Somaratne, a detainee of Boosa camp, who had been illegally detained in violation of his fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 13(2) of the constitution. (Daily Observer 1991042)

**July**

10. The Supreme Court ordered an additional compensation to a Boosa camp detainee following the failure of the Joint Operations Command (JOC) to release Upasaka Gedera Bodidasa from the Boosa detention camp ordered by court on May 8, this year. (The Island 910711)
13. The President of the Up country People's front P. Chandrasekeram and seven other were arrested and interrogated in connection with the bomb blast at the JOC. It is alleged that Mr. Chandrasekeram had told the police that their party had direct links with the LTTE and harbored LTTE Varathan who was responsible of JOC bomb blast.

**Detention and Disappearances**

21. The Bribery Commissioner's Department has taken over the investigation into allegations that an Anuradhapura based army Brigadier was resorting to bribery and issuing permits for the transportation of items which are not usually permitted to the North.  
(Daily Observer 910722)

**August**

13. Mysterious disappearances have been reported in the Nuwara Eliya district. Informed sources said that the disappearances have taken place in stages and police said that are investigating the matter.  
(The Island 910810)

The Court of Appeal issued a notice returnable regarding detention of the president of the Up Country People's Front, Chandrasekaram after a petition was submitted to the Court by Mrs. Chandrasekaram.  
(The Island 910814)

25. A Police Constable in the LTTE's detention camp wrote a letter to his parents. He was taken into custody while he was at Oddisuddan Police Station. He has informed that 26 others from Oddisuddan Police Station and 18 from Mankulam Police station are with him. He hoped to be released soon and come home.  
(Daily News 910826)

**October**

12. Forty one Sri Lankan soldiers and policemen who were missing from the operations in the North and East are being held by the LTTE in Jaffna, a Red Cross official, Pierre Wettach, said. He told the reporters that Red Cross officials visit them at least twice a month and that they were all in good health. The Red Cross official also stated that they were continuing their food distribution without any interference of the LTTE.  
(Sunday Times 911013)
21. Batticaloa MP, Mr. P. Joseph has in a letter to President appealed for the appointment of a special committee comprising the Justice Minister and others including an MP from the Eastern Province to look into the problems of Tamil youth in prison and detention camps, and to expedite their trial and release.  
(The Island 911022)
22. 253 Tamil youths in the Kalutura Prison who have been detained for more than eighteen months begun their hunger strike until death. Their demand is to have an inquiry into the reason for their detention or their

**Detention and Disappearances**

release. Later, twenty five of them were transferred to unknown place. (BBC Text TV news 911023)

**November**

26. Mr. Raveenthiran who returned in December to Sri Lanka, after seven years in Saudi Arabia, was arrested on arrival and detained during the last eleven months. His sister had submitted papers for his release. (Virekesari 911127)
30. Sixty persons were arrested by police in possession of a cache of arms and ammunition, following a recent joint cordon and search operation in Badulla, Ella and Passara districts. (Daily News 911202)

**December**

04. Former State Minister of Labour Laksman Seneviratne was taken into custody by the CID in connection with the alleged murder of an SLFPer in Mahiyangana in 1988. (Daily News 911205)
05. The Tamil detainees at the Kalutara Detention Camp have given notice that they will commence their hunger strike unless inquiries against them are commenced or they are released. On 11 October they commenced their hunger strike; it was given up later after they received an assurance that inquiries would commence. (Virekesari 911206)

*Amnesty International raised its concerns about the Indemnity (Amendment) Act with several government officials. This Act, passed by parliament in December 1988, provide indemnity from prosecution for government and security force members, government servants and others involved in enforcing law and order, provided their actions were done in "good faith". The act applies to the period from 1 August 1977 to 16 December 1988. Press reports in early April 1991 suggested that the government was considering extending the period covered by the act. Amnesty International was assured that no such extensions was planned. Nevertheless, amnesty International is concerned that several procedural and policy positions taken by the government, such as the decision not to investigate reported "disappearances" which occurred prior to 11 January 1991, could be interpreted by members of the security forces as an extension of the condition of impunity with respect to certain human rights violations.*

*(From the report of Amnesty International, September 1991, pp.36)*

**Refugees and Rehabilitation****6. Refugees and Rehabilitation****January**

07. More than 210 000 Sri Lankan Tamils are currently in Indian refugee camps after fleeing the fighting in their homeland, Minister of State for Home affairs Subodh Kant Sahay said. The government has spent 15.5 million dollars for food and other relief materials for the refugees since 1983 when the first exodus crossed the sea, the minister told parliament. (AFP News Agency 910107)
10. India is likely to press Sri Lanka to create conditions in the war ravaged North-East to allow the safe return of more than 210 000 Tamils who sought protection in South India last year. (The Island 910111)
- 730 civilians arrived at a refugee camp in Vavuniya from the North. They have made use of the ceasefire between LTTE and the government. (The Island 910111)
18. A group of refugees numbering 1 261 from the North arrived at a refugee camp in Vavuniya. (Sunday Observer 910120)
30. In response to an international appeal made by UNHCR for support for their new relief centres in Mannar, the government of India has announced a contribution of US\$ 785 000. This would include a cash contribution of US \$ 100 000, an Indian High Commission press release said (The Island 910131)

**March**

14. Mr. Bradman Weerakoon, Presidential Advisor on International Affairs said that there were fewer than one million refugees in Sri Lanka, as was said by various sources. There were actually 230 000 refugees in welfare centres and 440 000 living with friends and relatives. They were all supplied with dry rations which cost the government Rs seven million a day. He praised the performance of the ICRC, saying it provided valuable services.

He observed that 200 tons of school text books had been sent to Jaffna and another 60 tons to Mullaitivu. (The Island 910315)

**Refugees and Rehabilitation**

US President George Bush signed the authorization for US \$ one million to be used through the ICRC in Sri Lanka. This is a response to the appeal for assistance of US \$ 13 million requested by the ICRC as donation. (The Island 910315)

16. The CID took for questioning twenty-five Sri Lankan Tamils at the Katunayaka airport after the Dutch immigration authorities deported them for having entered the country with forged visas.

(Daily News 910317)

27. The Indian Government has pledged aid to Sri Lanka for the establishment of refugee camps in the North and East region. Rs 32 million would be immediately provided for this purpose. This assistance, in the form of cash and materials, will be in addition to funds available from the previous pledge. (The Island 910328)

**May**

25. The Indian High Commission in Colombo is reported to have expressed concern over the hardships faced by the civilian population in Northern Sri Lanka since the suspension of mobile operations of the French medical mission (MSF). (Sunday Times 19910526)

**June**

11. A vehicle belonging to the UNHCR was attacked in Northern Sri Lanka. The three people in the vehicle were unhurt. Military sources blamed the Tigers. (Reuter 910611)

19. Bradman Weerakoon, a presidential advisor on International relations announced that Sri Lanka would welcome the return of nearly 200 000 Sri Lankan refugees who were living in India.

25. Ten thousand inhabitants of the island of Nainativu in the Jaffna District, whose main occupation is farming, are facing starvations as the ferry boat service transporting supplies of food and other essential services from Jaffna has been suspended. (Daily News 910626)

26. Around 20 000 Sri Lankan asylum seekers fear being deported by Germany to their war torn island when new rules for handling rejected asylum cases come into effect this weekend. From July 1, state governments will have to get the Bonn interior minister's approval to keep rejected asylum seekers. (Reuter 910626)

**Refugees and Rehabilitation**

The European Economic Community in a statement said that the expulsion of British High Commissioner in Sri Lanka David Gladstone was unacceptable. The community said it was worried about human rights conditions in Sri Lanka.

(BBC International news Service 910626)

**July**

14. Minister of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction P. Dayaratne said at Trincomalee that the government was feeding one tenth of the population in the country who have become refugees. 1, 640 000 persons were issued with free rations. Additional Government Agent for Trincomalee brought to the notice of the Minister that the district requires Rs. 249 million to expedite the refugee work in the district. (Daily News 910715)

16. The British Government contributed an additional 500,000 pounds to the UNHCR in Colombo to provide assistance to returned refugees and displaced people in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 910717)

22. A woman and five children died at a Tamil refugee camp in Kalmunai when some of the huts caught fire, police said.

**August**

03. Sri Lankan Tamils are one of three groups of refugees who have been exempted from a new German law that grants powers to the Federal Government to expel refugees whose political asylum requests had been turned down, according to the spokesman for the German embassy in Colombo. The other two groups are Iraqi Kurds and Afghans. (Sunday Times 910804)

15. Twelve political parties from the opposition have appealed to President Premadasa to revoke the order terminating the issue of dry rations to all refugees who are displaced due to the ongoing war. (The Island 910816)

30. The British Government announced that it is contributing the sum of 100 000 pounds sterling to the International Committee of Red Cross for the relief work in Sri Lanka. (The Island 910831)



**Refugees and Rehabilitation****September**

10. Indian Home Ministry's annual report stated that India had spent over Rs 380m million on providing relief to Sri Lankan Tamils refugees living since July 1983. The report says that 210, 944 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees were living in India in March 31, 1991.

(The Island 910911)

20. Presidential Advisor Bradman Weerakoon said that India had given a list of 6,800 Tamil refugees who were willing to return to their homes in Trincomalee and Mannar. 1 600 of them are from Mannar. The operation would commence when India finalize the travel arrangements.

(Daily News 910921)

**October**

08. In a press conference in New Delhi, Vice-President and Foreign Minister of Switzerland Rene Felber told that nearly 20 000 Sri Lankan Tamils had sought asylum in Switzerland. Only a faction of this number has been granted political asylum and the rest are living as refugees in camps at the expenses of the Swiss Government.

(Reuter 911010)

19. About 12 000 Tamil refugees who are living in the refugee camps in Tamil Nadu expressed their willingness to return to the Mannar district. Their freedom of movement is restricted and they are shifted from the costal areas to interior districts for security reasons. Tamil Nadu Director of Rehabilitation Mr. Rao said that any plan for repatriation would have to be implemented by the Union Government in New Delhi.

(Sunday Observer 911020)

28. A special delegation comprising the Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Minister of Rehabilitation and Welfare P. Dayaratne visited Vavuniya to expedite the restoration of civil administration.

(The Island 911029)

**Refugees and Rehabilitation****November**

03. The Cabinet decided that early action had to be taken to restore a normal civil administration in the Vavuniya District and to undertake speedy rehabilitation and reconstruction work. A task force was established to ensure that the administrative machinery would function smoothly, so that priority could be given to the resettlement of displaced persons and the resumption of normal economic activities.

(The Island 911104)

15. 45 000 families from the 220 000 families living in Jaffna, are registered as being displaced. The Government Agent of Jaffna said that only 40 % of the food requirements are send by ship to the affected people.

(Virekesari 911116)

24. The Sri Lankan Government offered a fresh amnesty to suspected collaborators of the LTTE who had fled to areas brought under the control of the security forces. The Cabinet spokesman, Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe said the Government had decided to grant amnesty to all civilians involved with the LTTE in small islands surrounding the northern Jaffna peninsula.

(The Island 911125)

**December**

07. Most Sri Lankan refugees living in India are reluctant to return home. a government official said, quoted by the Press Trust of India. Refugee Relief Commissioner C. N. Ramdoss told a press conference that the Sri Lankan Tamils would be ready to return only if the United Nations would set up refugee camps in Sri Lanka.

(AFP 911208)

**ARRIVALS OF SRI LANKAN REFUGEES IN INDIA  
JUNE 1990 - APRIL 1991**

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
July 1990	50,772
August 1990	47,508
September 1990	20,076
October - November - December 1990	3,398
January - April 1991	128
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121,882</b>

*Note: From May to September 30, 1991 there were no new arrivals*

Source: OFFER

## 7. Freedom of Expression

## August

03. The Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association has unanimously rejected the draft legislation for the setting up of a Media Commission. The decision was taken at a special general meeting of the Journalists Association. (Sunday Times 910804)
07. The editor of the "Ravaya" newspaper, Victor Ivan told that his office was searched by CID officers for about five hours; they took away several documents. (The Island 910809)

## September

22. Government decided to initiate criminal defamation proceedings against three papers - The Island, The Divaina and the Lankadipa, due to the news reports which they had said the Government had supplied seventeen anti-aircraft weapons to the LTTE. (Daily Observer 910923)

## October

03. The printing press of the Sinhala weekly "Yukthiya" (justice) in Ratmalana was sealed by the police. A spokesman for the newspaper said no one was questioned or taken into custody. (Sunday Island 911006)
23. Mr. Victor Ivan, the editor of "Ravaya" was taken by the CID for questioning on a report that carried the names of the 43 UNP signatories to the recent impeachment motion against President Premadasa. Ivan told that the police wanted to know how he had obtained the names of signatories and the document. He told them that it was an official document of Parliament, and not a secret. (The Island 911024)

## November

08. The Media Commission Bill was intended to impose total state control of the press, limiting freedom of expression, and curtailing the freedom of the press. If the Bill is enacted, it will prevent publication of news without fear of prosecution, said a press release of 22 trade unions in a concluding statement of a workshop hosted by the Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung. (The Island 911109)

13. Trade unionists joined journalists from state and private media in a demonstration for press freedom. More than 60 demonstrators displayed placards calling for media freedom and privatisation of the state-owned newspaper group, and condemning a proposed Media Commission Bill. (Daily News 910723)

## December

01. The London High Court has awarded former MP Prins Gunasekera £ 150 000 as damage in a libel action filed against the "Ceylon Daily News" in the Queen's Bench Division. Mr. Gunasekera in his claim alleged that the Daily News had accused him of using a human rights campaign in Sri Lanka to make money personally. Mr. Gunasekera cited Samco Agencies Limited as first defendant and the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon as the second defendant. (The Island 911212)

*Article 19 (International Centre against Censorship) calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to take the following steps in order to improve its compliance with international standards which compel respect for freedom of expression and information related to rights:*

- Provide a Mechanism for Enforcement of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- Reduce the Climate of Intimidation
- Promote Constitutional Reform
- Limit the State of Emergency
- Amend Legislation, i.e. Section 479 of the Penal Code, Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Law of 1978 etc..
- Protect Political Expression
- Afford Greater protection to Freedom of the Media
- Abolish Film and Theatre Censorship
- Provide Greater Protection to Academic Freedom

*(From - Freedom of Expression and Information in Sri Lanka - An Article 19 Commentary, March 1991)*

**Militarization****8. Militarization****January**

04. State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said that the government had received intelligence information that the LTTE was raising a national army in the North with the conscription of Tamils in the 20-35 age group irrespective of their social status. All those drafted were being given a 15 - day weapons training and after they passed, they would be assigned to three hours guard duty each day in their respective villages. The Minister also mentioned other ceasefire violations by the Tigers. (The Island 910105)
12. The government called upon the PLOTE to increase the number of fighters in the Wannu region, an Army officer said. The army has agreed to give arms, ammunition and backup to the PLOTE. Sources put the number of PLOTE cadres in the Wannu at over 1000. (Sunday Island 910113)

Since November 11, 1990 three Bell 212s, five fixed wing transport aircraft and four Sia Marchetti attack planes have joined the SLAF fleet.

Army Commander Hamilton Wanasinghe told reporters that they would completely eliminate the LTTE and its leadership, including Prabhakaran in not more than six months. (Sunday Island 910113)

27. The deployment of Tamil speaking Muslim soldiers commenced with seventy-five soldiers to the regular force of the Sri Lankan Army. This first batch of Muslim soldiers was to fight the Tigers along with the security forces, official sources said.

The army has set up a camp at Pesalai in the Mannar district after they took full control of the town.

Two soldiers and two Tigers were killed in confrontations at Kankesanthrai. (Sunday Island 910227)

**February**

09. The Defence Ministry sources said a plan is being considered to set up 108 new police stations in all nine provinces at the cost of Rs 432

**Militarization**

million, within the next five years. (Sunday Times 910210)

The LTTE reported to have invented another powerful weapon in the form of a conventional mortar 'Kumarappa 5000' named after a dead Tiger leader. Kumarappa 5000 explodes twice more after a set time break of the initial explosion. (Sunday Times 910210)

**March**

23. The 165 ton "Mathalina" which is said to be on its way to Taiwan from Belgium had docked in Colombo for refuelling but had failed to inform the Sri Lankan authorities of the cargo it was carrying. There were 100 tons of 2.75 rocket mortars. The vessel and its five-member crew ( two Americans, two New Zealanders and a Fijian) have been detained pending the completion of the investigation, sources said.

**July**

04. The army had begun training civilian Sinhala women in combat warfare, in the Ampara district, in a bid to strengthen security in the far out villages of the area, a senior security officials said. He said a group of 60 women had already begun training and the army intended to train at least 500 more women before the end of year. (The Island 910705)

**August**

06. Speaker M. H. Mohamed announced in Parliament that President Premadasa had issued a proclamation calling out on the 7th Volunteer Battalion of the Gajaba Regiment of the Sri Lankan Army active service. The reason for issuing this proclamation was the prevention and suppression of any civil disturbances in Sri Lanka, the Speaker said. (The Island 910807)
10. According to military sources the forces will get three more Y12 transport planes, 73mm canons, T85 light tanks with tracks, YW 531 Infantry Fighting Vehicles(IFV) and 105 RCL guns and ammunition from China and Pakistan within this year. (Sunday Observer 910811)

**Militarization****September**

02. A 050 machine gun, a light machine gun and of several thousand rounds of ammunition in five boxes were recovered from an underground hiding place jungles in Amparai district. It is believed to be part of a stock belonging to the EPRLF which were buried prior to the LTTE's attack on the EPRLF over a year ago.  
(Daily Observer 910903)
03. STF commandos and the army seized an LTTE arms cache at Okanda in Pottuvil which composed of browning machine gun and 8 000 rounds of ammunition.  
(Daily News 910904)
25. The 65 000 strong Sri Lankan army was strengthened with new weapons systems, including a squadron of chinese F-7(MiG-21) interceptors, FT-(Mig-17 derivative; tandem seat jet trainers, Y12 transport aircraft, fast attack craft, 130 mm artillery pieces and armored fighting vehicles. Sri Lanka bought military equipment USD 583 in 1988 and an estimated USD 450 million in 1991 from China. Sri Lanka is spending over 25 per cent of its national budget on the military.  
(Janes Defence Weekly 910817)

**October**

19. The CID questioned several Army Officers in connection with an alleged attempt by the former Rehabilitation and Reconstruction State Minister Vincent Perera to transport banned items to Jaffna. Those banned items included 20 000 large packets of camphor, 25 000 kilos of camphor powder, 150 reams of white papers, 1000 reams of polished papers, 1000 packets of tying sheets, 2000 packets of roneo paper and 20 tins of printing ink.  
(Sunday Observer 911020)
29. Justice Wadugodapitiya, Commissioner of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into certain allegations contained in the book, "By way of Deception - the Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer" handed over a report with his findings and recommendations to President Premadasa.  
(The Island 911030)

**November**

02. Major General Cecil Waidyaratne will take over as Army Commander on November 15. With this he will be promoted to the rank of

**Militarization**

Lieutenant General. He said that he intended to eradicate violence in the North. He is considered responsible for the anti-JVP drives in five key provinces in the South.  
(Sunday Observer 911103)

11. The LTTE had acquired three surface to air-missiles between March and May 91, records seized from militants trawlers revealed. The records were found aboard the trawler "Novotonga" which was captured 86 kilometres off the Tamil Nadu coast by the Indian Navy.  
(The Hindu 911111)
12. The Joint Operations Command (JOC) which was disbanded under the Indo-Lanka Pact will be revived from 18. November, under the direct control of the Defence Ministry. With the restoration of the JOC, the Government will place all combat troops and police units under the centralised authority under overall commanding officer General Hamilton Wanasinghe.  
(The Island 911114)
30. Joint Operations Commander, Hamilton Wanasinghe said that the goal of the army in eliminating terrorism would be easier if the government's political moves were spelt out clearly.  
(Sunday Times 911201)

**December**

01. The Sri Lankan aircraft dropped hundreds of leaflets at the weekend over the Northern district, urging the Tigers to surrender in exchange for amnesty, a military spokesman said. He said that this offer was confined to western Vavuniya where the Tigers were in disarray after recent military operation.  
(Daily News 911203)
17. Eleven tonnes of small arms and ammunition were seized at the Budapest Airport in Hungary, allegedly in transit to Sri Lanka. Foreign and Defence Ministry officials denied any knowledge of the incident. The shipment of 11 tonnes of small arms were brought from the army's ammunition factory and left Chile under a permit approving sale to the Sri Lankan Army. A Hungarian acting as middleman for the shipment said the seizure was a mistake and that arms were in transit to Sri Lanka. The investigation of this seizure continues amidst many mysteries.  
(The Island 911218)



**9. India****March**

10. The Inspector of Police of Tamil Nadu, Mr. F. C. Sharma said that the state police had achieved a fair amount of success in containing the activities of the LTTE and their associates. He mentioned that a number of items were seized from the Tigers including communication sets, fax machines, tens of thousands of detonators and gelatine sticks. (The Hindu 910310)
14. The Madras High Court held that no Sri Lankan Tamils can be held without charges. A number of them were released on habeas corpus applications.

**On Rajiv Gandhi's Murder****May**

21. Rajiv Gandhi, Indian former Prime Minister was assassinated in Sriperamputhur, a city 22 kilometers from Madras, while he was campaigning for the parliament and state assembly elections in Tamil Nadu. No one claimed responsibility for the powerful blast that also killed another 20 people with Rajiv Gandhi. The main focus and suspicion are on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of Sri Lanka for the explosion.

**June**

01. Members of India's Central Bureau of investigation (CBI) arrived in Colombo to compare the bomb used in the explosion which killed Rajiv Gandhi with that of one used to kill Wijeratne. Sri Lankan security forces are cooperating with Indian authorities in the investigation. CSI members will also seek assistance from the other members of Tamil groups other than the LTTE. One of the leads which the team is examining is the possible involvement of a Germany-based LTTE activist named Elayathambi Kirupalan. (The Times 910601)
02. The residents of Vavuniya identified the woman who had the garland on as Sundari, a member of the LTTE. The investigating team are said to also suspect two other female LTTE militants, Selvi Jayanthi and Malathi. Colombo officials deny having any knowledge of the killer's identity. (The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union 910602)

Indian Minister for Justice and Law, Supramanya Samy said that the slaying of Gandhi was a part of an international conspiracy to destabilize India. It was also learned that Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat had warned Gandhi of an attempt on his life a month before his killing. (The Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union 910602)

03. One report claims that the three day joint investigation by Indian and Sri Lankan authorities in which members of TELO and PLOTE were interviewed, turns up no further clues to the identity of Gandhi's assailant. A second report, however claims that the killer is Sumathi, a woman who is still alive and could be from the Northern Sri Lankan district of Mannar. Further, this report claimed that members of the group to which Sumathi belongs are still stationed in India with additional names on a hit-list. (Agence France Presse 910603)

Former Chief Minister of Haryana Shamsher Singh (I-Congress) charged that the CIA may be behind the killing and he said no other agency except the CIA has the expertise to carry out such dastardly act. He accused that the US does not want India to emerge as a strong power in world affairs. He recalled that Mr. Gandhi's stand on the issue of refuelling US military aircraft during the Gulf War had irked Washington and that President George Bush is on record as having said that his country was not going to forget it. (The Island 910603)

05. The Indian investigating team announced a one million rupees (USD 50 000) reward for information leading to the arrest of the suspected accomplices in Gandhi's killing. This is double the earlier reward amount offered. The editor of Tamil Nation, Mr. Sivanayagam expressed concern that the police will pin the crime on some one who is not guilty in an effort to meet the three month deadline which has been set for them by the Indian government. (Reuter 910606)
06. The Tigers offered their assistance in the investigation of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, although they maintained their innocence. (Reuter 910606)
07. Members of the team for investigation of Gandhi's death dropped leaflets with pictures of the alleged assassin by air across Jaffna. They were unable to travel through the peninsula because of the Tigers' activities. (Reuter 910606)

**India: Rajiv's Assassination**

12. Indian Police charge two Indians, Bhaghyanathan (25), who works for a printing press and Padma (49) who works in a nursing home with sheltering the Gandhi assassin before the attack. The two confessed to the crime and implicated others. (Reuter 910615)
14. Another Indian Tamil and Tiger sympathizer Nalini (27) was arrested with another person Murugan (18) while attempting to flee Sri Lanka. The two are charged with assisting the Gandhi assassin. They are also suspected of being part of a back-up squad. During the question of Nalini, the police established the identity of the female suicide-bomber who went by the aliases of Thana and Gayatri was Chitrlekha. (Reuter 910617)
15. Nalini and Murugan were remanded under India's Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act into police court. When the two appeared in court, Murugan's face appeared battered and swollen. (Reuter 910615)
16. Indian investigators appealed to the public for help in locating the most wanted suspect in the Gandhi's assassination, a one-eyed man who uses the alias of "Sivarasan" and who is believed to have masterminded the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. Police offer a USD 50 000 reward for his capture.

**July**

01. The Union Minister of State for Labour and the Tamil Nadu Congress president Mr. K. Ramamurthy reiterated that all the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees should be sent back to the island where they could be resettled under the United Nations supervision. (The Hindu 910702)
04. Minister for State for Home M. M. Jacob said that the New Indian Government would take the necessary steps to identify the activists of the LTTE in India and to deport them to Sri Lanka. In another development, the news agency quoted from official sources that the woman named "Dhanu" who was responsible for Rajiv Gandhi's death, had close links with the LTTE and was highly motivated. She had told some of those arrested in connection with the assassination that she was a victim of the IPKF which was deployed in Sri Lanka from July 1987 until March 1990. (AFP News Agency 910704)
18. The Central government of India has agreed to the Tamil Nadu government's plan to modernize the state's police force at the cost of 700

**India: Rajiv's Assassination**

- million rupees to meet the security threats, the state faces. (Daily News 910720)
21. The Indian Police has arrested over 2,000 Sri Lankan Tamils who have not registered their names in the police which they have been required to do so. This included the Editor of Tamil Nation Mr. S. Sivanayagam and two of his assistants. (Daily Observer 910722)
22. Nagarajan Shunmugam, one of the suspects in the Rajiv Assassination case was found dead while in police custody. He allegedly committed suicide by hanging. He led special investigating team (SIT) to Vadaranayam and helped them to find a huge cache of arms near his home Kodaikadu. His wife demanded the lawyer to be present before removing the body. When the lawyer did come, there was a commotion among the crowd which shouted slogans condemning the police. There was lot of mystery about his death. (Daily News 910723)
29. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Mr. Herat was in New Delhi to discuss the prospects of ending the island's violent conflict, and signed the agreement to set up a panel to improve the relations. Both countries agreed on the need for an voluntary return of some 200 000 Sri Lankan Tamils who have taken refuge in India. The Foreign ministry spokesman emphasized that the return should be voluntary. (AFP 910730)

The Tamil Nadu Police raided one of LTTE's biggest grenade factories in Coimbatore and found thousand of grenades in the process of production.

**August**

01. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Herat's visit to India has paved the way for a close and continuing dialogue on all aspects of Indo-Lanka relations, reported a Foreign Ministry press release. The Minister explained to his Indian counterpart on the developments of the All Party Conference (APC) and the Parliamentary Select Committee which was initiated by the SLFP Member of Parliament to discuss all issues of the ethnic conflict including matters related to the LTTE. (The Island 910802)
02. Two men, believed to be activists of the LTTE, locked themselves in a room and swallowed poison after being cornered at a house in

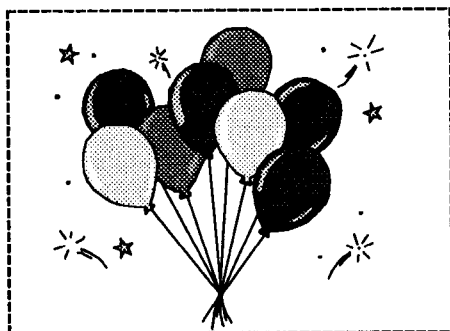
**India: Rajiv's Assassination**

Bangalore by detectives probing the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The doctors made efforts to save both, but only one survived and is in grave condition. (AFP 910802)

03. Indian Minister of Defence Sharad Pawar said that India would put on duty five more naval units along the Tamil Nadu coast within a week, to curb the activities of the Tigers. He told the Press in Madras that the Defence Ministry would provide sophisticated weapons for the Tamil Nadu Police in the anti-LTTE drive. (Daily Observer 910730)

**September**

03. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms. Jayalalitha Jeyaram appealed to the Indian Central Government to request the Sri Lankan government to provide compensation to Indian fishermen who suffered a loss of property due to Sri Lankan naval attack. (Daily News 910903)

**Development Aid****10. Development Aid****May**

31. The United States Agency for International Development signed a project agreement with Sri Lanka, providing US\$ 3,170 000 (nearly Rs 130 million) grant funds to further support Sri Lanka's economic liberalization program and to provide immediate assistance for the victims of the civil strife, a press release of the USIS stated. (The Island 910605)

**July**

03. The British government has frozen aid to Sri Lanka. The amount of aid is around 13 million pounds and any further aid all will depend on the human rights situation in the country. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom John Major wrote to President Premadasa that he considered the expulsion of Mr. Gladstone not to be an appropriate reaction. He was fully satisfied that Mr. Gladstone had no intention to interfere in local elections in any way, and his conduct did not amount to interference. The following measures were taken by the British Government.
- (a) To make no new major aid commitments at least until the new High Commissioner is in place, and then to review any such proposals in the light of the human rights situation at that time.
  - (b) To adopt a more restrictive policy on arms sales.
  - (c) To suspend all goodwill visits.
  - (d) To restrict of arms sales.
- (From a statement of the British Information Service 910705)

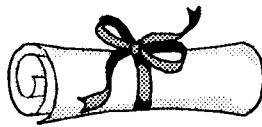
**September**

08. Under PL 480 scheme, Sri Lanka will be receiving a grant of 250 000 metric tons of wheat from the United States. UNDP will provide an assistance to the value of 245 US million dollars over a three year period to the Janasaviya Trust Fund. World Bank grants a credit of 57.5 million US dollars, while German government grants ten million US dollars.

World Bank and IMF promised to provide to Sri Lanka a SDR facility of 330 million US dollars. (Inform 910908)

## October

25. Dr. Wolf Preuss, head of a delegation from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation explained to his Sri Lankan counterparts that the future German development assistance would depend on five criteria: the respect of human rights, the involvement of the population in political decision making processes, guarantees of legal security, the creation of a market oriented economic system and the development orientation of government activities. During talks held in Colombo, the German government pledged a further grant of 15 million DM equivalent to rupees 400 million in aid to Sri Lanka. (The Island 911031)
28. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), a medical aid organization is scheduled to sign an agreement with Sri Lanka shortly to enable it to continue its relief operations in the North-East of Sri Lanka, an official source said. Sources indicated that the recent talks between the government and the MSF had paved the way for better relations which had been strained after the attack on a MSF vehicle in the northern Vavuniya district on 3.May. (Daily News 911029)
31. The United States Agency for International Development Aid (USAID) granted Rs. 5,100,000 to the Law Faculty of the Colombo University to establish a centre for the study of Human Rights. Dr. Richard M. Brownson, the director of US Aid said that the democracy in Sri Lanka would be strengthened by this project through an understanding of Universal Human Rights which are accorded to each and every citizen. (The Island 911101)



## 11. International

## January

01. India welcomed the statement announced by the Tigers, saying it preferred dialogue and cessation of hostilities. "We always favour a dialogue and cessation of hostilities," an External Affairs ministry spokesman said. (The Island 910102)
05. Over 70 boats reportedly used by Sri Lankan Tamils have been impounded in the last few days by the Indian Navy. The boats were heading for the Tamil Nadu. (Sunday Observer 910106)
08. Prime Minister of India Chandra Shekhar ruled out Indian intervention to settle Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict. Mr. Shekhar told parliament, "The government of India had a very sad experience about the behaviour of the Sri Lankan government. We shall be very cautious in making any misadventures in this direction." (AFP News Agency 910109)
- The European Parliament unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the Sri Lankan Government to set up an independent Commission of Inquiry to probe into disappearances and extra-judicial executions. It also called on the government to immediately publish a complete list of those held in detention camps, police stations and details of other forms of incarceration. The resolution calls on the Sri Lankan government to uphold its commitment to allow a UN working group to visit Sri Lanka in February 1991 to investigate disappearances. (The Island 910109)
14. One Sri Lankan Tamil militant was killed and another injured when police opened fire to quell a riot at the camp in where they were detained in southern India. Four hundred militants detained in a police-recruit hostel in Vellore in Tamil Nadu state, attacked police with stones and started burning furniture inside the camp. (AFP news agency 910114)
30. The Indian government imposed direct rule on the Tamil Nadu State because Sri Lankan rebels were causing an increasing law and order problem, Indian news agencies reported. The State Assembly was dissolved effective immediately and Tamil Nadu will come under Presidential Rule, a statement by President Ramaswamy Venkatraman said. (Reuter News Agency 910130)

## February

26. The Indian government called for the creation of an Interim council for the North and East inclusive of all political parties with the base in the North-East, to run the civil administration until the climate is conducive for holding a fresh Provincial Council Election in the strife-torn province, an Indian diplomat said. (The Island 910227)

## August

02. Sri Lankan rebel Sathasivam "Kittu" Krishnakumar has been turned down in his request for political asylum and who asked to leave Britain by 7. August. The Home Office said that he had abused his position by fundraising for the Tiger Organization of which he is a member. Krishnakumar said that he had handed over the matters to the lawyers and was still hoping to convince the British Government that there were a genuine grounds for granting him asylum. (AFP 910803)
21. The Maldives will hand over to Sri Lanka 17 Tamil rebels of the PLOTE, jailed for trying to overthrow the government in 1988, a statement from the Maldivian High Commission said. They will be repatriated on condition that they will never return to the Maldives, the statement said. (The Island 910822)

## September

23. "Fortune International" magazine lists Sri Lanka as the seventh riskiest country for business in the world. (Fortune International 910923)

## November

29. Foreign Ministers of the Members states of the European Community answered the question of Mrs Oddy, on the internal situation in Sri Lanka and the situation on human rights. The Members of Parliament of the European Community also expressed their concern about the continued reports of killings and disappearances to the Sri Lankan Government. (European Parliament Official Journal 698/91, 977/91)

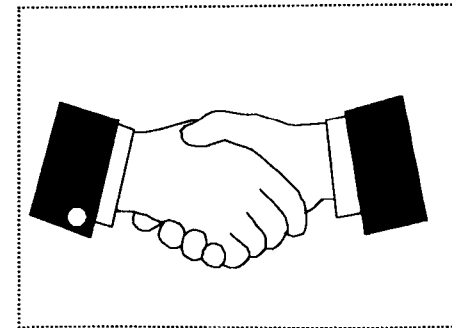
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## 12. Miscellaneous

## June

03. Former Superintendent of Police Dharmadasa shot himself and died. He was first accused in the Wijedasa Liyanarachchi murder trial. (Liyanarachchi was a lawyer and died in police remand). It is believed that the police officer was depressed after his resignation (Suspension) and with refusal to immigrate to Canada by the Canadian High Commission. (Daily News 910604)
09. British High Commissioner David Gladstone left Sri Lanka after being declared persona non-grata. The Government authorities alleged that Gladstone had interfered with local affairs by unlawfully entering a polling station during the recent local election. Although the polls had been declared free and fair, Gladstone charged that he had seen voters rubbing off the indelible ink from their fingers in an attempt to vote more than once. Gladstone had clearly been a source of irritation for the government as he had continuously expressed concern over the security forces' methods in the North. (The Daily Telegraph 910610)
15. The government has informed aid donors it would not be pressurized on domestic political issues, senior government sources said. President Premadasa opening the Koggala Free Trade Zone, said providing economic assistance did not give anyone the right to determine Sri Lanka's policies or to finance disruptive elements. "We will not sell our souls to satisfy our hunger", he pledged.

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- 1959 **September:** Bandaranaike assassinated. W.Dahanayake became Prime Minister. **December:** Parliament dissolved.
- 1960 **January 2:** Switch-over of administration to "Sinhala Only". FP calls hartal in North and East. **March:** General election: Dudley Senanayake formed "minority government". **April:** Government defeated; Parliament dissolved. **July:** General election returned SLFP to power; Mrs Srima Bandaranaike became Prime Minister. Nationalization of Schools.
- 1961 **February:** Federal Party staged *Satyagraha* in North and East. FP inaugurated Tamil Arasu (Government) postal service in Jaffna. Military occupation of Tamil areas for two years. FP MPs arrested and detained for six months. Language of the Courts Act provided for "Sinhala only" in Court proceedings.
- 1962 Army and Police *coup d'etat* attempt discovered.
- 1963 **August:** United Left Front (ULF) launched by MEP, LSSP and CP
- 1964 **June:** LSSP entered SLFP government. "Srima-Sastri Pact". Kodiswaran language rights case. **December:** SLFP-LSSP coalition government defeated in parliament.
- 1965 "Senanayake-Chelvanayakam Pact". Return to Righteousness published. General election returned UNP and Dudley Senanayake formed "national" government; FP and TC supported government.
- 1966 **January:** Regulation for "reasonable use of Tamil". SLFP-LSSP-CP demonstrated against Regulation.
- 1968 District Councils bill published. R.G. Senanayake formed Sinhala Mahajana Peramuna (SMP) District Councils bill abandoned by government.
- 1969 FP withdrew from government. Privy Council ruled partially in favour of Kodeswaran case.
- 1970 **May:** General elections returned SLFP-LSSP-CP United Front coalition to power. Mrs. Bandaranaike became Prime Minister. **July:** Parliament became Constituent Assembly.
- 1971 **April:** Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) insurrection. Emergency declared and continued for six years. Appeals to Privy Council abolished. Draft Republican Constitution laid before parliament.
- 1972 **May:** Tamil United Front (TUF) formed. New Constitution adopted. Ceylon becomes Republic of Sri Lanka.
- 1973 Discriminatory standards applied against Tamil students for entry to University. Language of the Courts (Special provisions) Law.
- 1974 "Srima-Gandhi Pact". Police action at the 4th International Tamil Conference held in Jaffna and ten persons were electrocuted and died.
- 1975 Chelvanayakam called for separate Tamil state.
- 1976 Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) formed with pledge to establish a separate Tamil state.
- 1977 **July:** General election returned UNP led by J.R. Jayawardene. **August:** Anti-Tamil riots.
- 1978 **August:** New Constitution of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka adopted. Presidential system of government and Jayawardene became President. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam proscribed.
- 1979 Prevention of Terrorism Act enacted. Emergency declared for Tamil areas. Security forces were strengthened in Jaffna.
- 1981 **June:** DDC election disrupted in Jaffna. Jaffna public library is burnt down with over 100 000 volumes destroyed. **July-August:** Racial riots all over Sri Lanka.
- 1982 **October:** J.R. Jayawardene re-elected President. **November:** Tamil intellectuals and Catholic clergy detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. **December:** Referendum to extend the term of the parliament till 1989.
- 1983 **April:** Gandhian Organization officials detained and tortured. **May:** Liberation Tigers called for boycott of local election and succeed. **June:** Army empowered to shoot kill and bury without post-mortem or judicial inquest. **July-August:** LTTE ambushed and killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers. Racial riots all over Sri Lanka. An estimated 2 000 Tamils are killed including 53 Tamil detainees at the Welikade Prison. Tamils in the South and on plantations flee to the North. About 70 000 flee to India

- 1983 **September:** Special session of Parliament amended the constitution to ban political parties advocating secession.
- 1984 **December:** India initiated negotiation between Government of Sri Lanka and TULF leaders.
- 1984 **January:** All Party Conference started on devolution of powers.
- 1984 **December:** The concrete proposals finally rejected by the Government and the TULF.
- 1985 **April:** Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) formed consisting of LTTE, EROS, EPRLF and TELO. **May:** Anuradhapura massacre, the first attack on Sinhalese civilians by Tamil militants. **June:** Rajiv-Jeyawardene summit in Bangalore. **July-August-September:** Talks at Thimpu between Tamil parties and the Sri Lankan Government initiated by India. Talks collapsed.
- 1986 **January:** Tamil militants withdrew from ceasefire after violations on both sides. TULF proposals rejected by the government on the basis that they represent the first steps towards a federal state. President Jeyawardena convened Political Parties Conference.
- 1987 LTTE left Madras and established its bases in Jaffna and ran a "parallel government" in Jaffna. Sri Lanka retaliated with army offensive, economic blockade. **May 26:** Sri Lankan army launched "Operation Liberation" to drive the LTTE from Jaffna. **June 3:** Sri Lankan navy turned back 19 Indian boats carrying relief supplies to Jaffna. **June 4:** Escorted by jet fighters, Indian transport planes dropped 22 tons of relief supplies on Jaffna peninsula. **July 29:** Rajiv Gandhi and J.R. Jeyawardene signed Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. Troops of Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) airlifted to Jaffna to guarantee enforcement of accord. JVP resumed its violent campaign against Indo-Sri Lanka accord. **August 31:** UNHCR signed a memorandum of understanding with Sri Lanka to assist returnees and displaced persons. **October 5:** Seventeen LTTE members were taken into custody by a Sri Lankan naval patrol, committed suicide by swallowing cyanide tablets. **Oct 6:** LTTE leader Prabhakaran declared ceasefire agreement no longer binding on LTTE. The confrontation between IPKF and LTTE continued till 1989. The battle costed 1200 lives of the IPKF soldiers and wounding 3000. Tigers loss over 1000 cadres.
- 1988 **November 19:** Provincial Council elections for the North-East Provinces were held under the supervision of IPKF. EPRLF took control of the Council while LTTE boycotted the election. Refugees from India returned to Sri Lanka with the assistance of UNHCR.
- 1988 **December:** UNP returned to Power. R. Premadasa became president of Sri Lanka.
- 1989 Negotiations began between LTTE and Sri Lankan Government and Premadasa requested the IPKF to leave the island. IPKF and LTTE reached agreement on a ceasefire and eventual withdrawal of IPKF. **October:** The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) opened its office in Colombo.
- 1990 **March 1:** EPRLF declared an "Independent Eelam" and renamed the provincial council as a Tamil national assembly. **March 24:** IPKF completed their withdrawal from Sri Lanka. **June 11:** LTTE attacked 17 police station in the Eastern Province and captured 600 policemen. The Sri Lankan army retaliated by killing 100 Tamil civilians and the war is on once again. Tamils left the island for India as refugees once again. **August:** LTTE attacked on Muslim mosques in Kattankudy leave 120 dead. One week later, a Tiger raid on Eravur left 170 dead. **September:** UNHCR established "Open Relief Centres" in Madhu and Mannar island. Security forces took into custody 158 people staying in a refugee camp at the Eastern University campus in Batticaloa. **October:** LTTE evicted Muslims living in the North. Most sought refuge in Puttalam and Colombo. **November:** ICRC protested Sri Lankan army bombing of Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

*The Sri Lanka Resource Centre is established to provide information services on public affairs in Sri Lanka. The centre has been collecting information from all the main parties to the ongoing conflict in the country: the government, political parties, militant organizations, NGOs, various news agencies, as well as from its own contacts.*

*It has been distributing information in printed form, such as accession lists, annotated bibliographies, chronologies of events and situation reports. It further provides background materials, consultations and briefings for organizations, researchers, journalists and officials concerned with the conflict, locally and abroad, at their request.*

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