

## TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE

3RD FLOOR, 24-28 CLAPHAM HIGH STREET (Voltaire Road Entrance)  
LONDON, SW4 7UR, ENGLAND, U.K.

Telephone: National 01 627 4508 International + 44 1 627 4508  
Telex: 8950511 ONEONE G — Please quote MB 13330001

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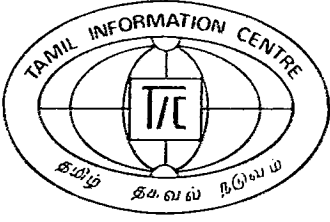
Dear Friends.

### EARLY WARNING III

During 1985 about 3500 Tamils mostly civilians, have been killed by the security forces or by Sinhalese civilians armed by the Sri Lankan Government in the Tamil Homeland. In 1984 and 1985 the estimated killings were 2000 and 3000 respectively. During the latter part of 1985 there were extensive military operations in Batticaloa. In January and February 1987 military operations have been extended to all parts of the Tamil Homeland. There was a massacre in Paduvankarai in Batticaloa between 28th and 31st January in which over 100 persons were killed. There were also extensive killings in Mannar, Trincomalee and Kilinochchi. In 1987 about 500 Tamils have been killed so far.

The government has established a large number of military camps in the recent weeks. Additional military personnel and equipment have been moved to the Tamil areas. A recent report states that the strength of the forces in the Jaffna peninsula is to be increased from 12,000 to 20,000 and 30 helicopters. 30 naval boats, 5 bombers and 10 light aircraft are stationed in the peninsula. The operations in which mercenaries (ex-SAS officers) too are taking part, are guided by men from the Mossad.

The Government has also placed an embargo on fuel to parts of the Tamil Homeland from the beginning of the year. With the onset of the dry season the crops and plants will be seriously affected in the forthcoming months causing severe shortage of food in the Tamil Homeland. The Government has openly declared its military option to suppress the liberation struggle of the Tamil people.



The present actions of the Sri Lankan Government indicate that the current military offensive in the peninsula is going to be intensified and extended also to other parts of the Tamil Homeland. It is feared that thousands of civilians will be killed.

We therefore request that you take steps to warn concerned people of these signs and endeavour to prevent the genocide.

Thank you.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely.

ER N IRUTHAYAM  
INFORMATION OFFICER

Encl:

News reports annexed:

- 1 Guardian. 25.2.87
- 2 Guardian and Daily News. 3.3.87
- 3 Daily News. 4.3.87
- 4 Summary of recent events. TIC.

Yesterday 59 Tamils who wish to claim refugee status in Britain were granted a review of their situation. JOHN RETTI, in Colombo, explains why life is not a bed of roses for them in Sri Lanka

# The terror that the Tamils remember

"THE SINHALESE are so nice and charming, but they're lazy and feckless," my family always used to say. "If it's work you want, you have to go to the Tamils."

Of course, those were colonial times, and nobody thought anything of remarks that nowadays would be denounced as almost racist. But my family weren't the only tea-planters to say that. In fact, almost all the British in Ceylon, whatever they were doing, believed the same. Which, of course, is why Tamils were brought over from southern India to work on the estates.

our own land, and we were quite happy working that." But why did the British not employ the Ceylon Tamils on the estates? There were plenty of them in the northern and eastern provinces, which are their traditional homeland. First and foremost, because the Ceylon Tamils, particularly in the northern Jaffna peninsula, had quite different ideas about their role under the British. The Jaffna Tamils were hard workers for a very good reason: their land is dry and produces only with the expenditure of much sweat, toil, and tears.

And, in any case, the Sinhalese had a very different view about pleasing the colonial masters. "Why did you expect us to work on your estates for the pittance you paid the Indian Tamils?" they ask. "After all, we had

under the British.

It was hardly surprising that after independence in 1948, the Sinhalese should have wanted to do their own thing, establish their own identity. The Tamils, I think, took too little account of this, and many Sinhalese certainly felt their behaviour smacked of arrogance. But this and other mistakes they made can hardly justify their treatment since independence. It was, after all, highly provocative of the then Prime Minister, Solomon Bandaranaike, to bring in a "Sinhala only" language policy in 1956.

This began the rot. English ceased to be the common language of instruction, and Sinhalese and Tamil children were separated into different streams. Rather like the Protestant and Catholic children in Northern Ireland, they began to regard each other as aliens.

Every compromise agreed with the Tamils thereafter was either abrogated or left unimplemented by one government after another. Even the leaders of the left-wing Sinhalese insurgency in

1971 rejected offers of help from frustrated and radical young Tamils. And for the record, it should never be forgotten that about as many Sinhalese were killed in the suppression of that uprising as Tamils have been killed in the past three years.

Nor should it be supposed that the developed nations, as the world's rich like to call themselves, have been innocent parties in the drama. The unfair economic system they have imposed on the world's poor, plus the island's neo-colonial economic structure and its rapid population growth, combined to create widespread social and economic discontent. It was all too convenient for unscrupulous politicians to divert this into resentment against the Tamil separatist rather than against the government — any government.

Finally, in the mid-Seventies, angry young Tamils took up arms and began to demand a separate state. But it was only after what is known as the anti-Tamil riots in 1983 — in fact, more of an organised pogrom — that the militant movements

became a serious threat.

No Tamil can think of fear without a frisson of fear; could it happen again? It did more to recruit militants than any other single event. In fact, if the government was really serious about reconciliation, some senior politician would publicly express regret in terms that would restore the Tamils' confidence.

Instead, some political concessions have been reluctantly dragged out of the government, while the Tamils in the north and east have been subjected to increasing pressure.

The Batticaloa district of the Eastern Province brings to mind nothing so much as Central America or the Ayacucho province of Peru, where state terrorism more than matches insurgent terrorism. Nobody can see the pathetic groups of women standing all day in the pitiless sun at the corner of every military camp, hoping for just a glimpse of their sons or husbands, without recognising the repressive power of counter-insurgency.

In Batticaloa, the Tamils say it is a crime to be a young man — that is, between 18 and 50. Many have been arrested, "disappeared" or tortured for that alone. And if they escape the net of the security forces, they may come under fierce pressure from the militants to join their ranks.

Whatever happens, their education, their job prospects, their whole lives are at best fatally disrupted. If a young man in the Tamil areas of the north or east decides not to take up arms, the compulsion to leave must be irresistible.

This month's military offensive caused further civilian casualties and refugees. Only in the Jaffna peninsula are people relatively immune from this violence, but they suffer from isolation and the government's economic squeeze — not to mention the Tamil Tigers' recent accident with explosives that killed 50 civilians. Now there is talk of a government offensive to take back Jaffna. If that happens, the rest of the civil war will look like a lost party.

REF: TIC/PC/1034, 1036/870303

THE GUARDIAN Tuesday March 3 1987

## Tamil talks ruled out

Colombo: President Junius Jayawardene yesterday ruled out any new negotiations to end Sri Lanka's ethnic war and said that the military would force Tamil rebels to end their insurgency.

Mr Jayawardene made the remarks in a briefing with the former prime minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who heads the island's main opposition group, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

The government Media Centre, meanwhile, reported that 19 people, including three soldiers, were killed at the weekend and 35 others, including 15 soldiers, injured. —AP.

Tuesday March 3 1987 LONDON DAILY NEWS

## No truce for Tamil rebels

COLOMBO: Talks to end the Tamil civil war were ruled out by Sri Lanka's President Junius Jayawardene yesterday.

He insisted that the military would force Tamil rebels to halt their campaign for political independence, a political source said.

Mr Jayawardene made the remarks in a briefing with former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

"This is a very critical situation," the president was quoted as saying by an official of Mrs Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party who was at the briefing.

### Offensive

The military has been involved in a strong offensive in the Tamil-dominated northern province. The Tamil language newspaper Virakesari of Colombo reported yesterday that more than 5,000 Tamil civilians have fled their homes during four days of fighting.

"If this ferocious fighting continues, the entire area will be devastated,"



Junius Jayawardene:  
"We won't negotiate"

the independent newspaper reported.

The government's media centre, meanwhile, reported that 19 people, including three soldiers, were killed over the weekend with 85 others injured.

The Freedom Party source said Mr Jayawardene also said that he would refuse to lift a two-month fuel embargo against the Tamil Jaffna peninsula until rebels stop fighting and renounce their attempts to create a separate civil administration.

"The president did not indicate in any way that his government is going to reactivate political talks with India and or anybody else — meaning the militants."

# Soldiers in Tamil protest

BRITISH mercenaries in Sri Lanka have walked out after complaining that the Government troops they trained have committed a series of atrocities against the minority Tamil population.

Security sources say the men, most of whom are ex-SAS, were sent with Whitehall's approval. They work for KMS Ltd., the powerful London security company which has been implicated in a contra arms scandal in Washington.

The firm's links with the Prime Minister are being probed by senior Labour MPs who want to know whether she has been secretly helping President Reagan by authorising the company to support the American-backed contras in Nicaragua.

## Torture

The mercenaries walked out on their £20,000-a-year tax-free jobs after complaining that the Special Task Force, which they set up for the Sri Lankan Government in 1984, was running out of control and was indiscriminately killing and torturing Tamil civilians.

Amnesty International has gathered evidence that the force has kidnapped Tamil civilians who have never been seen again. Soldiers are also accused of executing detainees after ordering them

## Sri Lankan torture claims reveal new Whitehall links with mercenary row firm

who want naval facilities on the island.

Sri Lanka originally asked the Foreign Office for an SAS unit. But the Government declined for fear of alienating the Indian Government, which supports the Tamil separatist movement.

### Racist

Instead, say sources, the FO sent a squad of 12 KMS mercenaries, including an ex-SAS colonel and an ex-SAS adjutant.

The Ministry of Defence is also believed to have supplied sophisticated new automatic rifles which have been developed by the Royal Ordnance factory and are not yet available even for regular British Army units.

The mercenaries first got into trouble for indiscipline. One got drunk in a tourist hotel in nearby Kalutara and fired his gun into the ceiling. A group of former Rhodesian SAS men were sacked for making racist remarks to the Sri Lankans they were training and a South African pilot who disobeyed orders was transferred to the KMS operation with the contras in Central America.

But more serious problems followed. The Special Task

and, unhampered by restrictions from their own Government, began to take over parts of the KMS operation.

### Excesses

Now senior ex-SAS men have refused to renew their contracts and others have walked out.

David Walker, who is believed to still be in Sri Lanka, is reported to have sacked KMS teams who had been training other specialist army and navy units for the Sri Lankans, in an attempt to save the contract with the Task Force.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in London, Mr Chandra Monerawela, yesterday confirmed that his Government had hired KMS but said he was not aware that any of its men had walked out.

He denied that the British Government had approved the contract and rejected the reports of atrocities.

"There may sometimes be excesses or civilian casualties, but when you are dealing with guerrillas anything can happen. They don't wear uniforms," he said.

A Foreign Office spokesman denied that KMS had been given any Government approval for its work in Sri Lanka. Labour's Foreign Affairs spokesman George Foulkes has tabled Parliamentary Questions asking Mrs Thatcher about meetings with David Walker and links between the company and Government departments.

Force moved into the island's Eastern Province and the KMS men began to hear reports of atrocities.

The mercenaries, many of whom have long SAS experience of counter-insurgency, complained that this was a fatal error. They wanted the Task Force to win the "hearts and minds" of Tamil villagers to cut off the guerrillas.

Force complained the Task Force was making enemies of them all and made a series of protests to the senior mercenary on the ground, an ex-SAS colonel who joined KMS after being targeted by Irish terrorists.

He could do nothing. The mercenaries then pressed to be allowed to go into combat with the Task Force in an attempt to control them. But they were told this was unacceptable to the Foreign Office in London.

Discontent in the mercenary ranks grew. Less-qualified "cowboy" reinforcements were sent from London, including one man who has served a jail sentence for armed robbery.

Then Israeli security consultants arrived on the island

## Summary of Recent Events 1987

The year 1987 started with the imposition of fuel embargo on the Jaffna peninsula.

The daily events of shelling arbitrary killing and mass arrest by the Sri Lankan forces in the Tamil Homeland took an ominous turn in Batticaloa towards the end of January this year. Within three days of the military offensive which started on Jan 28th more than 100 Tamil civilians were shot dead by the STF. Some of them had been arrested, lined up and gunned down. The victims included women and children.

In Jaffna, several villages around Anaikotai came under aerial attack on Jan 4th in which bombers as well as helicopters were engaged.

From then on, military operations were stepped up throughout the Tamil Homeland, particularly in Mannar, Mullaithivu, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Paranthan and Jaffna. By January 9th, over 5,000 civilians had been rendered refugees around Vidathalthivu alone. A 36-hour curfew was imposed on Feb 11th in Kilinochchi, Mullaithivu, Vavuniya and Mannar to prevent visitors from coming to know the extent of damage. It is estimated that by then the operations had claimed over 400 civilian lives for the year.

In the Jaffna peninsula Temples (including the Maviddapuram Kanthasamy kovil) churches hospitals (including the Jaffna General Hospital), schools (including Thellipallai Mahajana College and Union college) and hundreds of houses have been damaged. The heavy offensive being carried out at present around Palaly, entire villages have been evacuated, adding to the total of Tamil refugees within the country which was already 115,000. So far more than 500 Tamil civilians have been killed this year.

Tamil Information Centre, London, 4 March 1987.