

SRI  
LANKA  
**SITUATION  
REPORT**

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தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

# SITUATION REPORT

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

## **"Foreign Mystery"**

Two unidentified foreigners and a group of armed terrorists had been sighted by a sentry at the Jaffna Fort yesterday, the national security ministry said. The group had been walking towards the Fort when the sentry had ordered them not to advance further and been answered by a volley of gunfire. "The sentry responded by firing over their heads because two foreigners were with the terrorists. When the guard opened fire, the terrorists and the foreigners fled", a spokesman said. The ministry said that no foreigners had been authorised to be in Jaffna during the last few days and the two who had been seen may have been slycomers from South India. Alternatively, they could be mercenaries in the service of the terrorists. (Daily News — 21.1.86).

## **No News of Ferry**

Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit said yesterday that he had no instructions from the Indian government regarding the resumption of the Talaimannar-Rameswaram ferry service on February 1. Commenting on press reports that the ferry service would be resumed on February 1, Mr. Dixit said he had cautioned the Transport Ministry in writing that there had to be a response from the Indian government about the time of commencing the ferry service. (Daily News — 16.1.86).

## **25,000 prostitutes**

Twilight women are now reported to be on the increase, according to Colombo Municipality authorities. Statistics for 1985 reveal that there were 25,000 prostitutes in Colombo compared to 380 in 1962. The figure of 380 in 1962 was arrived at by a committee appointed in 1962 to conduct a survey on prostitution... Out of 25,000 now in Colombo, over 5,000 loiter the streets, and about 10,000 visit Colombo during the nights, and the others spend their time in brothels. (The Island — 20.1.86).

## **Justice can wait!**

The Jaffna High Court, District Court and Magistrate's Court closed down on Friday indefinitely. This follows a move-out order given to the Secretary of these courts by the Armed Services, after a 1,000 metre security zone was declared by Government in Jaffna. A Justice Ministry spokesman said that the hearing of cases in these three courts would come to a standstill, such time that alternative accommodation was made available outside the security zone to set up courts... (The Island — 19.1.86).

## **Kokilai fisherman**

At three points on the coastline from Panadura to Beruwala, nearly a hundred fisherman

ousted from Kokilai have formed "wadiyas" and are plying their trade deep sea fishing in mechanised boats... The local fisherman who use "Oru" allege that these newcomers make inroads into their fishing grounds in mechanised boats... At Beruwala, the boat of a newcomer has been burnt and the police are investigating. (Daily News — 21.1.86)

## **No cut-rate tickets**

A massive effort to prevent cut-price airliner ticketing out of Colombo begins today when a series of stringent regulations announced by the Director of Civil Aviation becomes effective. "But will they work?" is the question the airline and travel trade is asking. "I am confident they will", said Capt. Rakhitha Wikramanayake, Air Lanka Chairman who has been fighting for months for an effective policing of discount tickets, till now freely available to any passenger. A veteran airline man said it is possible that the curbs on cheap tickets might induce pleasure travellers to stay at home... (Daily News — 15.1.86)

## **S.L. to import fish!**

The private sector last year was unable to respond to a government invitation to import fresh fish. Prices in the principal exporting countries were perhaps too high, a fisheries spokesman said yesterday. The invitation to import fish was made in the face of the disruptions caused by terrorists in the North and East, which are traditionally major contributors to the annual catch of around 167,000 metric tons... (Daily News — 18.1.86)

## **Colombo Port blacklisted**

The Baltic International Maritime Corporate Organisations (BIMCO) weekly circular on Port conditions has warned vessels destined for Colombo, with large quantities of food, cement, fertilizer, that they would have to wait "unpredictable periods" outside the Colombo harbour, before they get berthing facilities. Shipping agents when contacted, expressed fears of ship owners refusing to call at Colombo if the situation continued... This source told "The Island" that 15 ships were outside harbour at the moment awaiting berths, and that each day's delay in giving berths cost the government US \$ 2,000 per ship per day as demurrage... (The Island — 18.1.86)

## **What TULF MP said**

...Referring to Mrs. Bandaranaike's call for a general election, Mr. Ronnie de Mel (Finance Minister) asked how a country could have an election when it was engulfed in a civil war. He said there will be no election till 1989. A TULF MP who had met him (the Minister) recently had described Mrs. Bandaranaike's clamour for an election as absurd and stated that they would find themselves killed before they had even submitted their nomination papers (Daily News — 20.1.86)

## **Navy loses boat**

A Sri Lankan Navy boat used for operations in the Northern Surveillance Zone has been reported missing. It is believed to have been stolen by Tamil terrorists. The ten-seater fibre glass transport boat of the Navy was used for surveillance of Tamil terrorists operating between the northern waters and Tamilnadu in India. It is valued at Rs. 18,000/-. Sri Lanka Navy yesterday confirmed the loss of the boat from its mooring at Chilapathurai beach off the coast of Mannar. They said that a naval contingent has now been deployed on a search operation. (Sun — 20.1.86).

## **Army-Police collision**

A Police constable was killed and eight other policemen and soldiers injured when an armoured car collided with a jeep at Uppuveli in Trincomalee. The armoured car turned turtle, while the jeep was damaged. The dead constable has been identified as D.A. Wilson. Four injured constables are receiving treatment at the Anuradhapura hospital and several soldiers at the Trincomalee General Hospital—Police and Army are conducting investigations into the accident. (Sun — 20.1.86).

## **The "TIGER POST"**

Secret terrorist cells in the city have begun a new propaganda war against the government. They are feeding regular reports to Colombo-based diplomatic missions "rebutting" government statements and reports relating to terrorism and the Tamil ethnic conflict. All the material is contained in sheets bearing the letterhead of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a member of the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) and are mailed from Colombo... The terrorists' propaganda statements are released within hours of the National Security Ministry issuing its communiques on terrorist incidents. It also gives a detailed terrorist version of the incidents together with the names and ages of the people killed in clashes with the security forces. Invariably the claim is that the victims were innocent civilians. The terrorist statements contradict newspaper reports on terrorism and are signed by the Public Relations Officer of the LTTE. The statements which are typewritten and photo-copied are addressed to heads of the foreign diplomatic missions. (Weekend — 19.1.86).

## **Bomb-consciousness**

A motorist who yesterday suffered the misfortune of having a breakdown at Galle Face near the Presidential Secretariat, had his vehicle doors prised open by the Army Bomb Disposal Squad while he was away fetching a mechanic. A police mobile unit stationed near the Presidential Secretariat which had noticed that the vehicle was parked from 11.45 a.m. to 1 p.m. called the bomb disposal squad suspecting that the vehicle contained a bomb. The army squad arrived minutes later to

of the vehicle. They had completed their inspection when the owner arrived with his mechanic, police said. In a similar incident on Thursday, a motorist who had a breakdown and left his van opposite the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, returned with a mechanic to find his vehicle missing. The security officers at the SLBC had observed the vehicle and called the Army Bomb Disposal Squad which had broken open the doors of the van to find it full of calendars. The vehicle was then removed to the Cinnamon Gardens Police Station. (Sun—18.1.86).

### **Propaganda Waste!**

"We have spent millions of rupees in taxpayers' money on propaganda that have boomeranged on our doorstep. We hired the wrong people to do the right thing to damage our image. We continue this devastatingly ridiculous exercise. Take for instance the publication of full page advertisements recently in the Canadian newspapers "Globe and Mail" and the "Citizen", which cost Lanka thirty three thousand dollars, nothing less. According to the most effective Lanka lobby in Canada, "Project Peace", the advertisements annoyed them immensely as it was futile and counter-productive. They have also expressed their reservations to the Lankan High Commission in Canada. They have pointed out that the ads. were of unnecessary expense, badly timed and unwarranted. Some of our missions abroad whose basic function is to counter anti-Lankan propaganda are in very embarrassing situations themselves. Take for instance Canada, a station where the Eelam lobby had caused much damage to our good image. According to our information, at least eight of its staff members have sought immigrant visas during the past eighteen months. They have not returned to Colombo. A whole gamut of clerks, stenographers, passport officers and even some kinsmen of certain top DPLs are looking for greener pastures. Shows how our foreign missions are concerned about helping Lanka maintain a good image. Like rats they seem to make a hasty retreat". (Political columnist DON MITHUNA—WEEKEND—19.1.86)

### **A way of life**

"It is not just separatist terrorism that plagues the nation today. Violence of every conceivable dimension seems to have engulfed this island once renowned and envied by many as a land of peace and tranquility... Even news of mass killing is treated with a sense of nonchalance and with hardly a surprise. This proves how violence is becoming a way of life in this country... (Sun Editorial—18.1.86).

### **New S.P., Jaffna**

Senior Superintendent of Police P. Udugampola has been transferred from Gampaha to the Jaffna division. Jaffna's S.P. Kingsley Silva becomes personal assistant to the DIG (Northern Range).

### **Bomb blast in Colombo**

A bomb explosion yesterday rocked the Dasa Trade Centre at Borella causing extensive damage and destroying parts of other buildings. The timely arrival of the police saved the lives of hundreds of people. Only one policeman received injuries... (Sun—17.1.86)

### **Historian J.R.**

All school children will shortly receive a booklet on the country's history with the compliments of President J.R. Jayawardene. The booklet written by the President will contain a commentary on Sri Lanka's history for the past 2,500 years from the time of King Vijaya... (Sun—15.1.86)

### **Concern about "Lenin"**

Had Uduwarage Henry Perera alias Vishwan alias Lenin escaped from prison custody or had something untoward happened to him? This was the question posed by Mr. Bala Tampoe before High Court Judge H.W. Senanayake yesterday when he moved court to ask the prison authorities to furnish a report as to what happened to the remand prisoner when he was taken from the courts last Wednesday... (Daily News—14.1.86).

### **Nimal's "confession"**

A Sinhalese, Nimal Pathiraja, a suspect in a robbery case confessed before the Dambulla Magistrate that he had been the Eastern Province organiser for the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO). He asked the Dambulla Magistrate Mr. Hector Wijesiri Liyanage, to arrange for him to meet the Minister of National Security Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali since he has a statement to make to him. (The Island—13.1.86).

### **Contract to UK firm**

The Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka has appointed Sir M. MacDonald and Partners of Cambridge, eastern England to plan, design and supervise the construction of the Walawe Irrigation project, under a contract worth £ 5,00,000. Work starts immediately and will be completed by late 1989... (The Island—11.1.86)

### **Graduate "snatcher"**

A young graduate who was arrested by police in connection with an alleged snatch theft incident had told police that he committed the offence because he could not settle an old debt with the paltry salary he earned as a clerk. The graduate was arrested by a Bambalapitiya

police party led by OIC, Crimes, Inspector Shanthy Kumar after he snatched a gold chain from a woman pedestrian at Ridgeway Place, Bambalapitiya... Police seized a kris knife from the suspect. (The Island—11.1.86).

### **The "demented Soldier"**

A soldier who went berserk and shot and killed 10 civilians, among them women and children, following a terrorist attack on the Police station, was apprehended by the security forces on Saturday. According to reports, the soldiers had also shot and wounded another 10 people at the Kilinochchi railway station... the soldier who was demented went berserk and fired his personal weapon in a frenzy at the railway station killing ten persons... The others immediately overpowered the demented soldier, took his weapon and prevented him from shooting anymore at the people. The soldier concerned was not in his proper senses for several hours after the shooting. He is now under arrest and was brought to Colombo for investigation and inquiry. (Sun—28.1.86)

### **Trouble in Tea country**

Talawakelle and its environs, the scene of a series of incidents on Tuesday, were quiet as the government extended the curfew till 7 a.m. this morning. A 15-hour curfew clamped in nine police areas on Tuesday night at 1 a.m. yesterday. However the govt. extended it till 7 a.m. this morning. Govt. sources said about 300 Tamils who fled Talawakella town had been provided shelter in a kovil nearby. Another 150 Sinhalese had sought refuge in a Buddhist temple. About 12 shops had been burnt in Talawakelle town, 17 boutiques in Watagoda, and five elsewhere. A police constable attached to the Agrapatana police was killed by unknown assailants yesterday. (Sun—30.1.86)

### **"A few unruly elements"**

IGP Cyril Herath yesterday briefed President Jayawardene on the situation in the troubled plantation areas upcountry, senior police sources said yesterday. The government also announced that the curfew was being extended in the areas of the Nuwara Eliya district, where it had been in force from 3 p.m. yesterday to 7 a.m. today. In Colombo, the National Security Ministry explained that the acts of "a few unruly elements" made the extension of the curfew necessary... The body of Constable Priyadarshi of the Lindula police who had been hacked by a mob at Dyraba estate on Wednesday, has been recovered... (Daily News—31.1.86)

### **Curfew in 10 areas**

A curfew was declared from 3 p.m. yesterday to 7 a.m. today in the following areas: Maskeliya, Bogawantalawa, Agrapatana, Nuwara Eliya, Lindula, Talawakelle, Pathana, Hatton, Nanu Oya and Norwood... (The Island—31.1.86)

# DIARY OF EVENTS

## and

### Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from Nov. 24 - Dec. 13 were carried in Issue No. 3 of Situation Report

#### DECEMBER 14

Colombo newspaper SUN reports that Tamil "terrorist groups" are now in possession of Claymore land mines, which are directional, unlike conventional mines which are buried. Quoting the National Intelligence Bureau, the paper says "these mines cost substantial sums in the underground arms markets". The NIB had also uncovered evidence that "terrorists" have, apart from Soviet-made AK 47 assault rifles, Mills 35 grenades, incendiary bombs and shoulder-mounted weapons to fire grenades.

At Anpuvalipuram in Trincomalee district, 52 Tamil youths taken away by armed forces on suspicion, 10 of whom were released recently from Boossa detention camp.

10 members of the public make representations to Monitoring Committee at Trincomalee.

Govt. officials in Vavuniya directed by Co-ordinating Officer Brigadier Asoka Jayawardene to close down with immediate effect all 13 refugee centres in Vavuniya housing Tamil refugees, and settle the 4,000 refugees in Vavuniya town. The refugee centres are sited at Vavuniya-Mannar road (5), Omanthai and Nedunkerny (6) and Vepankulam (2).

A jeep and a fire-fighting machine belonging to Valaichchenai Paper Mills which were among the vehicles hijacked, found abandoned at Santhiveli and Vakaneri.

Kalmunai public put to great inconvenience as a result of closure of the Post Office, following four repeated robberies. (Virakesari).

Office buildings of the Agrarian Services Dept. at Aiyithiamalai and Paddy Milling complex at Morakatanchenai blasted in the Eravur police area in the East by bombs, presumably by Tamil militants, to prevent security forces occupying these buildings.

Batticaloa Post Office robbed of cash Rs. 2,500/- and stamps worth Rs. 47,000/-.

#### DECEMBER 15

Reason for closing down of refugee centres in outlying areas of Vavuniya was that the presence of these centres might be a hindrance to the armed forces' search operations, explains Govt. sources. Arrangements now being made to house refugees within Vavuniya town limits. It is learnt that most of these refugees are plantation Tamils who had come to Vavuniya as refugees in the wake of anti-Tamil riots in plantation areas in 1977 and 1981, and who were displaced from their new settlements again by army action. A smaller number of Tamil refugees who fled the

Anuradhapura district in recent times and who were at the Omanthai refugee centre may be asked to go back to their Anuradhapura homes.

Search operations at Vavuniya continue. Among those arrested was a Muslim Tamil youth while he was eating at a "Saiva" restaurant and a hiring car driver Chandran who used to operate near the bus stand.

Two Jaffna teachers from the Kopay Teachers Training College, Rajaratnam Sachchithanandasivam (24) and Markandu Sivapathasundaram (22) who were on their way to Trincomalee by bus were taken away on suspicion by armed forces at Habarana, for questioning.

Six constables of the Medawachchiya Police station interdicted following squabbles over share of spoils robbed from Tamils in passing vehicles.

#### DECEMBER 16

Large troop movement through Vavuniya in the direction of Jaffna, around 9.30 a.m. The convoy consisted of about 25 vehicles including armoured cars and trucks and lorries filled with soldiers and paraphernalia required to set up army camps. Vavuniya residents panic and close up shops and homes and take cover.

Colombo National Security officials announce that all foreign journalists have been debarred from entering the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka. The prohibition is meant for their own safety, officials say.

Sighting a Police jeep on patrol, on a public road at Morakoddanchenai, in Batticaloa, people on the road run away. Police fire at them, and 18-year old youth Vanniasingam killed on the spot. The body was sent to Eravur hospital morgue.

A Colombo Tamil restaurant owner and two employees - Ponnambalam Tiruchelvam, Ratnam Kasinadaer, and Kulasegaram Uthayakumar, charged at the Colombo High Court with having concealed information from the Police about suspects involved in various bomb incidents in Colombo. Suspects to be moved from Boossa camp to Welikade jail.

Vavuniya G.A. K.C. Logeswaran back at his office desk after a 1-month absence.

Vavuniya Military Co-ordinating Officer Asoka Jayawardene takes action on a complaint made against armed Sinhala Home Guards who had threatened farmers in the Tamil village of Kallikulam. Six Home Guards arrested and deprived of their guns. Four others reported to be absconding.

The Ceylon Workers' Congress will never permit anyone waging war under the guise of

fighting terrorist against the poor innocent plantation Tamil workers who are giving their sweat to keep the country's economy alive, says CWC leader S. Thondaman, speaking at a CWC meeting at Galboda Estate, Ratnapura.

Monitoring Committee concludes 4-day visit to Trincomalee district.

Passengers of a private coach robbed by unidentified armed men of cash and goods valued at Rs. 100,000/- at Pulukunawa, Maha Oya, on the Amparai-Kandy road.

Summons issued on Govt. M.P. for Polgahawela Sunil Ranjan Jayakody following CID plaint before Colombo Chief Magistrate charging the M.P. with having abused and criminally intimidated Inspector, Edison Gunatilleke, OIC of the Madawachchiya police.

#### DECEMBER 17

Jaffna-bound passengers robbed at Ira-periakulam. Forced to walk about 3 miles towards Vavuniya because the bus in which they were travelling broke down, they were set upon by armed gang who assault and rob them.

Army cordon and search at Vavuniya. Jaffna and Mannar roads blocked, and combing of five villages - Thandikulam, Sastrikulankulam, Pambaimadu, Kidachoori and Maraikampallai. At Vavuniya, five persons in a van, including the driver Prabhakaran, and his brother, were taken away on suspicion.

Three public buildings at Pullumalai in Eastern province blasted by bombs, including the govt. school. It is believed to be the work of Tamil militants with a view to prevent armed forces converting these buildings into camps. Nearly a dozen buildings in the area have been damaged during the past weeks. Meanwhile, several Tamil families, including some plantation Tamils who had come to the area as refugees earlier, have fled Pullumalai.

No information available in the case of over 200 Tamil persons taken away by armed forces on suspicion in Batticaloa, Amparai areas in the recent past. Parents and relatives who had made repeated representations to Citizens' Committees who in turn had contacted Police, and army officials and govt. officials without any success, feel dejected.

At Punnalai on the northern coast, a party of fishermen starting out to sea, on seeing a convoy of armed forces run away in fear. The armed Personnel fire at them, killing two and seriously wounding three others. The injured were Nagan Navaratnam (25), Nageswaran Rajaratnam (35), and Chelliah Nithiyanthan. Two other passers-by, mini-bus driver Periathamby Senathirajah (50) and Sanmugam Pavalajah (23) also injured.

# Diary of Events

## and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

At Keeraimalai, a sacred area to Hindus, relatives of a dead person participating at his 31st religious rites were among those arbitrarily arrested. At Senthankulam, a little further away, several houses set on fire.

### DECEMBER 18

At Chilaw and Puttalam districts in the mid-west coast, thousands of handbills in the name of the Chief of the Armed Forces, Lt. Col. Cyril Ranatunga, are distributed warning residents against surprise attack by Tamil militants.

About 105 families who fled Trincomalee district and sought refuge in the Kathiraveli area in Batticaloa are brought back and re-settled at Muhathuvaram at Mutur. Trincomalee G.A. Camillus Fernando gives assurance to Trincomalee Citizens' Committee that a total of 11,000 persons who fled Trincomalee and sought refuge in Batticaloa district would be similarly re-settled.

Two teachers Sachchithanandasivam and Sivapathasundaram who were taken for questioning by armed forces at Habarana on the 15th have been released. Out of 23 persons taken into custody from St. Mary's refugee camp at Trincomalee, one, S. Kamalanathan, who was in charge of the camp has been released.

Referring to the Punnalai incidents in the north yesterday, authorities in Colombo state that "terrorists opened fire" on a group of naval officers who were taking a bull-dozer, and the naval personnel fired back and in the "shoot-out" two terrorists were killed and four injured.

Govt. also claims that "terrorists in a jeep shot at a helicopter at Oddisuddan, Vavuniya, and that security personnel retaliated forcing the "terrorists to abandon the jeep and flee".

According to another govt. report, "10 terrorists" attacked soldiers at a checkpoint at Siyambalanduwa on the Colombo-Amparai road, but the attack was repulsed. One soldier was injured.

### DECEMBER 19

Panic at Valaichchenai following search operation by armed forces. Two arrested.

Residents of Kattankudy encircle three armed youths who had come on two motor cycles and robbed the local Post office of cash Rs. 1,000/-. Two escape firing in the air and one was surrounded swallows a phial of cyanide and dies. The gun in his custody was surrendered to the Police and the motor cycles were set on fire by the irate public.

Arumugam Jebamany (33) of Mullaitivu, who admitted to having concealed information about EPRLF member Sugu, sentenced to one week's simple imprisonment by Colombo High Court Judge Mr. H.W. Senanayake. 21-year

old Mailvaganam Lingeswaran of Trincomalee given 2 week's jail term also for concealing information about another Tamil militant Anton Dasan.

Sinhala youth Leelarathe detained on suspicion of having links with "terrorism" remanded for a further 3 months by Colombo magistrate.

State of Emergency in Sri Lanka continuously in force since May 19, 1983, extended by Parliamentary routine for a further month.

National Security Ministry in Colombo says army convoy taking food supplies from Dutch Fort to Navatkuli in Jaffna was attacked, by "terrorists" with hand grenades.

Lankapuvath, Govt. news agency, claims in Colombo that Dharmalingam, "recruiting agent for PLOTE" in Batticaloa was killed by members of the Special Task Force.

### DECEMBER 20

Colombo-Jaffna Intercity express resumes service after interruption following the bomb blast in one of the carriages.

Six army men believed killed in a Liberation Tigers' ambush at Thondamanaru. Thondamanaru on the northern coast is one of several locations in the peninsula housing army camps.

Helicopters hover around Ariyalai and Columbuturai areas in Jaffna city strafing civilians who run for cover.

A fresh army detachment from Anuradhapura relieves the one camped at Elephant Pass. A convoy of about 20 vehicles, consisting of armoured cars, trucks and lorries, which brought soldiers and provisions, returns towards Anuradhapura towing several damaged army vehicles.

Two-hour panic in Batticaloa town. Police Commandos out on patrolling at Thamarakerni and Arasady Road fire in the air near the market, scattering the people.

Cigarette van with cigarette stocks worth Rs. 17 lakhs hijacked by 3 armed youths at Saththurukondan in Batticaloa. Van later found abandoned at Kallady.

Part of the Mutur refugees at Sampur, and Kaddaiparichchan return to Mutur after being denied any government assistance there since September.

Reports from Kalmunai and Sammanthurai indicate that several Tamil Muslims are being enlisted as "Home Guards", given guns by govt. authorities, and encouraged to attack Hindu Tamils who live as minorities in the areas.

Two Chinese warships are in Colombo for the third day today, having arrived from Karachi in Pakistan on the 18th.

### DECEMBER 21

A 4-hour mini-war in Jaffna, about 4 miles from the city. An Israeli-style commando attack on a Liberation Tiger base ends in failure. Around 5.45 a.m. a "squadron" of helicopters approach a farmland area at Eechchadithoddam at Uduvil, drop army commandos through rope ladders, while others provide aerial cover, and attempt to surround a LTTE base while moving through plantain and manioc plantations. Mortars and rockets used in the attack. Tiger guerrillas fight back. Later, armed guerrilla units of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), Eelam Peoples' Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and Tamil Eelam Army (TEA) also join the Liberation Tigers in counter-attack. Houses, other buildings, palmyrah trees, lamp posts suffer damage, while residents in five areas, Manipay, Suthumalai, Thavady, Uduvil and Anaicoddai take cover or flee their homes. By mid-day army withdraw in a hurry, having failed to reach the LTTE base. At least one helicopter damaged badly, and several soldiers and two Tamil guerrillas believed killed. Several Tamil civilians including a 9-year old boy killed and several injured including three women—Navaratnarajah Thangarani (35) of Manipay, widow and mother of five Sellathurai Sivapakiam (60) and Sinnarasa Sarveswary of Kokuvil West. Public jubilation in the area following the army withdrawal and the concerted attack by the 4 Tamil militant groups.

Later, elsewhere in Jaffna, helicopter gunships strafe indiscriminately killing five civilians at Velvettiturai and injuring about 10 at Myliddy.

In Batticaloa, 210 persons taken in for questioning.

### DECEMBER 22

Helicopters again over Manipay, Suthumalai, Uduvil areas, but no incidents reported. Temple worshippers who go for Hindu "Tiruvembavai" prayers in the hours before dawn go about in fear of low-flying helicopters.

Second M.P. for Batticaloa Janab Rizwie Sinnalebbe, speaking at an estate workers' meeting in Matale warns against forces that are trying to bring discord between Tamils and Tamil Muslims in Eastern Province.

Colombo Tamil Judge K. Vicknarajah imposes 6 months imprisonment on Masilamany Jayaraj (Kingsley) who pleaded guilty of having failed to disclose information about "Tamil terrorists"; in a similar case another Colombo Judge H.W. Senanayake gives a jail term of 3 weeks' to Sampanthan Sivathamby (25) who also pleaded guilty.

Sarvodaya movement in Vavuniya reported to be moving in the re-settlement of 500 refugee families now in Nedunkerny back in Chettikulam, and those in Madhu, Kalkundan in Arukampulveli.

# Diary of Events

A 3-man official fact-finding mission from Switzerland back in Colombo after touring Vavuniya and Jaffna and visiting refugee camps at Veppankulam and Point Pedro. Mission consisted of Charge D'Affaires K.L. Koufmann, Dr. Wrenfels and Dr. Zuckchwert from the Swiss Justice Ministry.

Official arrangements are completed, according to Trincomalee reports, to bring back all refugees, both Sinhala and Tamil, who fled Trincomalee district over the past few months, and provide them assistance and safety.

Defence Ministry in Colombo claims that security forces had killed a "terrorist" called Kittu at Inuvil, who was responsible for the killing of TULF M.P.s Dharmalingam and Alalasundaram; and killed a LTTE leader called Albert, in operations conducted on the 21st.

At Akkaraipattu in the Amparai district, armed forces resort to several excesses in the course of an intensive search. Some civilians feared killed, some houses looted and over five hundred persons, irrespective of age rounded up and taken for questioning. Majority of those who were taken in reportedly released by end of the day.

## DECEMBER 23

At Thondamanaru near the north coast, army men from the local camp, open fire twice, once near the famed Hindu shrine at Sella Sannathy. At least four Tamil civilians including a woman injured in the firing, and six others travelling in a mini-bus near the temple taken for questioning.

Five armed men stop a Jaffna-bound lorry loaded with tyres, textiles and motor spares at Imbulgoda near Gampaha and hijack both lorry and the goods, according to complaint by lorry driver Ponnuthurai Navaratnam at Gampaha Police.

Kandy-Jaffna trunk road near Navatkuli army camp in Jaffna suddenly closed to vehicular traffic by army authorities. Traffic compelled to divert by Kaithady road.

Yal Devi train from Colombo to turn back to Colombo the same afternoon from Jaffna station three times a week according to new schedules.

18-year old Sittiravel Thevarani, mother of a 1-year old infant, detained at the Valaichchenai Police Station since the 13th, on suspicion that she had concealed information from the government, reported to be in a nervous state of health. Mother of Thevarani appeals to Kalkudah Citizens Committee to have her released on humanitarian grounds since the infant itself is being denied mother's milk and care.

42-year old Army Sergeant R. Ranaweera attached to the Gajaba Regiment, shot dead by a 21-year old soldier at Pulmoddai in the north. Soldier taken into custody. (Sun).

The Commission of the European Communities for South Asia to finance a project for displaced Tamils in Sri Lanka,

according to a communique issued by the Commission in Colombo. 500 Sri Lankan Tamil families of Karaitivu who were forced to flee their homes in April 1985 and 60 families of "stateless" Tamils who fled to Amaithipuram in Kilinochchi after the violence in 1983, are to benefit.

An attack on Kankasanturai Police Station has been repulsed, states Govt. communique in Colombo.

Defence Ministry holds briefing in Colombo for 32 embassies and foreign missions, as "part of a campaign to counter terrorist propaganda here and abroad". (Daily News).

## DECEMBER 24

LTTE militant Sahadevan killed in Eravur. According to reports, policemen attached to Kalkudah Police Station were travelling in a bus, in civils, in the direction of Batticaloa when they noticed a Peugeot car overtaking them. Seeing some youths in the car they became suspicious and got off the bus and fired at the car. The youths retaliated with hand grenades and escaped except Sahadevan who was fatally shot. The car was later identified as the one belonging to the Chairman of the Valaichchenai Paper Corporation hijacked earlier.

Public search for 4 Muslim Tamil traders — Sulaiman, Siddique, Azeez and Haniffa — of Kattankudy, missing for the past one week.

Govt. announcement to charge higher rail fares on passengers travelling north (which will affect only Tamils) from the beginning of January, is an infringement of a fundamental right, says TULF spokesman in Colombo Dr. Neelan Thiruchelvam. (Virakesari).

45-year old Sinhala estate worker S. Dharmasena married to a Tamil shot dead in Deraniyagala by unknown person.

Over 200 youths taken into custody at Urani in Batticaloa yesterday in the course of a massive cordon and search operation continue to be interrogated at the Batticaloa Special Investigation Bureau. According to govt. statement, 18 of them have already been identified as militants belonging to TELO, LTTE and EROS.

At Kankasanturai Cement Factory premises, armed youths are reported to have hijacked a tractor-trailer loaded with 7 barrels of diesel.

## DECEMBER 25

Colombo celebrates Christmas with gaiety and continuous sound of crackers. But no reports of crackers in any Tamil areas in the north and east, except in Jaffna. Even gunshots not heard anywhere except once around midnight in Batticaloa, but no incidents reported anywhere, the reason being given that the armed forces had kept to the barracks, possibly celebrating X'mas within the camps.

In Colombo, 8 shops next to Liberty Plaza at Dharmapala Mawatha, Kollupitiya gutted by fire in the early hours after midnight. Two persons arrested in connection with the fire.

A lorry going from Trincomalee to Jaffna set on fire by unknown persons near Monkey Bridge in Trincomalee. No information available about the driver.

All Government Agents instructed to complete resettlement of refugees before December 31, and informed that no further relief would be given to camps.

## DECEMBER 26

Govt.'s plans to re-settle 10,500 Tamil refugees who fled Trincomalee district and who had sought refuge in Batticaloa, shelved, following protests by Ceylon workers' Congress Secretary M. S. Sellasamy that some of the Tamil refugees who were taken back to Trincomalee had been forcibly settled in areas where they felt unsafe. About 500 refugees belonging to 150 families who were at Verugal were transported under army supervision to a school building between two Sinhala-populated villages—Masinthapuram and Alioluwa, and kept there like hostages, without any freedom of movement. Govt. also defers earlier decision to close down existing refugee camps in Vavuniya, following a personal directive by President Jayawardene. (Virakesari and LTTE new bulletin).

Unidentified bodies of two persons shot dead discovered close to Batticaloa railway station.

CWC Secretary Sellasamy lodges strong protest with President Jayawardene and Defence chief Major Gen. Sepala Attygalle alleging forcible entry by army personnel into the Vavuniya CWC office around 11 p.m. last night and the removal of files and documents. Govt. takes prompt action, and all files and documents returned to CWC office same evening along with a personal apology from the army second-in-command in Vavuniya.

Two jeeps awaiting repairs inside private garage in Batticaloa set on fire by group of armed youths. One jeep was known to belong to the Police.

At Paranthan, yesterday, one Tamil civilian was killed and two others injured by army fire. The three men who were involved in a house construction and had got a lift on a passing tractor, had jumped out in fear on seeing an army convoy, at which the army men had opened fire.

Govt. claims that two EROS militants Nagasamy Devanayagam and Kanapathipillai Thevarasa, were shot dead at Amparai while trying to escape army custody.

## DECEMBER 27

Tamil youths detained at Boossa camp and released are again picked up in Trincomalee, according to a complaint made by Trincomalee Citizens' Committee. Within the past one week at least 23 youths had been taken in from refugee camps.

# Diary of Events

Defence Ministry in Colombo admits that the Tamil Virakesari newspaper correspondent at Akkaraipattu, K. Thevarajah (28) was killed by armed forces along with Thevasahayam (28). Dr. Wickrema Weerasooriya the Ministry spokesman expresses regret. He says 47 others from Akkaraipattu have been released.

Armed forces open fire at a group of youths on the Batticaloa—Sithhandy road, killing one and injuring another. The body of the dead youth was carried away by the soldiers while the injured youth Shanmuganathan (18) of Sithhandy was admitted to Valaichchenai hospital.

Batticaloa G.A. informed that 70 Tamils from Batticaloa are to be released from Boossa detention camp.

25 persons who were watching a video film show at Kalmunai 2nd Division taken in for questioning by members of the Special Task Force. 16 of them released later and 9 detained.

8 Muslim residents of Colombo remanded on a charge of setting fire and destroying nine retail shops in Kollupitiya on Christmas Day.

Two bodies discovered near Batticaloa railway station identified as those of Sumathipala (30) of Urani and Rajan (21) of Mamanagam. Handbills on the spot had accused them of being Govt. informers.

## DECEMBER 28

Akkaraipattu citizens take out a 2,000-strong procession demanding release of innocent civilians from govt. custody and opposing gansterism.

Armed forces conduct search in Vavuniya and take into custody two Tamil youths, but since no army excesses took place, normal life was not affected.

Three "lamp post killings" reported from Batticaloa, Chenkalady and Saththurukondan, two of the victims being women. Handbills on the spots accused them of being "traitors".

Over a hundred mothers and wives had made complaints in connection with violence by armed forces in Batticaloa district on Nov. 13, 14 & 16, states the Ceasefire Monitoring Committee in the course of its second report.

Ten residents of Vavuniya and Kovilkulam were woken up from their sleep in their homes around midnight yesterday and taken away for interrogation. They were P. Manickavasagam (40), his brother Santhirasekeram (23), Selvaratnam Yogarasah (28), S. Arunrajah (34), S. Mailvaganam (26), T. Dharmapalan (18), S. Jeyasubramaniam (21), S. Selvanathan (18), S. Jeyakumar (15) and K. Vigneswaran (18).

A soldier was killed and two others wounded in Mannar by militant fire, security sources in Colombo state. (Sunday Observer).

## DECEMBER 29

21 persons taken into custody in Mannar following killing of soldier.

Muttur Police arrest 5 "Home Guards" accused of committing rape on two Tamil women and killing one of them.

Over 100 persons from the Nilaveli area now under interrogation at the Fort Frederick army camp in Trincomalee.

Post Masters' Union in Colombo urged to intervene in releasing Akkaraipattu Asst. Post Master K. Sivalingam who was among those rounded up by Govt. forces on the 22nd, about whom no information is available.

Kallady residents protest over refusal by Batticaloa Post Office to forward their complaint to Monitoring Committee in connection with army killing of Thurairasah Ravindrarasah of Navatkudah.

## DECEMBER 30

Out of 300 functioning Police Stations in the island, only three are headed by Tamil

officers, according to Colombo Tamil daily, Virakesari, quoting Tamil Police sources.

Retired Tamil teacher Gregory (Thurai) of Vaharai found dead with gunshot injuries.

Five armed Muslim Tamil youths who attempted to rob a Muslim home where a wedding had taken place caught red-handed at Sammanthurai when they were confronted by Home Guards of the area.

Akkaraipattu Asst. Post Master S. Vinayagamoorthy shot dead by three youths.

Four members of a Sinhala robber gang, including a Vigilance Committee member, arrested at Medawachchiya. Goods looted from Jaffna-bound lorries recovered.

Another soldier killed and two others injured in a landmine explosion at Mannar.

## DECEMBER 31

Colombo Hindu College in Ratmalana put up by the Hindu public of Colombo on a land site covering 22 acres, to be converted from tomorrow into an Army Training Centre. Since the major anti-Tamil riots of July 1983, the school had been used to house refugees.

Akkaraipattu Postal officer Vinayagamoorthy believed to be killed by Tamil militants, to get posthumous favours from the Govt. Rs. 1 lakhs is to be paid as compensation to his family, and his grown-up son who was among those arrested at Akkaraipattu as "terrorist suspect" to be released and given a govt. job.

Two pedestrians on the Vavuniya-Horowapatana road injured when army man's gun goes off accidentally. They were admitted to Vavuniya hospital.

Ministry of National Security in Colombo states that a 3-hour attack by Tamil "terrorists" on the Sirimapura army detachment in Trincomalee on 30th was repulsed.



# SITUATION REPORT

## Obituaries

**RATNASINGHAM — R.F.**, former Merchant, Alawwa, husband of Rose, father of Doreen, Justin (Saudi), Bruno, Francis, Christy (West Germany), Angelo (Canada), Jeyendran (West Germany), Burial at Roman Catholic Cemetery, Karampan, 2nd January. "Ratna Mahal", Karampan East, Kayts.

**SIRONMANY** — widow of the late Sivacolunthu Mahatheva, mother of Wigneswaran Logambal, Baleswaran, Vijeyambal and Jegatheswary, mother-in-law of Chandramalae, Balaskandan, Gnanaranjitham, Rudren and Gunarajasingham, died on 27th December, 1985 in Zambia. Funeral in Zambia on 2nd January, 1986. Lawton Road, Manipay.

**MEENADCHIPILLAI** — wife of late Kandiahpillai, Founder Milk White Soap Factory, Jaffna, and mother of present owner Kanagarajah. Funeral 2nd January at Kombayanmanal Cemetery, Vannarponnai.

**ALFRED** — Christie Sebaratnam. Husband of Leela, father of Raneel (Hatton National Bank), Rajan Alfred (K.G. Industries), and Selvan (Kuwait), brother of Jeyaratnam Alfred (CIC), Rev. Sam Alfred (Ashram) and Dan. Interment at Madampitiya Cemetery, 4th January. Prince of Wales Avenue Colombo 14.

**THIAGARAJAH** — Thecla, nee Cooray, formerly of Hendala, Wattala, wife of Thiagarajah (ex-Air Force), died 30th December, 1985 at St. George's Hospital London, burial on 10th January, 1986. 29, Bushey Road, London S.W. 20 8 TE, U.K.

**KANDIAH** — Annammah, wife of late N.M. Kandiah of Urumpirai, mother of Dr. K. Velayudanpillai (North Colombo Medical College) and Thavarani. Funeral Urumpirai, 4th January.

**VASUDEVAN — A.K.**, Artist and Designer, husband of Sumangala Devi, father of Vasantha, Suresh, Laila and Prakash, father-in-law of N. Asogan. Funeral 9th Jan. Colombo. 51/1, Swarna Road, Colombo 6.

**THAMBIAH — D.** Alfred, husband of Jessie (Karainagar), father of Thevajanthy (Indian Bank, Colombo), Kingsley (Germany), Burial at Kanatte, Colombo, 8th Jan.

**DANFORTH** — Emily Jeevaratnam (nee Sabapathy), Died in Australia. 99, City Road, Merewether, New South Wales 2291, Australia.

**SARAWANAMUTTU** — Kamala, wife of Rajanathan Sarawanamuttu, mother of Thiru, Sulochana, Rajan. Cremation Kanatte, Colombo 9th Jan. 7/6, Alexandra Road, Wellawatte, Colombo 6.

**ANTHONY PILLAI EMMANUEL-**

**PILLAI** — husband of Theresammah, father of Stanley Sellakumar (Abu Dhabi), Emelda

Soosait Hasan, Ansley (Canada), Kingsley (France), Ida (India), Lesley (United States), died 10th January in Jaffna. 42/1, Temple Road, Jaffna.

**GANESH SELLIAH** — Additional Landing Surveyor and Asst. Collector of Customs, Jaffna, husband of Thirumalar (Lecturer, Kopay Training College), father of Ravindran (Jaffna Medical Faculty), Shanthini (Jaffna Science Faculty), Sivajini (Chundikuli Girls' College), Saravanabavan (St. John's College), died under tragic circumstances. Funeral 13th January. 136, Kachcheri Nallur Road, Jaffna.

**RAJASEKARAN — T.K.**, husband of Ponmany, father of Maithreyi, Manoharan, Vijayasekeran, and Dr. Wickremasekaran. Funeral California, U.S. on 15th January. 4856, Katherine Avenue, Sherman Oaks, California 91423.

**RATNASINGAM** — (Licensed Surveyor), husband of Puvaneswary, father of Ranjan (Colombo), Dr. Mohan (Dental Surgeon, Zambia), Ragulan, Mrs. Ramani Guhathas, Rajan, Ratnakumar (Switzerland), Rajani, Rangan (Netherlands), Ramanan, Rajini, Raghavan, and Rahini. Funeral at Kombayanmanal Cemetery, Jaffna on 14th January. 532, K.K.S. Road, Jaffna.

**WALTON — W.A.** (Arasoe), Retired District Judge. Husband of late Kamala, father of Suvendrini, Dr. Pathmarajan Manickasingham. Interment at St. John's Burial Grounds, Chundikuli, 14th January.

**KANDIAH** — Ponniah (Retired Stenographer, Supreme Court) of Samian Arasady Karaveddy. Funeral at Kadduvan Road, Mallakam, 16th January.

**BUELL** — Sam, husband of Chloe, father of Sharmala and Rajeev, son of late R.O. Buell and Mrs. Buell, son-in-law of late Rev. and Mrs. G.F.A. Senaratne, died at Kurunegala. Burial at Kanatte, Colombo, 16th Jan. 2/18, Charles Drive, Colombo 3.

**VADIVEL — R.** Proprietor, Indra Pawn Brokers, Kotahena St. and formerly of Volkaart Brothers. Cremation 16th Jan. "Ram Ashram", 59, Shoe Road, Kotahena.

**SATHASIVAM — A.V.**, J.P.U.M. Attorney-at-law, former Chairman, Town Council, Kankasanturai, father of Tirumagal, Kalaimagal, Malaimagal and Ganeshan (Saudi Arabia), father-in-law of S. Kanagasundaram (Accountant), the late T. Thirunavukarasu, (former M.P. for Vaddukoddai), K. Paranjothy and Elizabeth Ganeshan. Funeral 17th January.

**JOSEPH** — Santhiapillai Michael (Retired Jailor). Burial 18th Jan. 235, Hospital Road, Jaffna.

**SIVAGNANEY — S.** Ex-Bank of Ceylon, husband of Shanthakumar, father of

Dakshinesa (France), Mutateesa and Dhakshayani, son of late Mr. and Mrs. Sinnathurai of Kokuvil, brother of Kathiramalai (Malaysia) and Sivasubramaniam. Cremation at Kanatte, Colombo 19th January. M/3/9, Anderson Flats, Colombo 5.

**GEORGE** — Peter Joseph, retired Chief Jailor of Prisons Dept. Died in Trincomalee on 16th January. Burial at Kanatte, Colombo on 19th.

**SUBRAMANIAM — R.** Teacher at Vidianiketha Pirivena. Cremation at Kumburupitiya 20th January.

**NAVARATNAM** — Mrs. Emily Rose Thavamany, wife of late B.C. Navaratnam, Bank of Ceylon, mother of A.J. Navaratnam, Cynthia, J.J. Navaratnam and Jeyasothy. Burial Jaffna, 22nd January. 390, Hospital Road, Jaffna.

**ARIYARATNAM — V.S.** Prop. of Paranthan Hardware Stores, father of Somaskandan (Canada), Sakunthala Punithavathy, Balakrishna (UK), Paramasivam, Manohari Githa (UK), and Sathiyaseelan. Funeral 23rd January. Suthumalai East, Manipay.

**KAMALAM RAJARATNAM** — wife of Dr. C. Rajaratnam, daughter of late C. Sunthram (I.S.O.), mother of Satyadevi, Vasantha, Chitra, Ananda, mother-in-law of L. Namasivayam, Indra. T. Duraisingam, Manjula. Cremation at Kanatte, Colombo, 23rd January. 29/3, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 7.

**REV. FR. TARCISIUS RETNA-**

**SWAMY, O.M.I.** — of Amalotpavam, Jaffna, son of late S. Veeragathipillai of Thondamanar, brother of late V. Suppiah J.P., late Dr. V. Doraisamy, late V. Rajaratnam, late Mrs. Sellamuttu, and V. Rajasekeram of Thondamanar. Funeral 23rd January, St. Mary's Burial Grounds, Jaffna.

**PERERA** — Lt. W.N. Jagath Wickrama of Sri Lanka Army 1 Field Regiment, Panagoda, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Francis Perera, brother of W.A.S. Perera (Vaas), of Sri Lanka Air Force, died under tragic circumstances at Mullaitivu. Funeral 23rd January at Battaramulla Cemetery. 153/1, Kaduwela Road, Battaramulla.

**MAHESAN** — Sinnadurai, of Seenivasagam Road, Koddady, Jaffna, husband of Puvaneswary, father of Chandralekha Kathirgamanathan, Loganathan (UK), Nithiyaluxmy Jeganathan (Saudi Arabia), Pathmanathan (UK), Parimalanathan (Norway), Ravindranathan (Norway), and Malini (Vembadi Girls' High School), father-in-law of Manickawasagar (Oman) and Sarojini. Cremation 24th January, Kondavil Cemetery. Farm School View, Tinnevely.