

**SRI  
LANKA**

**SITUATION  
REPORT**

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# SITUATION REPORT

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

## **EROS & Penny**

A senior official of the British High Commission is in Jaffna to assist in case the terrorist group, Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), wants to release the kidnapped free lance writer, Mrs. Penelope Willis. In a 5-page statement issued in Jaffna yesterday, the EROS said that she had been seeing a number of people in Colombo, including those involved with security. They said this leaves room for a lot of suspicion as to her real motive in coming to Mullaitivu, where she was kidnapped on January 17. ... The EROS said in a statement in Madras that the Sri Lanka Government's refusal to let the International Red Cross handle the release of Mrs. Willis had hampered efforts to free her on humanitarian grounds. But the British High Commission says that the Sri Lanka branch of the Red Cross is not affiliated to Britain and hence the question of using them as any type of intermediary does not arise. EROS had said that it was not prepared to hand her over to the Sri Lankan authorities for reasons of safety and hence the International Red Cross Society in Delhi was contacted on January 28. (The Island - 3.2.86)

## **Hill country refugees**

The first and second MPs for Nuwara Eliya, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Gamini Dissanaik and Leader of the Opposition Anura Bandaranaike flew to Talawakelle and Lindula yesterday in the same helicopter on a mission of peace and reconciliation. Both of them last morning visited the Sinhala refugees housed in Sri Saddarmodhaya Vihare, Talawakelle and the Tamil refugees housed at the Hindu kovil, Talawakelle. Both Gamini and Anura asked the Sinhala refugees to go back to their homes and not to leave the area. They told the refugees that full security had been provided in the area. Those whose houses and shops were burnt down were promised compensation from the decentralised budget. These payments may range from between Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 100,000/- Valuation and other preliminary work would begin today. They also met the Tamil refugees at the Hindu kovil and urged them to get back to work, thus helping the normalisation process.... (The Island - 3.2.86)

## **"Gay" Paradise!**

A sleek monthly magazine that caters to American homosexuals is running a major cover story on "the gays in Sri Lanka". The 10-page spread in the current issue of the New York-based skin magazine "Blueboy" provides a blow-by-blow description of the gay lifestyle on dusky nights at Galle Face Green and in the tourist resorts and beaches of Negombo and Hikkaduwa. Although a similar feature appeared last year in the European gay publication "Spartacus", the piece in "Blueboy" has a disturbing new angle:

gun-running by homosexual youth in Sri Lanka. The author, Dennis McBride, says he picked up his gay partner, a youth he calls Jeffrey, in a tourist beach hotel in Negombo. McBride says: "Jeffrey was rare among gay Sri Lankans willing to take the initiative. It was Jeffrey who took me as his lover". The youth, who offered to be his guide for a tour to Kandy and Anuradhapura, picked-up three rifles in a yellow blanket when they made a stop at a Tea and Rubber processing plant. The author says he realised the tour was being used as a cover "for his own gun-running". The couple stayed at the Queen's Hotel in Kanady. When they reached Anuradhapura, the rifles were handed over to an individual in a white Mazda. McBride also claims he attended several gay parties in Colombo, where he met a Sinhalese businessman, a wealthy bureaucrat from a Ministry, the former owner of tea plantation, a lawyer and his lover and a restaurateur. The bureaucrat he says, had invested in clothing manufacture in Hong Kong, the tea planter had a house and a bank account in Melbourne, the lawyer and his lover owned property at Frankfurt and Darmstadt and were ready at short notice to leave Sri Lanka for West Germany .... (Daily News - 3.2.86)

## **Hill country violence**

Despite a surge of violence in the Bogowantalawa area where police had to open fire to disperse unruly mobs, estate workers elsewhere in the Nuwara Eliya district where back at work and the situation was rapidly returning to normal in most parts of the district. Police reported that a rampaging mob had set fire to ten houses at Ariyapura and attacked seven at Siripura, both in the Bogowantalawa area, forcing the occupants to flee their homes on Saturday night. At Tienstin Bazaar, also at Bogowantalawa, a lorry and a van were set on fire after their loads had been looted and the lorry owner attacked, police said. The mob had also disrupted telephone services in the area and threw road blocks by felling huge trees across the roads, in an effort to isolate Bogowantalawa. In Hatton, traders said they would keep their shops closed until normalcy was restored. There was no work on most plantations in this region, with the workers not reporting for muster.... No passenger trains were running. At Dickoya, a police jeep was attacked on Saturday and two policemen were hurt. A mob wrestled with a policeman, trying unsuccessfully to grab his rifle.... Our Nawalapitiya correspondent reports that a CTB bus and a police jeep, transporting about 20 policemen, had been attacked by a mob at Salankanda, off Hatton, on Saturday. Two Policemen who were hurt had been admitted to the Nawalapitiya hospital. One policeman was afterwards transferred to Kandy. (Daily News - 3.2.86)

## **Anura & Thondaman**

(Speaking on the Citizenship Bill debate in Parliament on 28th January), Leader of the Opposition Anura Bandaranaike said the most important Bill since 1977 was being debated. The Bill would affect the very vitals of the country. The frightening dimensions of this Bill

would set off dangerous echoes throughout the corridors of Sri Lanka's history. What was the background to the introduction of this Bill which would give 94,000 people and their natural increase citizenship. Was this not introduced as a result of Thondaman's prayer campaign? This was arm-twisting pure and simple. Mr. Thondaman knew the Achilles Heel of the government was the economy which he could cripple. Mr. Thondaman was the most wily and shrewd Trade Union leader in the country today. He knew that the prayer campaign would have a tremendous effect on the economy.... He was in hospital and ministers went to see him but today when we are discussing the big problem Mr. Thondaman was missing. Today, the heartland of the plantations, Nuwara Eliya, was burning. Trees were felled and put across roads, rocks were toppled from hills by the workers of the CWC, but Mr. Thondaman is not here to stop these.... He said Sri Lanka was called upon to give citizenship to 240,000 who had not been given citizenship by India, apart from the 94,000 and their natural increase. There will be 700,000 entering the voting register. This would have far-reaching consequences.... He predicted that as a result of the Bill Mr. Thondaman would be entitled to 15 seats under PR. The TULF would get 15 more so that if there was a "hung Parliament", the Tamils would hold the whip hand.... (The Island - 1.2.86)

## **President's vow**

In an Independence Day message to the nation issued yesterday, President Jayawardene pledged to end this year, the terrorism that has for long been bleeding the country. He declared: "On this day I promise all freedom loving peaceful people of Sri Lanka that we shall, this year, overcome, destroy and eradicate terrorism in Sri Lanka in all its forms" (Daily News - 4.2.86)

## **Pay hike for Docs.**

President J.R. Jayawardene announced yesterday that an interim allowance of Rs. 1,000/- would be paid to all medical officers, including interns with effect from February 1986. The total salary however would not exceed the appropriate the salary step of the medical officers employed at the Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital.... (Daily News - 4.2.86)

## **High priest in a huff**

The Mahanayake of the Asgiriya Chapter Ven. Palipana Sri Chandananda Thero, on Saturday refused to issue a message to mark the Independence Day, to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation... The prelate declining to accede to the request of the SLBC officials said that there was nothing to be happy about the independence of the country in the present context of events taking place in the country. Furthermore, it is absurd to issue any message to be broadcast by the SLBC which is State-owned and that is not prepared to listen to messages issued by me relating to other matters of national importance, he said. (The Island - 3.2.86)

# DIARY OF EVENTS

## and

### Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from Dec. 14 - Dec. 31 were carried in Issue No. 4 of Situation Report

## 1986

### JANUARY 1

Several Tamil families in Tampalakamam in Trincomalee flee to neighbouring Muslim Tamil villages like Periya Kinniya, Sinna Kinniya, Munaichenai, Kuddiakulam and Kachchankuli following armed forces' activity, according to report from Tampalakamam.

Bomb explosions heard in Batticaloa town following foot patrolling by Special Task Force, but no incidents reported.

Army go into occupation of quarters built for-herfolk with Netherlands aid, at Valaichchenai.

Tamil militants allegedly blast 6 buildings in Eravur Police area, to prevent armed forces setting up camps there; the incidents happened on New Year eve night according to the Tamil daily "Virakesari" quoting Sub Inspector Zubair of Eravur Police.

In Colombo, Ratmalana Hindu College built by Jambis with their own funds taken over by government to set up military training centre.

At Thirukovil, the only medical centre in the town, taken over by govt. to house a Police Commando camp.

Anuradhapura Police authorities announce that 18 Home Guards (Sinhala) have been disarmed and detained following various complaints, including robbing of Tamil commuters between Colombo and Jaffna.

35 Tamil youths from Batticaloa released from Boossa military camp.

Army unit moves into newly-set up camp at Radella public playground in Nuwara Eliya electorate. Another camp to be set up at a Dickoya playground, also in the hill country.

Civil rights of former Prime Minister Mrs. Srima Bandaranaike restored.

### JANUARY 2

Four policemen injured, one seriously, when hand grenades were thrown at a police patrol unit near the bus depot at Batticaloa.

Search operation in Kilinochchi area by armed forces continue. Clash between govt. forces and Tamil militants reported near the 7th culvert. A farmer, Robert Arulthasan, father of 4 children, shot dead by armed forces while he was working in his field.

Two Police commandos killed and 4 others injured when the jeep in which they were travelling turned turtle at Kallady on the Batticaloa-Kalmunai road.

Out of 177 Tamils taken into custody at Nilaveli on 28th December, 92 are released and return to their residences. One of them was hospitalized at Trincomalee.

A Tamil youth, Kanthiah Manoharan of 5th Division, Eravur, who was travelling in a lorry loaded with stones and timber, shot dead by a police party when he tried to run away. Another passenger M. Shahabdeen taken in for questioning.

TELO circulates leaflets in Kalmunai and other Muslim Tamil areas condemning all acts of robberies, kidnappings and extortions of civilians and denies all connection with such incidents.

A Citizens' Committee inaugurated at Kaluwanchchikudy in Eastern Province.

Several deaths in Jaffna have been going unrecorded, according to Jaffna Medical Faculty students who are engaged in a survey.

At Muliyaivalai in Mullaitivu district, LTTE guerillas kill 4 soldiers in a landmine ambush, near the market. Following this, helicopters strafe the village for three hours, destroying several houses and shops. Residents flee for safety to adjoining village called Katpoorapulam. Farmer Easan, father of three children killed by soldiers in his farm.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali who visited Mutur, Nilaveli, Dehiwatte areas in the company of Trincomalee G.A. Camillus Fernando and military co-ordinating officer Brigadier Harsha Gunawardene says Sinhala refugees in the area will be rehabilitated with aid promised by a "foreign organisation".

Govt. orders pay cuts for plantation workers taking part in the proposed prayer meetings during working hours, announced by Ceylon Workers' Congress.

Sri Lanka's prisons are overcrowded, according to Colombo newspaper SUN (3/1). There are 66,500 unconvicted remand prisoners, adding to the congestion, according to an official.

Residents of Vasavilan and Palaly spend sleepless night, in fear and tension, as low-flying helicopters buzz the areas the better part of the night.

### JANUARY 3

Tamil youth Rasiah Yogan (24) discovered dead, with bruises and cut injuries at Punani in Batticaloa district.

Amparai gets new Police division independent of Batticaloa, but co-opting Moneragala district.

Morning tension at Suthumalai in Jaffna as helicopter keeps hovering over the same area in which a "mini war" took place between militants and Govt. forces on 21st December;

no incidents, but residents wonder whether it was a curtain-raiser to the visit of Monitoring Committee to Jaffna tomorrow.

Unidentified body of a male around 35 years of age found at Kandy Road, Vavuniya, about 200 yards from the Buddhist vihare.

Govt. newspaper Daily News claims (4/1), that "at least 9 separatist terrorists are believed killed in clashes with security forces at Nilaveli, north of Trincomalee", that "two terrorists were killed at Deegavapi in the Amparai district", another "terrorist shot dead" at Kanukkeni in Mullaitivu district, and another "committed suicide by taking cyanide" at Koduwamaduwa in Batticaloa, and "four terrorist suspects arrested at Kanthapuram in Kilinochchi"—all incidents stated to have occurred on Thursday 2nd January.

### JANUARY 4

Four Tamil civilians, including an elderly Muslim Tamil woman, Nagoor Senamma (65) killed in Jaffna city by army firing and helicopter strafing, following a 3-hour gun battle between Govt. troops and Tamil militants. 14 others sustain serious injuries. The incidents occurred around Hotel Ashok where Monitoring Committee was to hear representations from citizens this morning. Professor K. Sivathamby, one of the members of the Monitoring Committee, who arrived at the hotel had himself a narrow escape, and told Jaffna newspapers that he saw a helicopter strafing from the air. He said he was distressed by the army actions because the Monitoring Committee had intended to hear representations with the assistance of the civilian authorities only. Despite his telephonic appeal to Brigadier Wanasinghe to stop the army shooting and despite the Brigadier's assurance that it will be done, the army action had continued, he told the Jaffna Tamil daily "Eelamurasu". The indiscriminate firing by the army began after Tamil militants had prevented them from entering the city and forced them to retreat into the Dutch Fort headquarters by launching an attack with rocket launchers and mortars. Thereafter the army personnel had begun to fire from within the Fort in the direction of the central bustand, and continued doing so for the next two hours. Professor Sivathamby who was invited to join other members of the Monitoring Committee at the Palaly Army camp declines to do so. Several public buildings in the vicinity damaged.

Residents of islets off Jaffna, Kayts, Velanai, Punkuduthivu, Mandaitivu, who had come to Jaffna to transact business and got stranded as a result of complete stoppage of road communications, get back by boats.

## Diary of Events

# and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

A time bomb set to go off at 2.30 P.M. was discovered attached to the undercarriage of the Intercity Express train while the train was at the railway yard at Dematogoda in Colombo. The explosion was averted by the timely discovery and de-fusing of the bomb by the army bomb disposal squad, according to official sources.

A van owned by a business house in Jaffna and returning from Kayts severely damaged by army fire. The driver and cleaner escape with their lives by jumping into the waters of the Pannai Causeway.

At Jaffna hospital, doctors, nurses and other staff work unceasingly from noon through night under the direction of surgeon Dr. Ponnambalam—despite shortage of blood, drugs and other facilities—attending to the numerous victims of army fire. Earlier, some hospital employees themselves had a narrow escape when army shells pierced through the walls of the hospital's administration block.

At Kilinochi, a badly wounded soldier airlifted by helicopter to Colombo. A Tamil doctor summoned by the army to attend on him was told that he had met with accidental injuries within the camp.

At Periyaveddai in Batticaloa, 3 Tamil civilians killed and 10 others kidnapped, allegedly by armed "Home Guards" from Amparai.

In Colombo, govt. denies reports in Sri Lankan and British Press that Sri Lankan Tea export had been poisoned. This is a sequel to the communique issued by the Tamil Eelam Army headed by "Panagoda" Maheswaran from Trincomalee on Dec. 20, appealing to "innocent citizens of countries which import Sri Lankan tea" to abstain from drinking it because it had been poisoned with "deadly Potassium Cyanide by our Sabotage Commandos".

### JANUARY 5

Death, destruction and physical sufferings for the second day in Jaffna city today, following sudden, unprovoked firing and helicopter strafing by the army, in the afternoon. 8 Tamil civilians including three women killed, and over 75 persons removed to hospital with injuries, by youth volunteers, even as the firing went on from within the Dutch Fort, in all directions. Meanwhile, a fifth person, grievously injured in yesterday's shooting—Nadarajah Gunam (26) succumbs to his injuries, raising yesterday's death tally to 5. Six of the victims in today's attack were passengers in cars and vans going along the Pannai causeway, overlooking the Dutch Fort ramparts, three of those dead being Govt. Customs Dept. employees: Tharmalingam Thilagendran, Sebamalai Thevathasan, and Miss Rupa Tharmalingam. Sub Collector, Customs, Mr. Selliah Ganesh, with several bullets on his person, to undergo emergency operation, along with two other injured. It was reported from Jaffna that Monitoring Committee members under the chairmanship of Mr. Godfrey Goonetilleke were within the Dutch Fort premises while the firing went on. A helicopter believed damaged by Tamil militant fire.

Prof. K. Sivathamby likely to resign from Monitoring Committee, according to a Jaffna report.

Speaking at a function in Colombo, President Jayawardene says that the armed forces were engaged in not only fighting terrorism, but fighting for the preservation of the democratic way of life.

Speaking at a seminar at Ariyalai, President of the Tamil Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation, Mr. K. Visvalingam, says approximately 6,000 Tamils have been killed up till now in Sri Lanka, and out of these roughly 2,000 were heads of households on whom their families had depended.

Seruwila "Home Guard" R.M. Weeraratne (20) killed by unknown persons.

### JANUARY 6

Six soldiers and an Army officer were killed when the jeep in which they were travelling hit a land mine between Vavuniya and Omanthai. Two more soldiers who sustained grievous injuries were rushed to Anuradhapura hospital. The incident occurred at Peyadikulam at 3.45 p.m. The jeep which was blown to pieces was thrown into the air about 200 yards from the scene, according to reports reaching Jaffna.

Shoot-out between a truckload of soldiers and Tamil militants in the night at Dharmapuram. No information of casualties, but bloodstains found on the spot.

At Kaddaiparichchan, in the Trincomalee district, unidentified members of the armed forces in civils flee into the jungle leaving several weapons behind after a direct confrontation with Tamil militants.

In Jaffna, another Customs employee injured in yesterday's army shooting, Kandiah Chandrathasan (34), succumbs to injuries.

Two Sarvodaya female volunteers from Mullaitivu, injured in army shooting, admitted to Jaffna hospital.

Monitoring Committee returns to Colombo, having heard the evidence of the members of the security forces only—at the Jaffna Dutch Fort military camp.

3,000 unemployed Sinhala youths between ages of 18 and 22 join Auxiliary Force, who after 2 weeks' training will receive a monthly salary of Rs. 3,400/- plus Risk allowance of Rs. 65/- for every kilometre foot patrol, according to unofficial report from Colombo.

Late information received that three peasants—Somanathar Sinnathamby (70), Sinnathamby Kumarasingam (37) and Vramuttu Sivanantharajah (33) of Mayiladutheevu Batticaloa, were shot dead by Sinhala Home Guards on the 4th, while engaged in grazing their cattle.

### JANUARY 7

A fisherman from Chenkalady, Batticaloa, Vinayagamoorthy Vigneswaran (20), given 6

weeks R.I. under Prevention of Terrorism Act, by Colombo judge for allegedly concealing information about a suspected "terrorist" Jayachandran of the same area.

Brigadier Cyril Ranatunge orders re-colonisation of 12,500 Sinhala families in the Vavuniya district, who are now in refugee camps.

Monitoring Committee asks Jaffna Citizens' Committee to submit details of those affected by firing in Jaffna on the 4th and 5th.

Two lorries carrying 243 bags of rice worth Rs. 1.1 lakhs robbed by unknown persons at Vantharamoolai in Batticaloa. The rice was being transported from Polonnaruwa to Kalmunai. 60 of these bags were later recovered by govt. forces in an abandoned house.

National Security Ministry in Colombo announces killing of 2 militants at Palatoppu in Trincomalee on the 5th; the killing of another militant Varadar, at Mullaitivu on the 6th; the killing of a further militant, David at Kilinochchi; and the arrest of two more militants in Batticaloa on the 5th; that a "terrorist suspect" Shanmugam Thangarajah who tried to escape from custody was shot dead by a sentry at Trincomalee... (Daily News)

Due to lack of demand for Tea at Colombo tea auctions, Govt. summons a meeting of foreign embassy officials to deny that Sri Lanka tea had been poisoned.

Army fire from Jaffna Fort during the night; no casualties reported.

### JANUARY 8

Tamil militants blow up the Irrakkakandi bridge in Trincomalee district for second time, completely preventing entry of govt. forces into the Kumburupiddy area.

About 200 armed forces personnel, with a helicopter giving air cover, search the area in which at least seven army personnel were killed by a landmine yesterday, and find parts of human bodies. It is now feared that the death tally of soldiers in yesterday's incident could be more than the seven announced earlier.

About 2,000 persons rounded up at Vattawahal in Mullaitivu district and taken to army camp for questioning.

A Sinhala youth Henry Perera, indicted under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, with having possessed bombs and other weapons at Wattegama in Kandy district in September 1984.

Attempted derailment of Colombo-Jaffna Intercity train between Galgamuwa and Senaratgama in the south, thwarted by Sinhala villager who alerts railway authorities of the removal of fishplates on the track.

Body of an unidentified youth with gunshot injuries on the head found tied to a lamppost at Kurumankadu junction at Vavuniya-Mannar road.

# Diary of Events

## and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

### JANUARY 9

Advisory Committee under the P.T.A. recommends release of 29 more detainees at Boosa military camp.

Body of lamp post victim discovered yesterday at Vavuniya identified as that of T. Thilakarathne (23), a labourer of Kovilputhukulam.

Army authorities direct Jaffna Municipal authorities to cut down all the shady trees around the Jaffna Dutch Fort area, citing "security reasons". Some of the mahogany trees in the area are believed to be 30-40 years old.

It is believed that a Tamil militant group had dropped a large packet of pamphlets in Sinhala into the premises of the Jaffna Dutch Fort military camp through the device of a "rocket launcher"—explaining to the Sinhala armed forces that they were not their enemies, that they were fighting for the liberation of the Tamils from Govt. oppression, but if they persisted in being tools of the govt. they should come forward for a direct fight instead of killing unarmed Tamil civilians. The Colombo Tamil newspaper "Virakesari" which carries this information states that officials of the National Security Ministry has been informed of this, in Colombo.

SLFP leader Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike says that the govt. which had already lost control of the north and east and might soon lose control of the plantation areas as well, can redeem the country only through a joint national effort.

According to National Security Ministry in Colombo, Tamil militants had robbed the State Distilleries Corporation at Kaithady of firewood worth Rs. 21,500/- on the 7th, robbed National Housing Development Authority at Navatkuli, of electrical equipment worth Rs. 56,517/- on the 5th.

At Koddikallār in Batticaloa, 15 Tamil youths engaged in providing assistance to elderly people, women and children affected by floods, taken in for questioning by Police Commandos.

One more victim of last week's shooting in Jaffna, Mahesan (14), succumbs to his injuries, bringing the total death tally to 9.

National Security Ministry says 10 "terrorist suspects" were arrested at Mullaitivu on the 7th, and 6 of them were released later.

### JANUARY 10

Prof. K. Sivathamby and Mr. K. Sivapalan, the two nominees representing Tamil interests in the Monitoring Committee, resign. While it was widely known that the Jaffna incidents of last week had a direct bearing on the resignations, and the resignation of Prof. Sivathamby was even predicted, National Security Ministry attributes the resignations to the Tamil militants no longer wanting the cease-fire to continue!

Directing suspicions on plantation workers on alleged poisoning of export tea will lead to unnecessary problems, warns CWC secretary Sellasamy. Meanwhile, Plantations Minister Montague Jayawickrema assures foreign diplomats that Tea will be tested for any contaminants before being exported.

Over 500 Tamils demonstrate for over one hour before the Regional Office of the People's Bank in Jaffna, demanding the return of their pawned jewellery, held by the govt. unlawfully, even after monies for redeeming them had been paid several months back. It is estimated that this govt. bank had been holding back nearly Rs. 10 million worth of jewellery from the owners, on the excuse that they will pass into the hands of the "terrorists".

Henry Perera (29) the first Sinhalese to be indicted under the P.T.A. and held in custody at the Negombo prison, has escaped from custody, says Police authorities.

One soldier was killed and several others injured by a grenade attack by LTTE militants who were repulsing an attack by armed forces on their base at Mulliyawalai in Mullaitivu. Armed forces who withdrew, fire at random on Tamil civilians on the way and kill 13 of them. Later National Security Ministry in Colombo claims that "13 terrorists" were killed in the course of an attack on the LTTE camp.

Soldiers from the Thondamanaru army camp open fire on devotees at Sella Sannathy temple wounding 7 of them.

Customs officer Selliah Ganesh (48) who was seriously injured in army firing on the Pannai road in Jaffna on the 5th, and later rushed to Colombo for emergency operation, succumbs to his injuries, bringing the total of those killed as a result of that day's incidents to 10.

Monitoring Committee puts off Amparai visit due to inclement weather.

### JANUARY 11

Despite floods in Batticaloa, Police commandos engage in search operation and take away four Tamils for questioning.

In view of the reluctance of policemen to serve in the north, IGP orders that henceforth every policemen will be called upon to serve a minimum of 150 days in the north, reports the SUN.

EROS spokesman in Madras Balakumar calls for the immediate disbanding of the Monitoring Committee, in view of the resignation of the two Tamil members. But in Colombo, the Committee secretary-general Dias Abeyasinghe says the committee will continue to function.

National Security Ministry announces in Colombo the capture of two Tamil "terrorist" Ponnudurai Vasantharajah and Krishnapillai Ganeshan in Batticaloa, following "information provided by the public".

Jaffna train passengers put to great

inconvenience because only a few post offices sell Money Orders and Postal orders with which only railway tickets could be purchased.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali tells a BBC interviewer that the military situation in the north and east had eased, and gives four reasons why.

Mrs. Sarojinithi Mathiaparanam and Tampalakamam, a mother of 3 children, sentenced to 5 years rigorous imprisonment under the P.T.A. on a charge of failing to give information in connection with the Kinniya bank robbery. Counsel tells Judge Weerasekera that Sarojinithi had already spent 1 1/2 years in remand jail and was prone to frequent illness, but judge refuses to accept plea for lesser punishment.

Quoting a "highly placed government source", the Island says that the surveillance zone in the northern waters would soon be heavily strengthened to prevent flow of arms from Tamilnadu. It says foreign arms are smuggled in large quantities into Tamilnadu and re-smuggled to the north and east of Sri Lanka.

CWC President Thondaman meets Govt. and Indian High Commission representatives in talks initiated by the Govt. in connection with the "Stateless issue".

Nearly half a million people in five districts seek temporary shelter following one of the worst floods in recent times. Batticaloa district one of the worst hit areas.

### JANUARY 12

Vavuniya Citizens' Committee member Mr. Paramanathan who was reported to have been kidnapped by armed Home Guards yesterday discovered dead with gunshot injuries and cut injuries. The body was stated to have been brought to Vavuniya hospital by army men. Paramanathan's wife Theresamma (45), sons Rajasekeran (26) and Vilvaratnam (20) also reported kidnapped by Home Guards. Rs. 2,500/- which was in the possession of Paramanathan was also missing.

5 Home Guards arrested for abducting 2 young Tamil women, raping both and killing one of them at Mutur on December 25 last year, remanded till January 23 by Mutur Magistrate Mr. S. Kathiravelpillai.

CWC Secretary Sellasamy says in Colombo that unless there was a categorical settlement on the "stateless issue" by this evening, the proposed prayer campaign of the CWC will be launched as scheduled.

Batticaloa completely cut off from the rest of the island by flood waters.

Prime Minister Premadasa and Minister Lalith Athulathmudali call on CWC leader and Cabinet colleague Thondaman separately at the luxurious Navaloka hospital, where he is warded for a medical check-up.

Colombo newspaper, The Island, speculates that the CWC prayer campaign is likely to be called off.

# Diary of Events

## and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Bangladesh Foreign Minister H.R. Choudhury arrives in Colombo on a 3-day official visit.

### JANUARY 13

Kattankudi M.P.C.S. robbed by unidentified youths of cash Rs. 69,000/-, cheques worth Rs. 29,000/- and 2 cartons of Vitamilk. Police commandos retaliate by looting a Tamil-owned shop, smashing up another and assaulting commuters in the area.

Thondaman from hospital bed says that the prayer campaign will commence tomorrow in spite of government's request for a 24-hour grace.

Clashes in Point Pedro area between govt. forces and Tamil militants both in the morning and evening. Militants are reported to have sighted an armed foot patrol party along the beach and opened fire. Sporadic shooting was reported over a period of 6 hours, but no casualties known on either side, but 5 Tamil civilians out on Thai Pongal shopping injured and admitted to Manthikai hospital.

Colombo High Court Judge H.W. Senanayake, following submissions made by Counsel Bala Tampoe, calls for a full report from prison authorities on the reported escape from jail of Henry Perera, alias Lenin, alias Viswam.

President Jayawardene speaking at the Galle Esplanade, "called upon the misguided youth in the north to give up their armed struggle, dismantle their camps and ask for pardon to enable government to negotiate with them", reports Colombo newspaper, The Island.

### JANUARY 14

CWC prayer campaign launched in several plantation areas as scheduled, coupled with Thai Pongal festivity. Over 75,000 estate workers are participating.

In Jaffna, Tamil militants attack Dutch Fort army camp with rockets, killing one soldier and seriously injuring four others, who were rushed to Colombo by helicopter for emergency operations. Tension in Jaffna city.

National Security Ministry issues warning in Colombo that orders had been given to the armed forces to destroy all "terrorist bases" in Jaffna, the locations of which were known to the govt.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali holds consultations with Indian High Commissioner Dixit.

President of the Thirukovil-Thambuluvil Citizens Committee Mr. Veerasingam

Meharajah taken in for questioning by Police Commandos. Out of 60 Tamil civilians taken in for questioning yesterday, only 20 were released.

At Mavadivembu, in Batticaloa, 2 Tamil civilians wounded by army fire, and 2 others were taken away by the forces.

### JANUARY 15

Sri Lanka Cabinet decides to give citizenship to 94,000 "stateless" persons as well as to the natural increase; 469,000 Tamils of the hill country to benefit. Ceylon Workers' Congress calls off its 2-day old prayer campaign. The relevant legislation is to be passed soon and the citizenship documents to be supplied within the next 18 months.

Tamil militants repulse an intended attack on their base at Alankerni in Mutur in the early hours after midnight, killing Navy Commando Lt. Cmdr. Shanthi Bahar, killing 2 Home Guards and injuring two other Naval personnel. Ten Tamil civilians in the area at Eechchanthopu were reported killed in reprisal. Cmdr. Bahar who was known to be a crack shot and who had won the President's Cup for marksmanship in 1984, fell victim to a grenade thrown at him. In Colombo, National Security Ministry claims that 15 of the attackers were shot dead by security forces, but the Govt. newspaper Daily News says "28 terrorists were killed in the shoot-out".

In Jaffna, at Punnalaikadduvan North, an army unit which emerged on foot, accompanied by armoured cars and trucks, from the Palaly army camp, was compelled to withdraw, following a 4-hour gun battle with Tamil militants, led by the Liberation Tigers. It is reported that a land mine blew up, checking their progress, followed by gunfire by the militants. More than 3 militant groups had joined together in the attack. A helicopter that came to the rescue of the army unit, strafed the area killing one civilian and injuring two other residents of Vasavilan.

At Kinnaiadi in Valaichenai in the East, Police Commandos shot dead five youths and take into custody seven others in the course of a search operation.

In Puttalam, four youths including two Muslim Tamils, taken into custody for questioning.

Pannai causeway, the road linking the peninsula with the Jaffna islets, is now deserted after 4 p.m. for fear of army sentries at the Dutch Fort taking pot shots at passing vehicles.

### JANUARY 16

Three Tamil civilians, two of whom were

Muslims, Hameed and Hameel, were killed and 11 others injured by army fire in Jaffna, less than a quarter mile away from the Dutch Fort army camp. It was reported that an army contingent of over 100 men had left the Dutch Fort by the back entrance in the early hours of morning, and begun marching towards a busy bazaar area on foot, covered by armoured cars, when militant sentries had raised an alert by exploding bombs. The militants had begun opening fire on the soldiers, who retaliated by shooting wild in the area causing the casualties among pedestrians and damaging buildings in the vicinity. Army men, unable to proceed beyond because of persistent militant fire, had withdrawn back to the camp in the vehicles, carrying some wounded soldiers along with them. Following this incident Jaffna bazaar area gets completely deserted until afternoon.

Govt. declares the area around the Jaffna Fort up to 1,000 metres as a security zone with immediate effect. Under this regulation, the armed forces will be free to fire mortars up to a radius of 1,000 metres, says a Govt. communique. It will be noted that the Jaffna General hospital, the entire business centre, the central bus stand, leading schools, hotels, law courts, public offices all lie within this 1,000 metre radius.

A top-level conference called by the newly appointed military Co-ordinating officer for Jaffna, Brigadier H.F. Rupasinghe summoning heads of govt. departments in Jaffna to discuss the security zone, cancelled, following the confrontation between Tamil militants and the army.

In the plantations, CWC estate workers celebrate their victory over the "stateless" issue, by lighting crackers, while in Kandy the Buddhist High Priest of Asgiriya strongly criticise the govt's decision.

A tragic-comic incident reported from Valaththupiddy village in Amparai district: Three youths, one of whom was carrying a car battery, for the purpose of getting it re-charged for use in video showing, drop the battery and run away in fear on seeing army commandos in vehicle with guns pointing; the commandos believing that the youths were getting ready to set a landmine, summon reinforcements, cordon the village, line up residents, question them, do a house-to-house search, and in the process set fire to 21 houses of poor villagers, having failed to elicit any information about the land mines!

In Colombo, at Borella, a time bomb explodes, causing extensive damage to the Dasa Trade Centre and adjoining buildings. A policeman and two civilians seriously hurt.

# SITUATION REPORT

## **Muslim protest in Batt**

Muslims in Batticaloa yesterday staged a vague hartal in the Batticaloa town and in the predominantly Muslim areas of kattankudy and Chenkaladi to register their protest against the Sri Lanka government's alleged links with Israel, Police sources said. The sources said shops and boutiques in these areas remained closed throughout yesterday while attendance in schools was very low... The hartal, police suspect had been masterminded by certain splinter terrorist groups. (The Island - 4.2.86)

## **Independence Day blackout**

A power failure plunged many parts of Borella into darkness on the eve of Independence Day... The reason for the power failure is attributed to a feeder pillar burning out. At 11 p.m. a resident telephoned the Emergency breakdown service to enquire as to how much longer it would be before power was restored. "It is a major problem; you will not have electricity tonight" was the answer... The fire in the feeder pillar was apparently caused by the movement of some Electricity Board structures around Parliament Square and the damage was serious... (The Island - 5.2.86)

## **Armed show missing**

The soldiers, sailors and airmen were up North and East and the military component of the 38th Independence Day celebrations was limited to a 21-gun salute with a guard of honour and the show of a fleet of armoured cars. But the schoolboys and girls made it a grand spectacle with a riot of colour, martial music .... (The Island - 5.2.86)

## **Black flags in Jaffna**

Jaffna remained quiet yesterday - Sri Lanka's Independence Day. According to reports reaching here from the northern town, there had been no shooting or bomb blasts in or around Jaffna. There had been no ceremonies to mark the Independence Day. The National Flags hoisted on government buildings had been removed by terrorists who had replaced them with black flags. Shopkeepers were also forced to fly black flags, the reports add. (The Island - 5.2.86)

## **Defence Ministry Info.**

Leaders of the terrorist groups have arrived in northern Sri Lanka from Tamilnadu and are planning a joint attack on the security forces, according to information received by the Defence Ministry. Intelligence sources said information pointed at tactics by EROS and other terrorist groups to divert the attention of the security forces in the wake of the incidents in the hill country. Meanwhile, the security forces in the north and east have been placed on special alert, after fears of an offensive today. (The SUN - 4.2.86)

## **Brigadier only bruised**

Apropos our Trincomalee correspondent's report that a high ranking military officer was

seriously hurt in both arms, hit by flying debris during a weekend security operation, we have been informed that the officer, Brigadier Harsha Gunaratne only suffered some bruises. The operation at Kattaiparichchan, south of Trincomalee, where a terrorist stronghold was attacked, was described as "most successful". This had helped the process of restoring normalcy in Trincomalee. (Daily News - 5.2.86)

## **Tamil to English switch**

The Batticaloa University College has been elevated to a University with immediate effect, Home Minister K.W. Dewanayagam announced yesterday. The new university, located at Vantharamoolai, in the kalkudah electorate, is the eighth university in the country... This university, which now conducts its courses in the Tamil medium will soon switch over to English. Minister Dewanayagam said that the upgarding of this institution would also serve as an answer to the TULF's cry for a merger of the north and east... (Daily News - 8.2.86)

## **The things "terrorists" do!**

Terrorists on Thursday fired at a helicopter at Kattaiparichchan in Trincomalee, injuring an officer and causing slight damage to the helicopter, the National Security Ministry said yesterday. The helicopter was providing air cover for troops during an operation, the Ministry press release said. Terrorists have also committed several robberies in the Jaffna district in the past three days. Four drums of aluminium conductor wire worth Rs. 96,980/- were removed from the Power Station at Chunnakam. A tractor and trailer belonging to Lanka Cement Ltd., Kankasanturai, were also stolen. Terrorists also stole diesel oil from a train at the Chunnakam station and drove away on a tractor and trailer bearing No. 37 Sri 4777 from the Municipal Council, Nallur. The tractor was later found abandoned at Thirunelveli. (The SUN - 1.2.86)

## **Another 'copter fired at**

Terrorists fired at an air force helicopter injuring the pilot and co-pilot at Eravur yesterday morning. The injured pilot and co-pilot have been admitted to the Batticaloa hospital, according to security sources. (The SUN - 6.2.86)

## **Buddhist monk kills monk**

Police have taken into custody a resident Buddhist monk of the Pradhanagara Temple, Dematagoda Road, in connection with the killing of a fellow monk on Tuesday evening. Police said that the suspect monk, who is a student of law, had allegedly stabbed to death the victim following an altercation. Police said that several complaints had been lodged with police earlier... (The Island - 6.2.86)

## **CWC office set on fire**

Reports from the upcountry said that the hill country remained calm except for two incidents of arson. The CWC office in Hatton and the adjacent private residence of a D.M.O. went up

in flames early on Wednesday morning. The identity of those who were responsible for these acts of arson was not known. General Secretary of the CWC Mr. Sellasamy told "The Island" that some vital documents, stationery etc. had been removed from the office and set on fire along with some discarded tyres. According to Police, furniture valued at Rs. 20,000 had been destroyed by fire at the DMO's house.... (The Island - 6.2.86)

## **Sinhala paper warns**

The President's declaration that he will eradicate terrorism in the coming year sounds like the signal for another round of blood-letting in the north and east of Sri Lanka... While not only the President but the Prime Minister bragging about eradicating terrorism, fighting has even spread to the hills... We warn the government that if it is thinking in terms of war, the upcountry war might be even more difficult than the northern one. There is the possibility of Indians and people from Tamilnadu infiltrating the plantations. It will be the Sinhala people who will be in danger... (Aththa, the Sinhala Communist Party daily, quoted the "The Island" - 6.2.86)

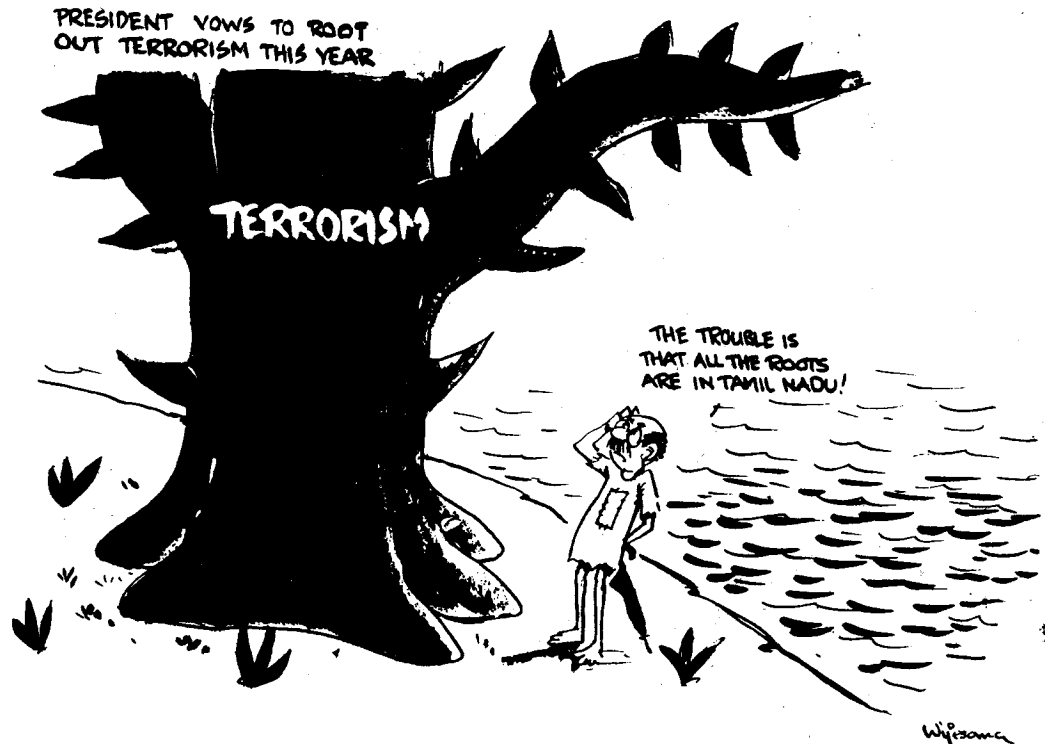
## **M.P. injured by army fire**

Mahara M.P. Kamalawarna Jayakody was hospitalised with gunshot injuries early yesterday morning when a van driven by a relative, Mr. Weliwita, had allegedly failed to respond to a halt order near the Ganemulla army camp, police said. Mr. Jayakody who underwent six hours of emergency surgery at the General Hospital, Colombo, was out of danger yesterday but in obvious pain... A total of 12 bullet marks had been found on the vehicle whose front and rear glasses were also shattered. The statement of one witness that had been recorded said that the van had in fact stopped when signalled and there had been an argument when the soldiers wanted to inspect the vehicle's papers. The witness had said that the MP had said that the soldiers' job was to check the identity of those riding the vehicle and whether it was carrying any offensive weapons or explosives. The vehicle's papers were none of their business. He had alleged that the van had driven some distance before the shooting began.... (Daily News - 7.2.86)

## **"A futile exercise"**

"It is reported that the Army is printing a large number of leaflets asking the citizens of Jaffna to co-operate with it to suppress terrorism. I am afraid it would be a futile exercise and wastage of the taxpayers' money for the simple reason we cannot expect these citizens to do anything against the "militants" because the latter are their sons and daughters, kith and kin, friends and acquaintances whom they regard as freedom fighters. It is for the same reason they are appealing to the President to withdraw the Army instead of asking their "boys" to put down arms". (Letter to the Editor by A. DE SILVA of Wadduwa - The SUN - 8.2.86)

# SITUATION REPORT



## Obituaries

**MAHALINGAM - V.K.**, retired A.T.S. Ceylon Postal Service, formerly of 14, Kawdana Road, Dehiwela, father of Dr. Satchchithanandan of Danbury, Connecticut, U.S.A., and Pathmajothi Kathiravel of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, died in Canada, 3600, Morning Start Drive, Unit 56, Mississauga, Ontario L4T1 4S, Canada.

**PONRAJAH** - Princely (Engineering Consultants Ltd.) and retired Director of Irrigation, husband of Tirzah (nee Fry), father of Rupavathy, Ranendra, and Naushad. Cremation at kanatee, Colombo, 25th January. 203, New Bullers Road, Colombo 4.

**PARAYERAWAR - A.S.**, retired Senior Assistant Commissioner of Co-operative Societies, husband of late Rasalakshmi, father of Nagendran, Pathmawathy, Kamalawathy, Leelawathy, Rajendran and Theivendran (Indi), father-in-law of Wijeyeswari, Kanagasabai, Kandasamy, David Kanter and Elma. Died on 25th January. Cremation Manipay Cemetery 28th Jan.

**AMBIKAIPAKAN** - retired Principal Vaideeshwara Vidyalaya, husband of Nagulambikai, father of Anandakumaraswamy (Family Planning), Poongothai (Zambia), Dr. Balasubramaniam (USA), Dr. Senthilselvan (Kuwait), Anandagowri (Singapore), Funderal 30th January. "Mani Manai", Mallakam.

**YOGARAJAH - Dr.** (Mrs.) Pearl Ariyamalar, wife of S. Yogarajah, Attorney-at-law, mother of Jayanatha (Engineer), Ajithkumar (Engineer), Madhura, Malathi

(undergraduate, Madras Christian College). Cremation at Villaveli, Sandilipay, Jaffna on 29th Jan.

**RASIAH** - Simon Edward, formerly Chief Shroff, SLBC, husband of Kulamanie (Actg. Principal, Retd. Hindu College Ratmalana) father of Mala, son of late Mr. and Mrs. S.P. Simon Rasiah Chundikuli, brother of late Alice, late Robert, John (Canada), Selvam and late Capt. Jeyam. Funeral Colombo 30th January. No. 7, De Alwis Place, Dehiwela.

**THIAGARAJAH** - Yogeswary, wife of late S. Thiagarajah of Thalaiyali, sister of Sabanathan (UK), Mrs. Vadivelu, R. Sivagurnathan (Editor, Thinakaran, Lake House) Kamalanathan (New Zealand), Dr. Baskaranathan (New Zealand). Funeral Kombayanmanal, Jaffna, 30th January. 101, Arasady Road, Kamdaramadam, Jaffna.

**THAMBIMUTTU** - James, husband of Flavia, father of Jeanne and June, father-in-law of Leslie and Upali. Burial 29th January. Home for Elders, Ranwala, Kegalle.

**VEN. WATTALA ANANDA MANGALA MAHA NAYAKE**

**THERA**, founder-member of the World Fellowship of Buddhists and the World Buddhist Sangha Council. Died in Singapore. Cremated in Singapore, 29th January.

**SIVAGNANARATNAM** - Pathmavathy wife of Dr. K. Sivagnanaratnam, retired S.H.S. Vavuniya, daughter of late Mudaliyar V.

Ponnampalam, mother of Dr. Pathmini Casinathan (Singapore), Krishnaratnam (UK), Dr. Nalayani Yogu Pasupathy (New Zealand), Muhunthini Sivapatham and Dr. Sri Ramaratnam (USA). Funeral, 6th February, Pathmanithy, Urumpiray, Jaffna.

**CHERUBIM** - Constance, wife of late Victor Cherubim, mother of Neil (UK), Raji, Shiranthini (Canada), Deva (Oman), Funeral Canada 5th Feb. 92, Regent, Greenfield Park, Montreal PQJ4V 2T9, Canada.

**CHINNI AH** - George, husband of late Nalini, father of Nilima, father-in-law of Jeeva, died in Malaysia. 75, Jalan Berong Belatuk, Taman Bukit Maluri, Kepong, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**GUNASEGARAM** - Daniel Rajanayagam, (retired Assessor, Income Tax), husband of Lily, father of joy, Christobel, Rajan and Bala. Funeral 5th Feb. McLeod Hospital, Inuvil.

**ARUMUGAM - C.P.** (Paddakka), retired Head Mistress, Methodist Girls' High School, Point Pedro, wife of late V.N. Arumugam, mother of Easwari, Perinbanayagam, Rajeswary, Peranathanayagam. Funeral 8th Feb. "Gnanamthoddam", Puloly South, Puloly.

**CANAGASINGHAM** - Pathmanathan, Senior Superintendent of Police, husband of Ananthie, father of Reginald (U.K.), Godfrey, Jean, Patrick and Frederick, brother of Chelliahpillai (Norway), Ponnalar (U.K.), Jeyam and Selvam. Interment, kanatte, Colombo, 10th Feb. No. 570, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 5.