

**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.

In Parliament

Tuesday's bout of Bhagat bashing was succeeded yesterday by the SLFP's fervent championing of the Kandyan peasantry. If on Tuesday Agalawatte's Merrill Kariyawasam made use of the adjournment to beat the war drums against India, yesterday during adjournment Attanagala's Lakshman Jayakody was equally vocal in declaring war on Minister Thondaman Mr. Jayakody, who opened the debate with a discursive speech, said that the upcountry Tamils would ask for a homeland of their own on the Eelam pattern in 18 months time though he did not explain the basis for the time frame. Mark my words, he warned the House. Giving a horrific account of the looting and arson engaged in allegedly by Tamils during the recent upheaval in the hills Mr. Jayakody charged that Mr. Thondaman's CWC was behind the violence (In the gallery: comment by Ajith Samaranyake - The Island 6.3.86)

Priest back to Jail

Fr. Abraham Singarayer, the Catholic priest who stood in the dock for 180 days in the High Court Colombo was yesterday acquitted of the charge of withholding information of the Police about the Neerveli bank robbery, that was brought against him. But the priest, happy and smiling, drove back to Welikada prison. He is already charged in an adjoining Court at Baudhaloka Mawatha. In that case, he is charged with harbouring terrorists and withholding information to the Police about the terrorist attack on the Chavakachcheri Police Station Immediately on his acquittal Fr. Singarayer speaking to the press said: "The prevention of Terrorism Act should be repealed. We are freedom fighters. We do not want to see the bloodshed of our Sinhala brethren (The Island 4.3.86)

Government M.P. opens fire

Cinnamon gardens police recorded the statement of Tangalle MP Jinadasa Weerasinghe, in connection with a shooting incident at 'Sravasti', the MPs hostel, on Monday night, and took his revolver and five rounds of ammunition into custody. A spent bullet has also been taken by the police, Police sources said that the 'Sravasti' manager, Mr. W.M.M. Aruyasena Silva, had complained that a shot had been fired near his office. The manager said that he had been summoned by the MP, and on seeing him armed with a revolver, had taken cover behind a wall. While he was there, he heard the report of a gunshot. The MP had called out to him and he had come out. Several other MPs had taken the Tangalle MP to his room (Daily News - 6.3.86)

Dutch national arrested

A Dutch National whom the police said had in his possession several photographs and

video tapes of certain incidents in the hill-country was taken in for questioning by the Anuradhapura police on Saturday. According to the police he had told them on interrogation, that his arrival in Sri Lanka was on the instructions of one Jayaseelan, who comes from Jaffna, and, who now lives in Holland. The police also said suspect had also planned to meet a brother of Jayaseelan, a lecturer at an University. Police were able to arrest the foreigner on information they received from his driver. The Sri Lanka Police have informed Interpol to obtain more information on the foreigner. Police are now on the trail of a Tamil lecturer. The Holland national is to be handed over to the CID today (The Island - 3.3.86).

Police assault Soldier

Military police intensified patrolling in Homagama town, following the alleged assault of a soldier by a policeman of the Homagama police station on Thursday evening. The soldier, from the Panagoda cantonment, was allegedly assaulted and taken into custody by the Homagama police while he was trying to cross the road with two other soldiers in civvies. On hearing of the incident, senior army officers rushed to the police station and met the Homagama ASP, who released the soldier after a two-hour discussion. This soldier, who bears the rank of gunner, is partly deaf, resulting from a bomb blast in the fight against terrorists in the North (Daily News - 10.3.86)

Meeting a national crisis

Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali has proposed the establishment of a "Stand-by Task Force" to meet any national crisis whether man made or natural. He expects the Force to be able to deal with a crisis situation at short notice. Explaining the working of that force, Mr. Athulathmudali told "The Island" it must be completely voluntary and disaster oriented "that it should be in readiness to meet the needs of any disaster", on a well worked out programme. He said a national crisis could be brought about by man made or natural factors (The Island - 9.3.86)

All that glitters is not a bomb!

A swissair security agent, travelling incognito, held on to a parcel of 'hot' gold on board a Westbound aircraft at Katunayake on Sunday night. Airport sources said that the parcel of 15 gold bars, valued at Rs.6 million, was being handed over to a first class passenger by a Lankan airline employee when the security agent, thinking an explosive was being passed, grabbed the man, leaving the parcel in the agent's hands, the Lankan disappeared. His identity has not been established. The gold has been handed over to the customs. The big question now is why the passenger, to whom the gold was allegedly being passed, had not been detained and interrogated (Daily News - 11.3.86)

All Eggs in one basket

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Anura

Bandaranaike, said yesterday that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) would not get involved in the Government's quarrel with India. Mr. Bandaranaike told "The Island" that both Sri Lanka and India were to blame for the present situation. He said that the Government was to be blamed for their inconsistent policy of "blow hot, blow cold" towards India. As for India, they too were to be blamed for putting all their eggs into one basket and expecting others to pull the "chestnuts out of the fire" (The Island - 9.3.86)

150,000 fisherfolk hit

Nearly 150,000 fisherfolk have been affected by the territorial zone rule in the North and East prohibiting fishing in the specified area, Minister of Fisheries Festus Perera told "The Island". There are 30,000 people who are directly engaged in fishing activities in this Zone while the rest were dependent on them. The Minister said fishermen now idling were existing on Food Stamps and had summoned a conference of top officials of the Ministries of Social Services and Rehabilitation to give the fishermen additional relief (The Island - 9.3.86)

Ronnie de Mel says No

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel has informed the Government that if the present high level of defence expenditure and the slump in commodities prices continue, the Government would have to drop some of the projects included in the Public Investment Programme. He has said that it will also not be possible to accommodate any new projects under the investment programme. The Minister has made this reply in response to proposal by Prime Minister R. Premadasa for the inclusion of various water supply and sanitation improvements in the National Water Supply and Drainage Boards (NWSDB) Capital Investment programme at a cost of Rs.4,260 million ... (The Island - 9.3.86)

Soviet Policy hits tea

The continued absence of the Soviet Union from Colombo's tea auctions has led to a decline in prices and raised concern in the trade. The Soviet Union withdrew from the auctions in December last year and has been inactive since, while pledging to buy half of India's exports in the coming year BOP prices declined by two rupees per kilo and five rupees per kilo for the better grades late last month. Soviet buyers accounted for 12 million kilograms in 1984, nearly five per cent of Sri Lanka's sales. In 1985, the purchases dropped to 5.5 million kilograms just over four per cent of the total, exports, according to tea trade statistics. The Soviet Union's Indian purchases, meanwhile have increased steadily and it was India's number one buyer last year. It has also pledged to buy 100 million kilograms from India in 1986 (Sun - 10.3.86)

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from January 17 - January 31 were carried in Issue No.6 of Situation Report

FEBRUARY 1

A state of war in the mainland northern areas of Kilinochchi, Tharmapuram, Ramanathapuram, Kalmadu, and Mullaitivu. While over 30 Tamil civilians are believed killed, mostly by helicopter attacks, and several thousands have been fleeing their homes, about 15 army personnel and two Tamil militants are reported killed in direct confrontations. Another 35 farmers including some women who were carrying their produce from Vaddakachchi and nearby villages to Kilinochchi market in a van are kidnapped along with the van and taken to the army camp by an army unit, apparently with the idea of keeping them as hostages, but their fate is not known. It is feared that they might even have been killed.

At Kilinochchi, according to information available only today, the trouble began on 30th January, when one of the armoured cars got stuck in the mud at Kalmadu. A vehicle with a crane sent to retrieve the armoured car met with the same fate. Tamil militants had thereupon opened the sluice of the nearby reservoir flooding one part of the escape route and blasted the road bridges on the other side, thereby marooning the entire army convoy. Guerrillas belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) engaged some of the reinforcements sent to the approach areas, and regular battles were reported from the 30th till this morning for the third day in succession. Helicopters had dropped food supplies to the marooned troops, and on being attacked by rocket fire by militants, they were compelled to fly higher. Along the main roads at Tharmapuram, armed militants seen openly moving in vehicles, being offered food, aerated waters and tea and young coconuts by local residents. Govt. declares curfew in the area.

At Mullaitivu, tension continues for the sixth consecutive day. Nearly 10,000 Tamils rendered refugees. More troops arrive by helicopters. Over 100 houses damaged.

Violence continues in the tea plantation districts of Dickoya and Talawakelle. A police constable was injured when a crowd of Tamils stone a police jeep in Dickoya. Several shops belonging to both Sinhalese and Tamils burnt. Great Western railway station set on fire by angry mob.

At Thondamanaru in the northern coast, 7 army men in civils belonging to the Thondamanaru army camp reported killed along with a Tamil militant in a confrontation that occurred yesterday. The army personnel had earlier assaulted some fishermen and taken away plastic fishing boats in order to ferry provisions to the camp from a ship in the high seas.

The dead body of a Tamil youth K. Sivapalan of Illupaikulam, Vavuniya who was earlier taken away by the army for questioning was found tied to a lamppost near the Thachchaikulam army camp.

National Security Minister Athulathmudali tells Jaffna officials who met him in Colombo that more army camps would be set up in Jaffna for the purpose of protecting the

FEBRUARY 2

In Kilinochchi Government clamps 9-hour curfew from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bombing and strafing by helicopters and small planes continue. At Kalmadu trapped army unit continues to be marooned. Reinforcements from Poonakari army camp rushed to Kilinochchi. One helicopter suffers heavy damage when Tamil Militants attack with rocket launchers. Part of the food provisions dropped by helicopters believed to have fallen into militants' hands.

In the Tharmapuram district in Kilinochchi more than 50 residents are feared dead by aerial attacks. Colombo radio claims that 15 terrorists were killed.

Over 25 armoured cars from Anuradhapura and Kurunegala also sent to Kilinochchi area.

24 - hour curfew in the plantation districts of Nuwara Eliya, Bogawantalawa, Maskeliya and Norwood from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. In Hatton 33 - hour curfew continues. Seven Sinhalese-owned shops set on fire and goods looted. One Tamil estate worker killed by police firing when Tamil crowd attacked a new Sinhala settlement. A Police sergeant near Dickoya critically injured, when he was attacked by swords and other implements. Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike, Minister Gamini Dissanayake, Police chief Cyril Herath and Military Co-ordinating officer Cyril Ranatunga visit affected areas.

At Mullaitivu violence continues for the seventh consecutive day. Three gun boats off Mullaitivu shell inwards while Tamil militants open fire at them through rocket launchers. Residents within 4 - 5 mile radius of the coast flee from homes. Several civilians injured by shelling, left helpless without medical attention. Tamil militants blast water pipe line to Mullaitivu army camp.

FEBRUARY 3

At Kilinochchi Government forces manage to retrieve army vehicles which were stuck in the mud at Kalmadu. Several incidents of bomb blasts reported while the army convoy was returning. Two army vehicles damaged by land mines.

At Mullaitivu violence continues for the eighth day. Army Sentries reported injured when sand bags kept near army camp were fired upon with rocket launchers by militants. Mullaitivu resident vanniasingham Sockanathan (25) admitted to Jaffna hospital says that he was ordered by army men in civils to lie down in a paddy field along with two others and shot. While the other two were killed he received only leg injuries and managed to crawl to safety.

In Jaffna students from ten schools take out protest demonstration demanding the withdrawal of the army from Jaffna. An estimated 5000 students, boys and girls take part, many of them with school books in their hands.

In the plantations, sporadic violence continues. In Hatton three Tamil shops set on fire and one Tamil shot dead. CWC leader Thondaman and other officials visit Hatton, Bogawantalawa, Norwood.

Parents of 18 Tamil youths taken away by armed forces for questioning from Mutur refugee camp on the 1st, complain to Trincomalee Citizen Committee that no information has been received about their children.

At Iyachchi a lorry belonging to Tamil Muslim traders in Jaffna hijacked by known armed persons along with goods worth several lakhs.

Four Kilinochchi residents including a woman Annalakshmi (30) of Murukandy injured by army firing admitted to Jaffna hospital.

FEBRUARY 4

While the Sri Lankan Government observes the 38th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Independence at Sri Jayawardenepura, Kotte. Tamils in north and east observe the day as one of mourning.

Humorous posters in Tamil under the headline "MISSING", found on jaffna walls. The posters say that a person named "Suthanthiram" (Freedom) aged 38 is missing.

Colombo newspaper the Sun, quoting Defence Ministry spokesman says "about 20 terrorists were killed in Mullaitivu on the 3rd when security forces fired at two boats, attempting to escape from Sri Lankan waters after an attack on the army". It says "one boat capsized killing about twenty terrorists" it also says five more "terrorists" were killed today.

Government rejects claims by EROS that it was hampering arrangements to release British "Journalist" Penelope Eve Willis.

Diary of Events

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Army reinforcements sent by Government to plantation areas report inability to proceed beyond Nawalapitiya due to a series of obstructions along the road. At some points large trees have been felled across while at others rock boulders had been rolled down from hill tops to obstruct traffic. At Bogawantalawa three Buddhist Vihares also reported to have been attacked. Several Sinhala houses damaged and two Sinhalese killed. The magistrate who went to hold inquiries into the deaths was obstructed and turned back.

At Tellipallai a group of armed youths snatch the National Flag meant to be hoisted at a Government hospital and burn it at Tellipallai junction. Another National Flag hoisted at Jaffna Bank of Ceylon branch was burnt at Jaffna bus stand.

Thirty two persons injured by army firing in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu including women and children admitted to Jaffna hospital.

One Tamil refugee from Trincomalee housed in a Mullaitivu refugee camp dies instantly and several others including eight fishermen injured when helicopters strafe Vannankulam area for nearly one hour.

Several lorries from Colombo to Jaffna were stoned and the lorry crew assaulted by thugs at Madampe.

Colombo - Batticaloa train service suspended.

In Batticaloa, complete hartal. National Flags hoisted on public buildings snatched away.

FEBRUARY 5

At Point Pedro eight Tamil civilians including four women killed by army shelling. Among others injured were ten year old school girl Nirupa, who was rushed by youths to Mandihai hospital and from there to Jaffna hospital. At least fifteen others sustain severe injuries.

Goods train carrying fuel and various other provisions for the army, such as tyres, tubes, coconuts which reached K.K.S. station was ordered back to Mallakam Station by militants. While army personnel were on the way from Palaly to take charge of the goods, militants remove most of the provisions at Mallakam. Under aerial cover train was taken again to K.K.S. by the army. Following this, helicopters attacked Chunnakam, Suravathai areas damaging houses and injuring residents.

At Eravur in eastern province an Air Force helicopter was hit by militants. Both pilot and co-pilot who were injured, removed to Batticaloa hospital.

Hours after Minister Gamini Dissanayake erupts and Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike visit Hatton on a peace mission, violence erupts again. In Hatton town a mob broke into the CWC office and burnt the furnitures. A school building also set on fire. At Kithulgala a branch leader of the Government-controlled Lanka Jatika Estate

Workers Union killed by a mob. It is reported that the rest of the tea country was free of incidents.

At Akkaraipattu armed forces on a search operation, take away nearly 100 persons for questioning.

At Mullaitivu tension continues for the 10th day. Nearly 6500 villages in Than-niyootu, Mulliavalai, Vatarapallai and Puthukudieruppu are reported to be facing starvation.

Twenty terrorists claimed to have been killed at Mullaitivu on 3rd are now confirmed to be fifteen Tamil fishermen from Kokillai.

FEBRUARY 6

At Point Pedro, two more Tamil civilians, walking along College road killed when shells from the army camp hit them. Several others including some who were working in the field injured. Shelling also reported from Valvet-tithurai and Thondamannaru army camp.

It is believed that soldiers belonging to the Sinha Regiment are defying orders from superiors in many camps and are responsible for many of the Wanton atrocities on Tamil civilians.

A young farmer Ramanathan Mahendra (35) who was returning after working in his fields at Paranthan shot dead by army forces. In another incident an army convoy consisting of nearly 18 armed vehicles open fire at Paranthan junction and kill one person and injure two others. Another person, believed to be a Tamil militant is reported to have taken cyanide and died.

Five soldiers injured in a land mine blast near Pambaimadu in Vavuniya district. One civilian Premanathan, killed in reprisal shooting and several houses damaged.

In Mannar, buses stop plying following the detention of a bus employee.

At Batticaloa air strip, army commandos open fire on three youths, who escape leaving behind motor cycle in which they came. Army officials say they discovered two hand grenades and few lime fruits in a bag left behind by the youths.

Commandos set up camp at Karadianaru farm in Batticaloa district. Although the main building had been damaged by Tamil militants earlier, the commandos pitch tents in the premises.

Estate workers complain to CWC that when Sinhala thugs attack them the army does not interfere, but when they defend themselves police and army come in force and terrorise them.

Army sentries open fire at M.P. for Mahara, Kamalawarna Jayakody and injure him at Ganemulla. The M.P. undergoes emergency surgery and was transferred to the intensive care unit. The report says the M.P. was shot when the vehicle in which he was travelling failed to stop when challenged by army sentries.

Security forces in Colombo say that "seven

terrorists were killed in an attempt to ambush a security patrol in Point Pedro" yesterday.

The dead body of Dayananda Peter estimated to be about 25 years old, was found tied to a lamp post at Nedunkerny. A placard besides the body said death sentence was passed on him by TELO, because he was an army informer.

Exodus of Tamils from Kattaiparichchan and Senaiyur in Mutur district into Trincomalee district following the opening of new army camps in the areas.

FEBRUARY 7

At Thondamannaru five soldiers killed in a land mine explosion, according to a claim made by LTTE. Following this, army is reported to have fired nearly 16 rounds of shelling in the area. The sound of firing was reported to have been heard at distances of 20 miles, according to public reports.

Between Kayts and Karainagar navy gun boat fires at a boat killing K. Rajan (20) of Karainagar. Two others in the boat escape unhurt.

At Karainagar an estimated 4000 persons stage a protest procession against the presence of the army, the security zone, and aerial bombing.

At Manipay a similar protest stated by a estimated 5000 members of the public.

At the inquest held into the death of Yokiam Premanath (40) it was stated that he was summoned by army personnel to the road when he was at his home and shot dead. The victim's brother, Victor Vathanasekaram (30) giving evidence said that he followed his brother and received an injury on his leg. He saw the army men pushing his brother's body with their boots and removing a gold ring and the watch which he was wearing. He also saw them taking some money from his shirt pocket. Premanath was a father of three children and a resident of Rambaikulam.

Occasional abductions of young women are reported again in Jaffna. Recently a female undergraduate of the Jaffna university was reported to have been taken off a Batticaloa-bound bus and kidnapped by unknown persons.

Minister and CWC leader S. Thondaman hands over one million rupees to State Plantations Ministry to rehabilitate both Sinhala and Tamil refugees in the hill country, on an equal basis.

The remains of P. Ganeshalingham, ex-M.P. of Paddiruppu who died in Madras flown to Colombo and from there to Batticaloa for cremation.

FEBRUARY 8

At Trincomalee 42 Tamil women both married and unmarried, all from the Mutur district, taken away by Government armed forces, creating consternation among the residents. Parents and husbands rush complaints to the Trincomalee Citizens'

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Committee. Some of the women believed to be detained at Trincomalee naval camp. Earlier, a young woman Yogarasa Vathani who was taken away by armed forces on the 6th, has now been admitted to the Mutur hospital with several injuries. Meanwhile two young women of Kaddaiparichchan in Mutur complain to the Citizens' Committee that taking advantage of the absence of males in the house in the nights, men from the armed forces in civils had molested them on two consecutive nights.

At Point Pedro in the course of shelling from within the Point Pedro army camp and counter attack by Tamil militants 4 soldiers reported to have been injured and rushed to Anuradhapura hospital by helicopter.

Two businessmen from Jaffna, Chellappa Srisankandara, proprietor of Chellappa & Co. and Suppiah Sivakadacham reported to have been kidnapped by armed persons yesterday.

At Paranthan over 100 of bags of paddy robbed by members of the armed forces in civils. It is reported that these man had moved from Kilinochchi to Paranthan in the dead of night and had waited stealthily in the premises of a temple till the farmers had finished packing the paddy in gunny bags. The bags were removed in 3 tractors and two lorries along with 10 farmers, whose fate was not known.

A goods train from Colombo to Kankesanthurai forcibly stopped by armed youths near Kokuvil Railway Station, and some goods taken away in a lorry.

In a cemetery near Kakaithivu in Jaffna 2 unidentified bodies discovered partly buried.

Three persons including an elderly farmer shot dead by armed forces at Thoondikulam in Vavuniya. Two of them were going on a bicycle when they were killed.

At Chavakachcheri a lorry coming from Colombo to Jaffna hijacked, along with goods worth Rs.15 lakhs.

At Mannar, eleven bus employees detained by army earlier are released.

FEBRUARY 9

In Jaffna, Liberation Tigers announce the deaths of three of their freedom fighters Jesusdas (Tharmaraja), Theivendra Sihamany (Murali), Arul Gnanadas (Vemen) in the course of confrontation with the army at Point Pedro on the 8th.

Jaffna Tamil daily "Uthayan" reports that the American couple, Allens who were kidnapped by Tamil militants in May 1984 and released, are due to visit Sri Lanka and meet President Jayawardene. The reports says that they will press the President to give up the idea of a military solution and release the hundreds of Tamil languishing in jails.

Sri Lanka Government told that EROS was prepared to release Britisher Mrs. Penelope Willis provided the International Red Cross is permitted to take her into safe custody.

A road culvert at Karadipokku in

kilinochchi blasted by Tamil militants.

A Tamil girl Vanaja (21), daughter of a Mutur teacher Oppilamani Kulanathan admitted to Mutur hospital in a mentally deranged condition after army men had taken her from her home for questioning on the 8th. Vanaja according to her father's complaint made to the Citizens' Committee is virtually speechless and unable to walk.

An unknown person at Kallady, Batticaloa who tried to run away on seeing an army convoy shot dead on the spot. His body has not been brought to the hospital.

Sinhala thugs reported to have set upon Tamil estate workers in the Ginigathane areas in the plantations.

A soldier attached to Padaviya army camp Wickramasinghe (26) commits suicide by taking poison. It was stated that the dead soldier had been pulled up by officers for taking leave frequently. Another soldier A.C. Gunaratne (24) attached to the Trincomalee Fort army camp also commits suicide by shooting himself with a gun. He was stated to have been in a mentally depressed state.

Secretary of the Batticaloa Citizens' Committee Mr. Prins Casinader resigns. He has said that in the absence of co-operation by the armed forces it was difficult to be of any help.

Chenkalady post office robbed of Rs.13 thousand worth stamps and cash. Two unidentified bodies of males in a decomposed condition discovered on the 6th mile post on the Vavuniya-Mannar road. It has been speculated that these could be the bodies of Navaratnam and Lakshmanan who were missing after they went to work to Pambajmadu on this 6th.

FEBRUARY 10

A group of army men in black uniforms who were checking vehicles waylay a Peugeot 404 car, (7 Sri 8651) at Peyadikoolamkulam-Vellikulam junction near Vavuniya, shoot dead all 3 occupants and burn them inside the car. The dead persons are Timothan Jesunayagam (36) father of two small children, of 3rd Cross Street Jaffna, P. Mylvaganam (45) of Pallai, a cashier attached to R.V.G. Transport and Vincent (44) a mechanic. Only the charred remains of the 3 persons could be seen in the car which has been burnt down. The occupants had also been robbed of cash amounting to Rs.75 thousands and jewellery. The occupants of a van which has followed this car had witnessed the incident and made a complaint to the G.A. Vavuniya.

Following a report that 9 Tamil youths inside army camps in Jaffna have been killed, mothers of 26 youths call at Jaffna Secretariat and demand to be allowed to see their children. Arrangements have been reportedly made for them to visit the camps. 3-mile long procession of residents of Chunakam, Mallakam, Punnalaikadduvan, Erlalai, Kuppilan, Uduvil, Inuvil, and Kantherodai protest against army presence in Jaffna. The procession and demonstration

was organised under auspices of the Mother's Front of Jaffna.

At Point Pedro the entire town including offices, banks, shops and courts remain paralysed for 6th consecutive day.

At Thambalakamam in Trincomalee 4 Tamil civilians reported killed by armed forces in the course of search operations.

At Kilinochchi on the Kandy road a culvert near the old Law courts has been blasted by unknown persons.

At Periyakalluru in the East, commandos raid a house in which video films were shown, round up 15 youths and also take away 4 women, a mother and daughters in the neighbouring house for questioning.

50-year old David Arasaratnam found shot dead and tied to a lamp post at Thirukovil. A notice besides the body accused him of being a Government informer.

12 people arrested in Talawakelle and Hatton in the plantations in connection with the recent violence, according to police in Colombo.

At Peliyagoda in the outskirts of Colombo, a massive fire destroys an oil mill causing damages estimated at more than Rs.25 million.

FEBRUARY 11

Referring to yesterday's incidents in which 3 Tamils in a Peugeot car were killed and burnt to death in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation reports today that in a clash between "2 terrorists groups, 3 terrorists were shot dead and burnt inside the car." A Reuter report quoting Government news agency Lankapuwath says virtually the same thing. It however releases another report based on information supplied by National Security Ministry which states that "terrorists had opened fire at a Peugeot car and killed 5 persons," and that the car was also burnt.

Panic and tension at Navatkuli, Kaithady and Ariyalai areas following sounds of gun fire and bombs. It appears that men in civils from the army camp at Navatkuli had come out through paddy fields, and on sighting them, Tamil militants had thrown bombs and hand grenades. The army men had in turn started firing at random. After half an hour army men had withdrawn to the camp.

In Batticaloa on the Kalkudah-Valaichchenai road 6 policemen were injured in a land mine explosion. One unidentified cyclist shot dead when policemen open fire.

In Mutur, all 42 women taken in for questioning still detained except for Vanaja now warded at Mutur hospital.

In Mannar, several mothers and wives agitate at the Kachcheri demanding the release of their husbands and sons who were taken in for questioning, several days earlier.

Although arrangements were reported to have been made for 26 mothers to see their sons in army camps in Jaffna, only 16

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mothers were able to check on the safety of their sons. Nothing is known about the other 10 youths. Earlier the LTTE had given a report that 9 youths had been killed inside the army camps.

In Batticaloa members of the armed forces who went in search of a youth Thavakumar finding him missing at his home take away his younger brother Jeyakumar, telling the parents that unless Thavakumar was traced and handed over to them, they will not release Jeyakumar.

At Vavuniya, police remove the charred remains of the 3 persons killed inside their Peugeot car, preventing any judicial inquiry into the matter.

In the Vavuniya district there is a state of terror following activities by black uniformed commandos who are believed to have received special training in Pakistan.

A helicopter keeps hovering in the Vasavilan, Kurumbacuity, Kattuvan, Tellipalai areas making residents running for safety.

In Colombo, Leader of the Opposition Anura Bandaranaike demands the arrest of CWC leader S. Thondaman. Meanwhile sporadic incidents of violence are reported in the plantation areas.

5,000 police constables are to be recruited this year and applications have already been called through Gazette notification. (Sun)

Two Tamil youths Subramaniam Padmaseelan and Kanagasabai Manoharan of Sandilipay, Jaffna who were deported from Belgrade, Yugoslavia arrested, and produced before Fort magistrate. The police say they were arrested on suspicion of possible involvement in terrorist activities.

FEBRUARY 12

12 fishermen, 6 from Mannar and 6 from Gurunagar, Jaffna, found missing and feared killed, when a Navy boat repeatedly kept firing at the two mechanised fishing boats in which they were fishing at the Palaithivu-Kakadativu sea. A thirteenth fisherman, Vallipuram Yogarasah (27) who was in the Gurunagar boat had jumped into the sea and started swimming when he was rescued by a third fishing boat. Yogarasah who lived to tell the story, says that the two boats, which were fishing close to each other were both sunk after they caught fire. The incident had happened around 9 o' clock last night.

Inter-city train from Colombo to Jaffna at-

tacked by unknown persons about 4 miles away from the Elephant Pass army barrier. Engine driver A. Tharmalingam (45) and his assistant N. Sivaloganathan (40) were both injured.

A lorry carrying 77 bags of rice to the Karainagar Navy camp hijacked on the way by armed youths who later distribute the rice to refugee camps in Jaffna. A minor employee of the Navy, C. Ponnudurai of Pandateruppu, who was in service with the Navy for 26 years, and who had purchased the rice at Chunnakam and hired the lorry, was abducted. His wife appeals for his release.

A transformer worth about Rs.75,000/- taken away by unknown persons from the Electricity Board Office at Brown Road.

UNP organiser Mrs. Pulendran's house at Vavuniya robbed, and items worth over a lakh, including a TV set, and VCR taken away.

In Batticaloa, a young mother of 2, Mookammah of Kirumichchai Colony admitted to hospital, after being gang-raped by men of the armed forces in civils.

In another incident at Batticaloa, a mother of 2, Chandrarani (28) who had been separated from her husband and recently returned after working abroad, found killed and tied to a lamp post.

Another stage in the Army expansion programme at Kilinochchi gets under way with the appropriation of a building belonging to the Forest Office. Members of the public, including children of a nearby primary school are now scared to approach the area.

At the Colombo Port, a fire breaks out in Sri Lanka's first marine research vessel "Samudra Maru".

M.P. for Mahara, Kamalawarna Jayakoddy who was critically injured by armed sentries at Ganemulla, in his first statement to Police, contradicts the Army version of the incident.

FEBRUARY 13

Government introduces a series of Emergency regulations establishing a Territorial Zone covering the territorial sea of Sri Lanka from Point Pedro in the north to Komari in the East. Entrance to the zone will be restricted to all persons except with the written authority of the Competent Authority. Certain areas are specified where fishing could be done subject to various restrictions.

National Security Minister rejects outright all conditions laid by EROS for the release of Mrs. Penelope Willis. EROS had set a deadline to the Sri Lanka Government to permit the International Committee of the Red Cross to arrange for the release of Mrs. Willis. The deadline ends tomorrow. EROS has said that they suspect Mrs. Willis to be an intelligence agent, and may have to subject her to a revolutionary trial, if the Sri Lanka Government blocks her release.

AT Palaly, area surrounding the army airport and camp rocked by helicopter fire and rocket fire by Tamil militants. Confrontation between army and militants occurred when army units began moving by foot from the camp towards Kadduvan. Militant sentries at Kadduvan are reported to have begun flinging hand grenades at them, at which the army men tried to turn back. Meanwhile, armed militants were seen taking positions. Helicopters began strafing the area, and militants used rockets to repulse them. The army men retreat to the camp under helicopter fire.

Point Pedro Citizens' Committee announces that it will receive evidence, both oral and written, from the public tomorrow in connection with all, deaths, injuries, loss to property etc.

Out of the 12 fishermen from Mannar and Gurunagar whose boats were hit by navy fire and sunk, all 6 fishermen from Mannar are now reported to have swum to safety. Out of the 6 Gurunagar fishermen reported missing, it is now learnt that four of them had been captured by navy men and sent to Palaly army camp, while another, Benjamin Kennedy (19) had also swum to safety. The fate of the 12th person is not known. When a Government official contacted army authorities at Palaly in connection with the 4 fishermen detained there he was told that the other two who had swum to safety should also be produced before them before any decision could be made about the four.

Five "Home Guards" who had raped two young Tamil women on Christmas night and killed one of them subsequently, ordered to be further remanded by Mutur Magistrate S. Kathiravetpillai.

Four civilians including a Sinhalese were shot dead by Government forces at a Tea shop at Poovarasankulam in Vavuniya. A few others who were injured say that members of the armed forces opened fire without any provocation whatsoever.

Sudden death of tourist

Kuehl Ernest, (61) of Gevesberg, West Germany, a wealthy businessman, who had come to Kandy on a sightseeing tour, was found dead in his room in a guest house here on Saturday Miss. Sibil Prignifg (38) of West Germany, who had come with Ernest, said at the inquiry that Ernest went to bed around 11 p.m. on Friday. The following morning she tried to wake him and found him dead The inquirer after recording the evidence of the JMO and manager of the guest house recorded a verdict of death due to natural causes (Daily News - 11.3.86)

U.S. - Lanka Trade Boom

Sri Lanka achieved a record trade turnover with the United States and also the highest balance of payments in seven years of trade between the two countries last year. The US, Lanka's largest trading partner bought goods to the value of Rs.6,734 million and sold goods to the value of Rs.3,266 million in the year ending November 1985. The balance of payments in Lanka's favour was Rs.3,468 million compared to Rs.2,941 million in 1984. Lanka has been enjoying a favourable balance of payments with the US since 1979. The total trade turnover between the two countries had leapfrogged from Rs.2,125.8 million in 1978 to Rs.4 billion last year. Lanka's exports changed from traditional items of tea, spices, graphite, and coconut to non-traditional products such as ready-made garments, handicrafts, gems and jewellery, ceramic ware, toys, wooden items and cashew nuts (Sun - 5.3.86)

Eight dons quit

Eight senior academics of the Colombo University have submitted their resignations to Vice-Chancellor Professor Stanley Wijesundera compelling the authorities to postpone indefinitely, the opening of the science faculty for the new year. The eight heads of departments cited the failure of the authorities to grant their demands for a salary increase, as a reason for their resignations, top university sources said (Sun - 5.3.86)

CWC Statement

The Ceylon Workers' Congress (CWC) yesterday dis-associated its membership from involvement in terrorist activities and said charges to that effect "could be proved to be totally false and libellous". In a statement that followed the Congress's National Council meeting last Saturday, the CWC, quoting an American civil rights leader, said in reference to the prayer campaign it initiated last year, that its objective was to "create a tension so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiations." The Congress also refuted allegations that its funds were being channelled for terrorism in the north and said these charges reminded them of charges made at one time by SLFP breakaway elements that foreigners had unloaded several sackloads of currency at the residence of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike (Sun - 10.3.86)

Repeal Thesawalamai - M.P.

Sunil Ranjan Jayakody (UNP-Polgahawela) moving a private member's motion to repeal the Thesawalamai Law, said that this law was in contradiction to two articles of the Constitution of Sri Lanka. None of the previous governments changed this law which is contrary to two articles of the Constitution. The present UNP Government is nearly nine years old but this law is still in existence, he said. The British made use of this law to divide the people. This law applies even if a resident of Jaffna has property either in Jaffna or outside it. This law violates the fundamental rights of the people. Today we cannot buy land in Jaffna let alone go to Jaffna, but they can buy land anywhere. This is unfair, This law is a caste division perpetrated by the British who ruled Ceylon (The Island - 8.3.86)

No bail for this offence

Two members of the Communist Party who were charged with distributing political literature adverse to the Government were yesterday remanded till March 14 by Chief Magistrate, Colombo, Collin Amerasinghe. The suspects Edward Perera and Jagath Hemachandra are being charged under section 28(b) of the Public Security Ordinance for the illegal distribution of political literature without the permission of the Inspector General of Police. An application for bail made by Counsel for the suspect was refused by the Magistrate. The suspects were arrested at Lipton Circus on Thursday by the Cinamon Gardens Police (The Island - 8.3.86)

Tamil married to Sinhalese accused of murder

On the seventh day of the trial in the Ambanpola murder case, before High Court Judge, G.L.M. de Silva and Sinhala speaking jury, the accused M. Alagukumara Saravanamuttu, alias Sunil Kumar Dissanayake made a statement from the dock, after the prosecution closed its case. It was a thoughtful expression of facts in the present context, of the controversial issue of citizenship rights to the people of Indian origin. Earlier Inspector Wijeratne of Ambanpola Police and Sergeant Bandaranayake who arrested the accused gave evidence. In this case M. Alagukumara Saravanamuttu who subsequently changed his name to Sunil Kumar Dissanayake and got married to a Sinhalese woman, Juliana Beatrice Dabare, stood indicted with the murder of the Ven. P. Dhammarakkita Incumbent of the Sri Bodirukkaramaya and robbery of cash of Rs.7040 and silver coins to the value of Rs.500, on or about 5.10.80.

In the course of his statement from the dock, the accused said that he was born in Dangolla, Kandy and educated at the Dangolla Maha Vidyalaya. His parents were Sri Lankan citizens of Indian origin. At the age of 20 years he married a Sinhalese woman, Juliana Beatrice Dabare, a christian by religion. They lived at Ambanpola with her parents and he also participated in religious activities of the temple. He had relations among Sinhalese and Tamils.

Will India attack? — Anura

Referring to India's 30 - day notice to Sri Lanka to solve its ethnic problem, Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike asked whether the Indian ultimatum did not imply that India would invade or attack Sri Lanka if Sri Lanka failed to heed it. He was addressing delegates of party organization in the Akmeemana electorate on Sunday. The conference held at the residence of ex-MP Richard Pathirana was attended by over 1000 party members. Mr. Bandaranaike said that Sri Lanka was going through the worst period of her history. Terrorists are attacking the police and security forces establishments in the North and East. There is also an attempt now to beat back the Police in the Central Province.

"The upcountry is slowly drifting away from the south," he said. The whole upcountry has been bequeathed to Minister Thondaman. We have lost one third of the country already", he added. "When Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike gave over to the present government in 1977, the entire country, from the Northern tip of the southern sea coast, was one land, and any one could go anywhere he liked. But today it is no more so. The people are not free even to go to Anuradhapura or Sri Pada now (Sun - 4.3.86)

When living in the village, he had noticed that the people of the village were indifferent to him and developed jealousy towards his wife and him. He was called 'a demala' and his wife often abused as a woman married to a Tamil. Later he went to Kumbuwewa to meet a relative of his wife, and with his help changed his name to Sunil Kumara Dissanayake and registered his marriage legally with Juliana Beatrice Dabare. He did so to obtain Sri Lankan citizenship to his children. He was arrested and taken to Ambanpola police and intimidated stating that he was the person responsible for killing the Ambanpola priest. His wife was then expecting a baby and her sister too was assaulted.

On the instigation of the Police, people in the village set fire to his mother-in-laws house. U.I.C. Ambanpola too was angry with his brother-in-law Dabare as he had filed a plaint in courts against the police for assault. Witness Kiri Banda who did not know the facts of the case did not harass him in the remand jail due to the presence of jail guards. He developed a jealousy towards him as he was well treated by prison officers due to the interest he took in growing flowers in prison premises. He denied having made a confession to Kiri Banda at any stage. He begged for merciful consideration..... (Sun - 10.3.86)

SITUATION REPORT



Obituaries

In a land where Death by Violence is a common occurrence and the names of the victims rarely get obituary notices, here are some "fortunate" few who passed away into the void, duly noticed in Sri Lankan newspapers:-

JOHN — Kathaleen, wife of S.A. John, Suruvil, mother of Adrian (Rajah), Managing Director, Roots Confectionery Ltd., Neville (Taj Samudra), Marietta (UK), mother-in-law of Logon Saverimuttu (UK), died under tragic circumstances. Burial 3rd March, Jaffna. 75, 4th Cross Street, Jaffna.

SINNATHAMBY — Dr. (Retired Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology) of University of Ceylon, husband of Leelawathie, father of Vasanthie, Malini, Ganeshwaran, Sivamathie, Ketheeswaran, father-in-law of Paskaralingam, Ganeshalingam and Linga. Funeral 3rd March. 106, Brown Road, Jaffna.

SELVANAYAGAM — retired Electrical Engineer, son of late Mr. and Mrs. V. Suppiah, husband of late Mahaluxmy. Funeral March 5 at Pipily Cemetery. St. Anthony's Lane, Manipay.

VETTYVELU — A., father of Ketheeswaranathan, Sivapottanathan (Executive Director, Allied Shipping Agencies Ltd.), Seventhinathan (USA), Ranganathan (UK), Gurunathan (Canada), Ragunathan (Australia), Jeganathan (Denmark), Pathmanathan (UK), and Mrs. Chakravirithy. Funeral took place on 27th February at Kaluwanchikudy.

MAHESAN — Mudaliyar V., Director, N. Vaitilingam & Co. Ltd., husband of late Ponmany and late Rasamany, father of late Mangalambikai, Ganesan (Managing Director — Asbestos Cement Industries Ltd.), Nadesan (Director, Ceylon Galvanising Industries Ltd.), Buvanendran (Director, N. Vaitilingam & Co. Ltd.), Lalithambigai and late Varatharajan. Cremation March 9. "Linga Vasa", Navaly, Manipay.

JEEVANAYAGAM — Death occurred in London of Glory Thiraviyam, wife of late Dr. A.V. Jeevanayagam, mother of Niranjala (London), and Ravi (London), 43, Gladstone Avenue, Manor Park, London E 12 6 NR.