

**SRI
LANKA**

**SITUATION
REPORT**

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SITUATION REPORT

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

VOA Project In Trouble.

Construction here of a powerful new Voice of America transmitter a key part of a planned 1.5 billion dollar expansion of the US Overseas Network has been delayed because the Government of Sri Lanka wants to change the site although ground has already been broken for the project.

US officials here expressed confidence that the station designed to beam shortwave radio programmes to India, the Soviet Union, East Africa and China will be completed at the new site. But according to other sources the 100 million project is in trouble, mainly because of regional political considerations.

India, 20-miles from this island nation, strongly opposes the station contending that it might be used as a covert listening post in South Asia..... (Sun-21st July, 1986)

Soldiers on theft charge

The second soldier wanted by Police for questioning in connection with the Rs.250,000 cash, jewellery and gem robbery reported from Jawatta was handed over to Chinnamon Gardens Police by the Military Police yesterday (20th). One soldier who surrendered to the Police earlier was remanded.

Police said both suspects were members of the Army Artillery Corps and were attached to the Panagoda Camp. They were wanted by the Police for questioning in connection with the robbery of cash, jewellery and gems at the house of a Thai national at Jawatta on May 21 this year. (Sun-21st July, 1986)

Pro - Eelam journalist ?

The Sri Lanka Government has protested strongly to the West German Government over the recruitment of a Sri Lankan journalist who is alleged to have very strong Pro-Eelam sympathies. The journalist concerned has been employed in the South Asian Division of Deutsche Welle, the West German Government owned radio.

According to latest reports the Bonn Government had protested to Deutsche Welle and also taken up the matter with the West German Embassy in Colombo. Foreign Ministry sources said this appointment had been recommended by a German diplomat who had been stationed in Sri Lanka. Sources said it was a matter of serious concern for Sri Lanka because Deutsche Welle was set up in the teeth of Indian opposition against its establishment.

However sources said that those who had promoted the recruitment of this journalist had said they should not go back on the appointment as all options with the Tamils should be kept open.

According to some reports, the journalist had alleged that employment in that person's professional capacity was not possible in Sri Lanka because of being a Tamil. Sources pointed out that with West Germany rejecting asylum seekers such recruitment will hinder the deportation of asylum seekers from West Germany.

(The Island-21st July, 1986)

Porno is very popular

Only 8 percent of the students in Sri Lanka possess a knowledge of world literature today. But 60% of them are avid readers of cheap pornographic publications, reveals a study made by Mr.H.W. Karunaratne, Lecturer, Social Science Department of Kelaniya University.

The study further reveals that these pornographic publications are available in plenty without any restriction throughout Colombo and are fast spreading to other towns and their suburbs. Five percent of rural students are also in the habit of reading them, the study reveals.

According to this study, 80% of the pornographic publications are sold in Colombo while the sales in out stations have shot up by 20%. Among the students who are in the habit of reading such literature, 85% are males while the balance 15% are females. Also it has been observed that the female students do not approach the traders to buy their copies, but secure them through their male friends.

It appears that there are about 75 such publications and 10 out of them are printed in Colombo city itself. The study has been made in Colombo, Ratnapura and Kandy. (The Island - 25th July, 1986)

Indian fishermen's fate

Two Indian fishermen who were arrested in Pettah in June were released from Police custody and flown home to India on Tuesday evening. The men were arrested with a third who committed suicide in a police cell last week, after 42 days' custody. Their release followed intervention by the Indian High Commission in Colombo, a commission spokesman said.

The three fishermen's boat had drifted into Chilaw on June 4. They were arrested when travelling in a bus in Pettah and later detained at the Slave Island police station. Investigations have revealed that they were from Tamilnadu, sources said.

Meanwhile another fisherman who had suffered gun shot injuries after drifting into Sri Lanka waters on July 1, was also sent back on Tuesday evening. High Commission officials said he was the only survivor out of 10 fishermen from Rameswaram who came in search of another fishing boat. He was found by residents of Pungudutivu while drifting in the seas for two days and later admitted to the Jaffna hospital.

(SUN - 24th July, 1986)

Top official deported

A top Sri Lankan official enroute to an international conference in Rio de Janeiro was arrested at Schipol Airport, Amsterdam detained for 19 hours and sent home without an explanation. The incident has raised questions whether the Sri Lankan Passport he carried was the reason for the alleged harassment and the Sri Lanka Government is learnt to have protested to the Netherlands Government.

The official, who was scheduled to be in transit at Schipol Airport for 15 hours was taken into Police custody and detained in a cell in High security complex after which he was put on a Colombo bound Airlanka flight it is alleged. "SUN" learns the incident has prompted the Foreign Ministry to despatch a confidential note to the Dutch Government through its ambassador-designate in Colombo J.H.Daman Willems. Mr.Willems yesterday confirmed he had received the note but declined to comment until he was contacted by his government.

The Sri Lankan official who claims he was the victim of "undue harassment" at the hands of the Dutch Police was expected to represent Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Fiji and New Zealand at a board meeting of an international organization.....

(SUN - 24th July, 1986)

SLFP View - In Parliament

Anil Moonasinghe (SLFP - ~~Atugama~~), charged that the government was becoming more and more impotent. After three years of emergency rule what has been the result? The government has become impotent and demoralised during these three year period. The third powerful Minister in the Government Ronnie de Mel yesterday said that what you cannot hold on to you must give graciously. In this a thing to say? What will happen if those on the other side hear this?

The government, he charged, introduced the Prevention of Terrorism Act, drafted the Sixth Amendment and enforced emergency regulations for three years to contain what it called 'terrorism' but what is the situation today?

(Continued on page 7)

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from May 26 — June 8 were carried in Issue No. 15 of the Situation Report

JUNE 9

More troops are brought into Kilinochchi joint army camp by helicopters from beyond Vavuniya. Situation improves after 5 days of intensive fighting and people taking advantage move out of Tharmapuram, Kanagapuram, Uruthirapuram, Jayanthipuram and Murasumoodai and trek into Jaffna peninsula. With breakdown in transport there is scarcity of food. Wanton destruction in town with charred corpses yet lying on roads.

At dawn 5 rounds of shells fired from Vasavilan army camp towards Kurumbacity, Thidatpulam, Vadamoolai areas. Along with this shelling, a helicopter circles over these areas till 9.00 a.m. Again at 12.30 p.m. a helicopter strafes Kurumbacity north.

Soldiers who come up to Vasavilan-Tellippalai road from the Palay airport runway march towards Kadduvan, with helicopter giving air cover, but return after a while even though there were no signs of resistance. Schools in Tellippalai, Kadduvan, Kurumbacity, Punnaikadduvan, Erlalai close one after another on hearing of this troop movement.

In Mullaitivu, security forces on search operations in town arrest Anton of the Fisheries Co-operative Society and take him into custody.

Kilinochchi Parish Priest Rev.Fr.Pius, who took shelter in the St. Theresa's Convent, when all residents had left Karadipokku, narrowly escapes death when the armed forces fire indiscriminately in this area. Rev.Fr.Pius is an active member of the Citizens' Committee.

Upcountry Tamils live in fear following extensive 'search operations' at nights, during the past few days, by armed forces in estates in Nuwara Eliya, Maskeliya, Hatton, Talawakelle and Udupussellawa. Several arrests have been made and innocent workers and Estate Superintendents attacked in certain instances. Armed forces raid line rooms of estate workers posing the question as to whether "Tigers" or "Kottiyas" are being shielded by them.

JUNE 10

In Mandaitivu, persons in black uniform, coming in a plastic boat, massacre 34 Tamil fishermen from Gurunagar severing their limbs with knives and swords, removing their eyes and bowels, smashing their heads and finally throwing hand grenades at the fallen. This

bizarre incident took place in the sea coast between Allaipitti and Mandaitivu near St. Antony's church where these men had gone "Karaivalai" fishing. The men in black uniform had summoned the fishermen, lined them up, and tied their hands from behind before butchering them to death. The entire Jaffna is shocked and in mourning with Gurunagar drowned in deep sorrow and looking like a ghost village.

Soldiers from Mandaitivu mini camp move towards inhabited areas of Mandaitivu both by foot and helicopter. At about this time, a helicopter strafes the village. Many houses and buildings damaged; Planes and sea planes circle and give cover to the moving troops. Shells are fired from a gun boat off the south coast of Mandaitivu. Somasuntharam Sothinatha (60), Viswanathar Vimalavathan (22) and Anton Vijaykumar are killed. Men and women with their children flee into Allaipitti and Mankumpan for safety. 6 are arrested by the security forces. A few others swim over to Gurunagar.

3 foreign ships arrived at Karainagar at 4 a.m. bringing over 300 troops, arms, 2 modern vehicles and food supplies. Gun boats from naval camp proceed into the sea and encircle these ships providing protection. At about this time, a bomb explodes in mid seas. Gun boats start firing for 45 minutes. Troops, arms, vehicles and food provisions are unloaded and flown to Palay, Jaffna and Thondamanaru.

All three arms of the security forces attack Valvettiturai town and its suburbs from morning till evening. Heavy shelling from inside the army camp and from naval craft. Planes drop bombs. 4 helicopters both singly and collectively strafe indiscriminately. 6 die, several injured and number of houses damaged. People trapped in their homes and injured could not be taken out for treatment till late in the evening.

JUNE 11

In Trincomalee, time bombs placed in 2 buses, leaving for Colombo and Kantalai from Trincomalee, explode, whilst moving along Harbour road, 100 yards away from Trincomalee naval camp, killing 22 passengers and injuring more than 70. Army moves in, encircling the area and helicopters circle over. Injured flown to Anuradhapura and Colombo. All roads leading into Trincomalee closed for traffic. Curfew imposed from 5 p.m.

Valvettiturai attacked for the second day from land, sea and air. At dawn, soldiers come out of camp. Militants mount offensive and force them back. At about this time, armed

forces from 3 ships, 3 gun boats, 3 plastic boats and 2 "vallams" attempt to land in the camp area. LTTE guerillas open fire and sink one of the plastic boats and causing damage to another. Occupants believed dead. Following this, gun boats at sea fire several rounds along the coastal villages. Shells burst in Kamparmalai, Valvetty, Udupiddy, Thondamanaru, Vallaveli, Polikandy, Thikkam and Karaveddy. This attack is further intensified by planes dropping bombs. 6 hours of combined attack leaves 5 dead. Over 40 injured, more than 75 houses, number of public buildings and temples either damaged or burnt.

In retaliation to an attack by militants yesterday evening, Kayts is shelled from Karainagar naval camp. Several houses and Peoples Bank building badly damaged.

In Kilinochchi, soldiers who went up to Thiruvaiyaru on foot forced to return to camp by militants opening fire.

In Colombo, a bomb explodes inside a trishaw parked outside a cinema in Kotahena injuring 29. Injured removed to hospitals.

JUNE 12

The suspicious manner in which a black mystery ship is anchored off the coast of Palaithivu in the north, is causing fear among the peoples of the islands around. Large number of residents of Mandaitivu are evacuating their homes, and the island looks deserted. Those who had seen the ship say that those responsible for the massacre of the 34 Tamil fishermen on the 10th came from this ship.

In Trincomalee, 50 Tamil youths are arrested in connection with the two bus explosions on Wednesday last. Curfew renewed for another 12 hours from 5 p.m. Tension prevails with Tamils being assaulted in town area.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam confront an army convoy of over 35 armoured vehicles, that arrived at Mantai from Thalady camp, and in a shoot-out kill a number of soldiers and seriously injure a few more. 2 vehicles destroyed in rocket launcher attacks. Lt.Thamilarasuvaran (Arjuna) of the LTTE is killed in the course of the encounter.

In Vavuniya, more than 300 Special Task Force commandos arrive from Colombo, and occupy quarters allotted to District Medical Officer and officers of the Highways Department.

In Jaffna, security forces sentry from Fort camp shoots and injures Rasalingam Vimalan (22) who came to Beach Road to buy cigarettes. Injured admitted to hospital.

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

In Mahindapura village, Mutur, men in uniform shoot and kill 19 Tamil refugees and 2 Grama Sevaka officers returning to camp with cart loads of rations collected by them at Seruwila Co-operative Society.

JUNE 13

In Trincomalee, 150 Tamil youths taken into custody by security forces conducting search operations in Bazaar area. Curfew renewed from 7 p.m.

In, Vavuniya, over 1000 soldiers, accompanied by armoured vehicles and hooded individuals, cordon Thachchankulam, Pandarikulam and take into custody 10 persons including students and a postal employee. Visiting Velikulam Maha Vidyalayam they distribute pamphlets, printed in red and skull and bones embossed, warning Tamil teachers.

In Mannar, artillery firing and shelling from inside Thalayady army camp destroy about 15 houses in Thiruketheswaram. Number of people injured.

In Colombo, "Island" reports, quoting National Security Ministry, that security forces shot dead 26 terrorists who were travelling in 3 vans at Thananpankulam, Mannar from a helicopter.

In Valvettiturai, at dawn a sea plane circles several times. Following this, 5 naval speed boats, 3 plastic boats and 2 vallams are seen engaged in unloading heavy packages from a big naval vessel and carrying them into Valvettiturai army camp.

JUNE 14

In Valvettiturai, troops come out of army camp in two separate columns one from the South and the other from the East. LTTE guerillas mount offensive on both columns. After heavy shoot-out troops retreat into camp. Five to six soldiers believed killed.

Villages around Kilinochchi subjected to continuous artillery firing and shelling from inside army camp from yesterday evening. Town deserted with all shops, factories and trade establishments remaining closed. No signs of the 50,000 who evacuated Kilinochchi town, Kanagapuram, Paravipanchan, Anandapuram, Thirunagar, Karadipokku last week returning to their homes. Traffic from Jaffna diverted at Paranthan.

According to LTTE, soldiers who attempted to come out of Kilinochchi Army camp had been forced to return to camp with heavy losses, and Sooty (Tharnapuram) one of their fighters died in the shoot-out.

A Sinhalese Home Guard shot dead by unknown persons at Trincomalee-Horowapotana road. He is suspected to have taken part in killing Tamils the previous week.

In Selvanagar, Trincomalee, a Grama Sevaka Officer shot dead by unknown persons.

JUNE 15

Shelling from inside Jaffna Fort Army camp towards Koddady causes tension and fear among residents. This sudden shelling leaves 2 injured and a house damaged. It is reported that such shelling is initiated every time troops move into Fort camp from Pannai Policemen's Quarters or vice versa.

In Kilinochchi, the second phase of the confrontation that began yesterday continues. Security forces attempt to come out of camp during curfew hours in the morning. LTTE guerillas launch offensive using sophisticated weapons and artillery shells. Heavy fighting erupts and goes on till evening. Meanwhile a helicopter strafes areas surrounding the camp and many are feared injured.

In Colombo, Defence Ministry sources report that 10 armed militants shot dead in Ulukulam, Vavuniya.

In Kilinochchi, service operations at the Ceylon Transport Board comes to a standstill. Workers are frightened to report for work there following the attack on them by the armed forces who entered the depot during the recent disturbances.

Ban on lagoon fishing in the North imposed by Govt. renders 35,000 families destitute, depriving them of their primary source of livelihood.

Colombo newspaper, "Island" reports that the Minister for National Security Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali confirmed launching of operations by security forces against the terrorists in Jaffna peninsula without giving details. It also reports, quoting security forces, heavy fighting in Valvettiturai where 15 terrorists had been killed.

JUNE 16

Soldiers proceed on foot from Thondamanaru army camp to Palaly army camp walking along beaches, roads, fields and farms. En route fishermen fishing along the coast, farmers working in their fields are arrested. 19-year old Nallathamby Indirakumar a student of Idaikkadu Maha Vidyalayam, returning from his farm is also arrested. After interrogation the fishermen and farmers are released. Later the youth was asked to run and shot in his head. He dies on the spot and relatives remove the body after the army left.

Residents of Myliddy along the main road, out of fright, run interior on seeing soldiers coming towards Kankesanturai from Palaly. The latter open fire and 3-year old Dilani Gnanapiragasam dies on the spot with her brain smashed.

Bridge at Kilinochchi-Karadipokku junction blasted by some unknown persons. All traffic comes to a standstill.

Railway announces temporary suspension of their services to Trincomalee consequent to detecting a land mine underneath the Galoya railway bridge.

In Kilinochchi, fighting between the Armed forces and militants continue for the third day. Attempt made by Armed forces to come out of camp thwarted by continuous firing by LTTE guerillas. Militants blast a bridge at Iranaimadu-Poongavanam junction. Air attack resumed by the security forces. More people evacuate. All Govt. offices and schools remain closed.

In Valvettiturai, hundreds rendered destitute consequent to attacks by Armed forces during the past 3 days.

JUNE 17

In Pt. Pedro, LTTE guerillas mount offensive as soldiers attempt to come out of camp. The latter retreat into camp following which shelling from within the camp commences. St. Therese's Convent, Pt. Pedro is badly damaged.

93 families who evacuated from villages around the newly opened Vasavilan Maha Vidyalayam Army camp seek assistance from GA Jaffna. It is reported that more than 25 houses surrounding the camp had been burnt down.

Mutilated corpses, strewn clothes and damaged bicycles found on roads bounding the Vasavilan Maha Vidyalayam Army camp. These are believed to be of those who had gone on these roads without knowing the establishment of an Army camp in the Vidyalayam.

Armed forces attempt to come out of Jaffna Fort and Pannai Policemen's Quarters. On being signalled by their sentries, militants mount offensive and force them to remain in the camps. Shelling commences from inside Jaffna Fort. Tension in Jaffna town.

Over a hundred soldiers come out of Palaly Army camp, along runway and proceed towards Kadduvan. Militants mount offensive and soldiers return to camp. Immediately following a helicopter takes off from Palaly, circles and strafes Palaly, Kadduvan, Myliddy, Kurumbacuity and Punnalaikadduvan areas. Meantime a contingent from Vasavilan camp moves into Palaly camp along the road recently opened for their exclusive use. These army movements, gunship strafing generate fear and residents of Vasavilan, Ottakapulam, Vadamoolai, Thidatpulam, Kittiyapulam, Punnalaikadduvan evacuate their homes and move into adjoining villages.

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JUNE 18

Troops together with arms and ammunition are poured into the North. 2 ship loads are landed at Karainagar naval yard and another ship load at Kankasanturai harbour. A contingent of the arrivals are moved to Mandaitivu camp.

In Mullikulam, Mannar, militants launch offensive on troops patrolling in armoured vehicles. Heavy fighting ensues as the army returns fire. 3 soldiers die in the confrontation. Innocent civilians are also attacked by the army. It is reported that a helicopter was circling and strafing the area of conflict.

In Colombo, 12 Tamil families living in shacks along Gunananda Mawatha, Kotahena, forcibly ejected and their belongings robbed. They have been rendered refugees and are sheltered in Kotahena Mariamman Temple and Ceylon Workers' Congress headquarters.

A few days back in Colombo, Police are reported to have arrested a Sinhalese possessing a pistol, few rounds of cartridges and an iron rod attempting to enter President's house. After questioning, 4 more arrests including an army corporal have been made. Further investigations are continuing.

In Munnaikkadu, Batticaloa, a young housewife faints and dies on hearing that her husband who went shopping had been arrested by Special Task Force commandos. Murugan, the arrested villager, released by the Special Task Force the following day, returns home to find his dead wife.

LTTE in a statement says that their guerillas attacked a contingent of 150 soldiers who were coming to Kilinochchi camp from Kakkavil camp on foot and forced to retreat.

In Valvetturai, 3 soldiers die and many more injured by cylinder bomb attack for the third time on armed forces attempting to come out of camp. In retaliation 10 rounds of shelling from inside the camp destroys houses in Orikkadu.

In Poonthoddam, Vavuniya, 4 youths are found tied to a tree alive. It is reported that these men had been so tied by militants on charges of theft. Army on hearing this, comes to the spot and untie them.

JUNE 19

In Kilinochchi, about 150 soldiers accompanied by a scout car and armoured vehicles coming out of camp on foot proceed towards Thirunagar and Jayanthinagar on 'search and destroy' operations. Militants mount offensive attacking with rocket launchers and other sophisticated weapons, destroying scout car. An Army officer is killed and 5 soldiers injured. Planes and helicopter giving aerial cover on being fired at, move away from the site of confrontation.

In Mullaitivu, militants open fire at soldiers coming out of camp, on foot, on their way to Pudukudiyiruppu, opposite the Mullaitivu hospital. Several soldiers are injured. Helicopter takes off from camp, circles and strafes the area around the hospital. Militants open fire at helicopter. Damaged helicopter lands outside the Army camp. Soldiers retreat to camp. Plane drops bombs killing 2 civilians and damaging a few houses. Bus services disrupted.

Army arrests Govt. contractor S. Rajaratnam at the Vavuniya Kachcheri.

Govt. acquires 645 acres of land, within the 1000 meter security zone for expansion of Palaly Air Force base. This land area contains 400 plots, with 250 permanent, temporary houses and huts. In the recent past, people living in these places, mostly farmers, had moved out in the face of regular strafing from helicopters and shelling from inside the camp.

E.P.R.L.F in a statement says that in a gun battle, with armed forces who attempted to come out of Vasavilan camp, their military wing Tamil Eelam Army, killed 8 soldiers, and forced the soldiers to return to camp.

JUNE 20

Last night, private coaches from Colombo, on their way to Jaffna, stoned, waylaid and passengers robbed of their belongings at Wennappuwa and Kochchikade. Two coaches with shutters smashed detained at police station. New coaches expected from Colombo to take the passengers on their outward journey. Some passengers return to Colombo.

In Batticaloa, complaints are made to the GA and the Citizens' Committee that 6 persons including Selvan Kanagaratnam, Selliah Alagiah, Vannamani Selvarasa and Kanthiah Ramu, arrested earlier by armed forces at Kaluvankerny had been murdered in a mysterious manner and buried in pannaikkadu.

In Main Street, Valaichenai, Kanthiah Sountheraraja (20) "executed" and tied to a lamp post. Relatives identify the body and hand over same to hospital authorities. A placard scribbled "anti social element" sentenced to death by the Tigers found lying beside the corpse.

Mr. Mark Riyadon, London observer Correspondent, arrives in Trincomalee with the Ministry of National Security permission and visits places not affected in the ethnic disturbances. Whilst in Trincomalee, he meets GA, Co-ordinating Officer and members of the Citizens' Committee.

Kaluwanchikudi Special Task Force commandos out on 'search operations', arrest more than 60 persons including elders from wards 1 and 2 of Kalmunai and Paddiruppu.

Colombo newspaper "Island", reports that terrorists attacking security forces rescue 28 terrorist suspects captured by security forces

in the high seas off the coast of Talaimannar, adding that in the attack terrorists killed 2 soldiers.

JUNE 21

Day long fast by one hundred men and women at St. Marys' Church, Trincomalee for peace and harmony in the country and appeal for eschewing of violence. Prayers initiated by Chief Priest Rev. Nobert Occus following early morning mass. It was also resolved by the congregation to undertake fasts every Saturday till a solution is found and peace returns to the land.

In Kalmunai, opposite First Aid Dispensary, dead body of a middle-aged male, found tied to a lamp post, with multiple injuries. On information, Kaluwanchikudi Special Task Force commandos arrive at the scene. People who had collected at the spot run as they see the commandos. 3 youths from Paddiruppu village arrested by the Special Task Force.

Murugupillai Varatharajan, Chief Priest Mariyamman temple and its trustees and another 40 persons arrested by the security forces at Paddiruppu last Thursday not released as yet.

Colombo newspaper, "Island" reports quoting military sources that 16 terrorists were killed following the destruction of a dinghy by a Sri Lankan naval patrol in the northern seas off Kankasanturai. Adds that navy intercepted another dinghy off Point Pedro and took into custody 6 terrorists and 3 packs of contraband.

JUNE 22

A bomb, in a parcel left on a push bicycle in the busy market square at Kantalai, explodes around 11 a.m., killing 2 and injuring nearly 20. Seriously injured admitted to the naval hospital, Trincomalee. Rest admitted to Trincomalee Base hospital.

Citizens' Committee of Batticaloa and Amparai, presided over by Attorney K. Thangavadevel request govt. to come forward and institute a committee of Public Enquiry into the recent army atrocities in Kaluvankerny, Mamangam and Kiluthavalai that resulted in loss of life and property and untold sufferings of the residents. Govt. to be asked not to permit any army personnel to sit on such a committee.

In Colombo, police arrest thirty employees working in a vegetarian "Hotel" at Maradana, where a foreign magazine on Sri Lankan militants was being sold; all arrested are upcountry Tamils. The restaurant remains closed and interrogations of the arrested are continued by the C.I.D.

Colombo newspaper "Sun" reports that about 114 terrorist suspects arrested during the past 2 months in Batticaloa District have since been sent to the Boosa detention camp.

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Another 50 more suspects are under interrogations, adds the news report.

Govt. owned "Daily News" reports that 2 policemen who were on ambush duty at Kallawadi, Trincomalee town were mistaken for terrorists and shot at by Home Guards. Injured sent to General Hospital, Colombo.

Another report in the same newspaper says that armed terrorists forcibly removed 18 shot guns and 65 cartridges from Muslim Home Guards while they were at the mosque for prayers at Jinna Nagar, Thoppur. A few days earlier, terrorists seized 16 guns and 118 cartridges from the 54th colony.

JUNE 23

Shelling from inside Vasavilan Army camp, kills Arumugam Kanagaratnam (45) and his daughter Thayanithi (17) of Punnalaikadduvan north. The shell blast brings the father's bowels out and mutilates the daughter's body beyond recognition.

Rev. Brother Manuvel Winseslans (65) of the Tholagatti Farm, Vasavilan shot dead by armed forces after questioning him in the cattle shed where he was working and despite his showing the cross that was hung around his neck. The incident had happened two days ago.

Shelling from inside Jaffna Fort kills Satkunam, an employee working in a studio in Jaffna and coming from Periakallaru, Batticaloa.

24 Tamils travelling in the Colombo bound train from Batticaloa arrested by Special Task Force commandos at Minneriya railway station.

Vavuniya police force re-inforced by 250 additional policemen to ensure the security of the town and provide escort when transporting petrol and food supplies.

Colombo newspaper "Island" reports that one terrorist was killed and two other hurt in a clash with govt. troops near the Navatkuly army camp. Adding that the terrorist died when a mortar shell he was carrying exploded accidentally.

In Batticaloa, unknown persons rob jewellery worth over Rs. 8 lakhs from Sucheeta jewellery mart situated 1/2 mile away from police station.

JUNE 24

Areas in Trincomalee Town embracing Grand Bazaar, Kanthaswamy Kovilady, Green Stree, Small Bazaar, Sivan Kovilady cordoned off by all three forces and intensively checked from morning till evening. All day-to-day activities come to a standstill. Hundreds are arrested and taken in for questioning. Army jeeps go round announcing through loud speakers asking people to remain indoors.

123 persons leave for South India as refugees from Pesalai and Mannar. This is the first time, since Oct. '85, that such a large number has left for South India as refugees in a day.

Bandarawela Police arrest and take in for questioning 4 soldiers involved in a brawl with vegetable vendors in Town.

The case, in which 13 soldiers, including Lt. Vaz. Gunawardena, were killed in Jaffna in the LTTE ambush of 23rd July, '83 postponed, to examine a legal point raised by the defence.

Unknown persons rob many items of value from the Circuit Bungalow and Office at Peria Pullaimalai Zone in Batticaloa District belonging to the wild Life Department.

Govt. owned "Daily News" reports that troops killed 5 terrorists who attacked Navatkuli camp with mortar shells and rocket propelled grenades. It adds that in a separate incident, 16 terrorist suspects were arrested in a cordon and search operation at Valiyaru in Batticaloa district.

JUNE 25

A Govt. Motor vehicle, on its way to Kantalai from Serunuwara, hits a landmine, buried at Sittaru on Allai-Kantalai Road. 16 persons including driver and Serunuwara Grama Sevaka Officer die on the spot. Another 6 in critical condition removed to Anuradhapura hospital by helicopter.

In Pulmoddai, a Jeep on its way to Anuradhapura, carrying 7 Policemen, blown up by landmine. Jeep completely shattered and Policemen seriously injured. Removed to Anuradhapura hospital by helicopter.

A.C.T.B. bus, plying to Madawachchiya from Vavuniya, runs over landmine at Konkadavai junction in Illukulama. Three, including Driver, seriously injured and admitted to Vavuniya hospital. Another forty passengers with injuries also admitted to Vavuniya hospital.

Mrs. Ledchumi Nadarajah (24) of Thuraineelavani 'executed' and corpse tied to the Paddiruppu Bridge with gun shot injuries. A note lying at the foot of the corpse read "traitor to society"

Mrs. Thanasekeram Manonmani (36) of Veermunai kidnapped by an armed gang and 'executed'. Corpse found tied to a tree with gun shot injuries.

Thirukovil - Akkaraipattu commandos cordon village of Vinayagapuram in Amparai and take into custody nearly 1500 persons. All but 45 released after interrogation. Arrested 45 taken to Army Camp for further investigations.

Seven persons injured, 2 seriously, in a bomb explosion opposite the Ceylon Workers' Congress Headquarters, Kollupitiya.

JUNE 26

Senior students of Kalmunai Wesley College, Pandiruppu Maha Vidyalayam, Karmel Fatima College, Ramakrishna Vidyalayam, Mamangam Vidyalayam boycott classes demanding the release of S. Yogeswaran, a 10th Std. student of Kalmunai Wesley College, arrested by Kaluwanchikkudi STF commandos last week.

Religious and social organisations take out procession carrying the "CROSS" from St. Anthony's Church, Pt. Pedro to St. Anthony's Church, Karaveddi condemning the killing of Rev. Brother Wenceslows of Vasavilan Tholagatti Ashram.

Ship 'Köttara', pulling out of Trincomalee harbour with 800 Tamil youths for detention at Boosa recalled to the harbour on instructions from higher authorities.

Militants mount offensive on security forces who go to Puliyankulam, Uppuvel on search and destroy operations. Security forces retaliate. No casualties.

Joint Operations Command Headquarters report from Colombo that 5 soldiers were injured in a landmine blast at Pt. Pedro last evening.

Colombo newspaper 'Sun' reports that an Air Force Plane, on a training flight, caught fire over Ratmalana Airport. Crew touch down at the Airport and escape, but the aircraft was destroyed completely although firemen put out the fire.

Govt. owned "Daily News" reports that terrorists who approached from the jungles attacked the Nilaveli Army Camp with rocket and mortar shells in addition to automatic firearms. They retreated when armed forces counter attacked.

SITUATION REPORT

(Continued from page 2)

What has happened despite all this? he asked. During the past five days more than 500 people were killed. Thirty people getting killed is nothing in Sri Lanka today. This is what our papers say. The foreign newspapers say a different thing.

The Indian government only deplores the killing of Tamils. In Jaffna today there is no civil administration. The government apparatus does not work.

Predominantly Sinhalese areas like Medirigiriya were also attacked by terrorists and innocent people killed. The terrorists had crossed the river at Mullaitivu and entered Medirigiriya to attack the villagers there. In the face of all these dastardly acts what does the Finance Minister say? He wants to give graciously what you cannot hold on to.

The Madras "Hindu" has accused government security forces of killing 60 Tamils in Muttur.

As far as the SLFP is concerned, we want a settlement to the present problem, but not a kind of settlement the government is now attempting to bring about in the peak of its defeat. Don't go behind the backs of the people. The sanction of the people should be sought.

District Minister for Hambantota: Why don't you go to the Political Parties Conference and say all this without going around the countryside announcing it?

Continuing the Matugama MP charged that the government sent a different set of proposals to Chidambaram and gave them another version. The government is scared. All this is a farce, he said.

(The Island - 26th July, 1986)

Sinhala undergrad held

A Sinhalese student of the Kattubedde University has been arrested by the Criminal Investigations Department for alleged links with Tamil separatist movements. Sixty more Sinhalese had been arrested during the course of this year for similar offences.

The CID recently launched investigations into Sinhalese and other non-Tamil persons links with the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). The undergraduate was taken into custody after evidence connected him with PLOT, CID sources said.

Of the other 60 being detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 45 are believed to have been active supporters of PLOT and the others of EPRLF, investigators said.

(SUN - 26th July, 1986)

Nothing to fear - Lalith

National Security Minister, Lalith Athulathmudali on Monday said that the people today did not fear the proposed decentralising of power, but their fears and suspicions centred on how this power so decentralised would be used. People have suspicions whether the decentralising of power would have serious repercussions. I wish to assure the nation that if the power is misused by the Provincial Councils the President can enforce an emergency and deal with the situation appropriately. A two-third majority is not required now to enforce emergency. This could be done on a simple majority, the Minister said.

Mr. Athulathmudali was addressing the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the JSS of the Sri Lanka Tyre Corporation in Kelaniya on Monday.

Speaking further the Minister said that the Central Government could also intervene if Provincial Councils misused funds. At Darley Road I saw a poster which decreed that under the PC system 61 percent of the sea shore will belong to the Tigers. This is a rather sad misconception. The sea shore will not be given to anybody outside the Central Government. Even in India it is that. Nowhere in the world are the powers of the Army, Navy and Air Force decentralised. All these function directly under the Central Government. In case of the Police, the PCs will get police powers. However, the officers will be drawn from a national unit and not from a provincial unit. The national policy will be in the hands of the Central Government. The people need not fear, the Minister said....

(The Island - 28th July, 1986)

No Solution says Sirimavo

"The Sri Lanka Freedom Party has opposed the proposals of the President submitted to the Political Party's Conference as they would not solve the ethnic problem of the country. If the proposals were to be implemented they would further aggravate the present situation of the country. A major change in the constitution should be made only with the approval of the masses". This was stated by Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, leader of the S.L.F.P. She was addressing the inaugural mass rally over the proposals of the government put forward at the P.P.C. The public meeting was held at the Bandaragama town.

Speaking further she said the people were living in a very critical period and there had never been such a period in the history of the country. The people lived in fear not only in North and East but almost in the whole country, as they did not know when and where a bomb would blast.

She said though the government claimed that the main reason behind the ethnic problem was making Sinhala the Official Language it

was not so. She said that a country like India where so many languages were used still the official language was Hindi. In Sri Lanka where 74% spoke Sinhala it was unreasonable to make Tamil an official language.

The President, she said, could not find a political solution, as he was bent on destroying the S.L.F.P. Now the problem had become so acute that a solution was difficult to be found, she said. "With all the peace moves by the S.L.M.P. and other political parties this problem had aggravated and the killing of the innocent people had increased" she added.

(The Island - 28th July, 1986)

Indian Diplomat in Jaffna

The guns in and around the Jaffna Fort were silent last Monday (21.7.86) when a dashing figure emerged from its ramparts and strode towards the Jaffna Hospital. The Indian High Commissioner's First Secretary (Political) Hardip Puri made a brief visit to Jaffna to take charge of the Rameswaram fisherman Veluthevan Ganapathi who was receiving treatment at the Jaffna Hospital.

He was scheduled to arrive at Palaly at 8.30 a.m. and travel to Jaffna by car. But a last minute change by the authorities compelled him to travel by helicopter to the Fort. The authorities then wanted the patient to be brought to the Fort. Ganapathi did not budge from the hospital bed. Finally Puri came walking to the hospital.

During his brief stay of 4 hours in Jaffna, Hardip Puri met a cross section of the Jaffna public comprising Bishop Deogupillai, the Municipal Commissioner, Lorry Owners' Association, the G.M.O.A., Jaffna Branch. He also visited the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple and the refugee camp in Sankilithoppu.

Puri's observation in Colombo was "there is strong constituency for peace in Jaffna". Although Puri was in a hurry, to the Jaffna public the visit was a significant event. Ever since 1983, Jaffna has been talking about Indians like Parthasarathy, Bhandari, Venkateswaran, Chidambaram, Matwal, Dixit etc. But none of them have been seen in the flesh.

So Hardip Puri with his beard and turban personified India to Jaffna like the "Air India Maharajah".

Also his name conjured up visions of a dainty dish.

But on his return to the Fort by car some sentries wanted him to proceed on foot. So walking he entered Jaffna and walking he made his exit.

But he walked in beauty! and in duty.

(SATURDAY REVIEW - 26th July, 1986)

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 by Sri Lankan newspapers:-

SIVAGNANAM (Malaysia) - Husband of Sinnamma, father of Kasi Viswanathan, Selvarathy, Inpavathy, Sriskanthanathan, Araakulanathan of Germany, Vigneswaran, Bharathy. Father - in - law of Ravini, K. M. Pillay, Rajasooriar of Saudi Arabia. Funeral 17th July. Sanguveli.

PARAMESHWARAN RAJANATHAN - Husband of Saraswathy, father of Rajan and Yogi. Funeral 17th July. 7/6, Alexandra Road, Wellawatte.

THARMARATNAM - Lily, wife of S. D.

Tharmaratnam, mother of Prim (U. K.), Tharmaseelan (U. K.), Bobby (Australia) and Kannan (India). Funeral 23rd July. 30, Milner Road, Merton Park, London SW 19 3AA

APPATHURAI - Sinniah. Husband of Kamalambikai, father of Ahilandeswari, Vethanayagam, Rasapoopathy, Puvaneswary, Seethaluxmy. Cremation at Chemmany on 30th July. "Parkview", 10, Chemmany Road, Nallur, Jaffna.

SELVIAH SAM. W - Husband of Srīma, father of Sriani and Navam Chinniah (USA),

Tilak and Corrine and Suresh (USA). Funeral at General Cemetery on 31st July. 10 Carlwill Place, Colombo - 3.

PHILLIPS - Randolph Balachandran - Husband of Vasantha, and father of Sharmila. Expired 11th July. 341 Asbin Bld, Windsor, Outario, Canada.

ATKENTELL - At rest Cicol A. Ratnam. Husband of Mary, father of Rajan, Jeyan, Dharman and Selvan. 8, Marlings Close, Whyteleage, Surrey, U. K.