

**SRI
LANKA
SITUATION
REPORT**

EDITOR
S. Sivanayagam

Published by the Tamil Information & Research Unit (TIRU),
Besant Nagar, Madras, India, on behalf of Tamil Information Centre,
3rd Floor, 24-28 Clapham High St. London SW4 7UR, U.K.

SITUATION REPORT

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

Resettlement plans

More than 125,000 refugees, mostly from the north and east are to be resettled before the setting up of the Provincial Councils, the Ministry of Rehabilitation announced yesterday. The Ministry is also making arrangements for talks with Indian authorities to resettle the 100,000 Sri Lankan refugees from Tamilnadu, Secretary Austin Fernando said.

He told a news conference a survey done recently in India had revealed that 75% of the Sri Lankan refugees in India wanted to return to Sri Lanka. About 400 families had already returned, he said.

The ministry is also working out an accelerated master plan for rehabilitation, after the implementation of the provincial councils, he said. The plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year and presented to the government.

The government has already allocated Rs. 2.5 million for resettlement of 250 fisher families from Kokkilai. A similar plan would be worked out to resettle 224 families in Mannar. The last welfare centre at Mannar would be closed down by the end of this month and the refugees resettled in Vavuniya, Mr. Fernando said.

(SUN-16th August, 1986)

Home Guard robber

Three alleged robbers including a Home Guard who waylaid a Matara-bound coach at Angulana and escaped with items worth Rs.115,000 were arrested by Police yesterday. Another suspect evaded arrest by jumping into the sea when he was pursued, Police said. Three loaded pistols and two knives were also recovered by Police who raided a hideout near the Angulana railway station.

(SUN-16th August, 1986)

Anura's lament

"...Mr. Anura Bandaranaike said that onethird of Sri Lanka was ruled by the terrorists who have taken full control and driven the Sinhalese to the South. During the 12-year rule of the SLFP, the Lion flag flew from Point Pedro to Dondra; now the terrorists have hauled down the Lion flag. Out of the 75,000 Sinhalese who were in Jaffna and 50,000 in Vavuniya only 150 remain in Vavuniya and hardly any Sinhalese civilians except the security forces remain in Jaffna. The Eelam separatists were responsible for this pathetic state of affairs since 1983.

Tracing the various events which led to the present crisis Mr. Bandaranaike said that the SLFP was opposed to the division of the

country as devolution of power to Provincial Councils will weaken the hold of the Sinhalese in the land of their birth. He has scrutinised the proposals sent to New Delhi and the proposals sent to the political parties in Sri Lanka. The two differed from each other and these were double faced in that in the proposals sent to New Delhi, government has precisely stated that when once the devolution of power takes effect after the presentation of the bill in Parliament, elections to the Provincial Councils will be held only in the North and East in respect of those two Provincial Councils. No elections will be held in respect of the composition of the balance seven councils in the South as District Councils which now operate in the other seven provinces will function...."

(The Island-18th August, 1986)

Trouble in Wildlife park

Talgasmankada, one of the seven bungalows of the Yala National Park, was destroyed on Saturday night, and sounds of explosions and gunfire were intermittently heard within the wildlife sanctuary till yesterday morning. Dr. Shelton Atapattu, Director of the Department of Wildlife Conservation, said yesterday.

Officials attempting to identify the intruders were yet uncertain however whether they were terrorists or poachers masquerading as terrorists. "It is quite possible that illicit timber fellers and ganja cultivators are attempting to maintain a hold on the Strict Natural Reserve by terrorising the staff of the Department of Wildlife Conservation", an official said.

Wildlife department men who moved into the reserve during the last three months found it virtually "occupied" by strong groups of poachers. They claim to have ejected as many as 1,500 from the reserve during this period. "There were hunters, ganja planters and gempers among them", a department man said...."

(Daily News-18th August, 1986)

Tristar probe: New team

Police chief Cyril Herath, has named a new two-member team to probe the explosion on board Airlanka's Lockheed Tristar jet in May, this year. It will be handled by Bennet Perera, Superintendent of Police and will comprise A.S.P.Punchi Banda Seneviratne.

Already disciplinary inquiries are underway on a previous investigation team for allegedly passing information regarding the inquiry to persons who were under investigation. The three-member team attached to the commission is now under interdiction.

This has already set serious posers to the Presidential Commission of inquiry which was appointed to investigate the explosion. The Commission appointed on July 15, 1986 is expected to hand over its report on September 15, 1986. However, the interdiction of the three detectives led to the investigations coming to a standstill.

"SUN" reliably learns that the new team is to

question a number of persons including some Air Lanka persons.

(Sun-19th August, 1986)

Ronnie's advice to the Sinhalese

Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel challenged the SLFP leadership here on Saturday to name any country in the world which had suffered disintegration or loss of independence as a result of the provincial administration system. The Minister pointed out that the devolution of power from the centre to the circumference would only strengthen the unity of a nation and it was the ideal solution to ensure the peace and harmony in a multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic society.

The Minister was addressing a mammoth rally which followed the opening of a new National Savings Bank branch in the Bandarawela town. Mr. de Mel said the late Mr.S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike was a well known advocate of provincial administration and he had been inspired by the success of this system in Switzerland which was a smaller country than Sri Lanka.

He recalled that the late Mr. Bandaranaike wanted to implement the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact in 1958. The only reason why the UNP opposed this pact then was that it envisaged the Northern and Eastern Provinces as one administrative unit.

"I can quote chapter and verse to show that the late Mr. Bandaranaike was an ardent champion of provincial administration. Then why is Mrs. Bandaranaike who is supposed to be following her husband's policies opposed to this system?" he asked.

The minister said terrorism had taken a heavy toll during the last three years and the government was determined to end "the bloodbath". He charged that the SLFP leadership was trying to ride to power over "a pool of blood". People in this country will never allow this to happen" he stated.

Mr. de Mel exhorted the people to be alive to the realities of the present situation. "We should be aware of the geographical position of our country. Only a 20-mile stretch of territorial waters separate us from India with a population of 750 million. The Sinhalese here number a mere 12 million. But there is a community of 55 million ethnically linked to Tamils here across the Palk Straits. Besides this 55 million in Tamil Nadu, there are over 150 million Dravidians in the neighbouring states.

Can we change these vital factors? Can we wage a war on India which has the third biggest army in the world? Let us understand our vulnerability and seek peace. Peace will mean further development and a better living for all in the country...."

(Daily News-19th August, 1986)

(Continued on Page 7)

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from June 27—July 11 were carried in Issue No. 17 of the Situation Report

JULY 12

Two die and eight (including an infant) injured by firing from low flying helicopter at passengers travelling from Kilinochchi to Jaffna in a tractor at Vannankulam, Iyakkachchi. The dead are from Kandavalai and Vattakachchi. Injured admitted to hospital. Tractor damaged.

In Trincomalee, parents unable to know the whereabouts of the 50 youths arrested by the security forces on 9th complain to the Citizens' Committee. Corpses of the 11 persons shot and killed by the security forces yet lying at hospital without anyone claiming and taking over.

Lorry transporting chillies from Jaffna to Colombo set on fire and destroyed at Velsarapura near Kurunegala, by unknown Sinhala persons. Farmer owner of chillies dies on the spot. Driver K. Arumugam (50) and cleaner Pathmanathan admitted to hospitals with serious injuries.

Mortar launch off Vidathativu in the Mannar seas fired from helicopter gunship and shelled from gunboat and destroyed. Occupants are killed. Details not known.

STF commandos from Thirukovil camp and soldiers from Komari army camp cordon Thandiady village in Thirukovil, Pottuvil and arrest more than 100 persons in the early hours of the day.

On account of regular surveillance flights by helicopter over Kaithady-Kopay bridge, parents are frightened to send their children to Kalaivani Vidyasalai located close to the bridge. It is to be mentioned here that the roof of this school was damaged a week back by helicopter firing in this area.

Curfew renewed in Trincomalee from 6 pm to 6 am. Tension prevails for the fourth successive day with restricted movement of people. All vehicles running in the town area checked and re-checked by the armed forces. City scavengers keep away from work consequent to firing in which two of their children are injured and admitted to hospital.

Valvettirai camp being strengthened. Hundreds of soldiers arrive by a naval ship and are brought to camp by motor launches with full protection.

On a confrontation between militants and army at the entrance to the Pt. Pedro army camp, Thomas (Ratriswaran of Ariyalai) is killed.

JULY 13

Night curfew in Trincomalee for the fifth successive day. People living in mortal fear. Gun shots at intervals at nights aggravate tension and they spend sleepless nights.

On the 11th, in Mamaduwavu in Vavuniya, Home Guards shot and killed Piyadasa Subasinghe (21) a Sinhalese, who defied "Halt" orders. Body at hospital mortuary.

In Vavuniya, army men in black uniform accompanied by armoured vehicles and soldiers on foot carry out 'search operations' in Kudiyiruppu, Poonthoddam, Rambaikulam, Kovilkulam villages from 3 pm to 7 pm on 12th. Troops given air cover by a helicopter. In Poonthoddam, Periyarkulam, a young married woman, aged 34, raped by 2 army men when she was at home with her children.

Soldiers from Kilinochchi army camp attempting to cordon Jayanthipuram and Thirunagar for search operations attacked by militants and forced to return. The confrontation lasted 3½ hours. On their way back to camp, soldiers fire indiscriminately killing 3 civilians and injuring many more.

In a statement LTTE says that an attempt by over 300 soldiers from the Thallady camp to overrun their own camp at Adampan was successfully repelled despite air cover to the govt. troops by a sea plane, 2 planes and 2 helicopters. The statement adds that in the encounter a South African manufactured armoured vehicle was damaged by cylinder bomb and the inmates were killed. 3 of their men injured.

Referring to the same incident, Colombo newspaper "The Island" reports that 15 terrorists have been killed when security forces attacked a terrorist hide-out located in the jungles of Adampan, Mannar during the early hours. It adds that security personnel recovered a large haul of arms and ammunitions. Two soldiers injured in the operation, they say.

In Jaffna, all 5 major militant groups organise and lead a massive procession from Maruthanmadam demonstrating against Provincial Councils and shouting slogans against the atrocities of the govt. on the helpless population and condemning the attitude of the TULF leaders in engaging in "meaningless" discussions. The procession assembles at the Jaffna campus where a meeting was held.

In Negombo, a Tamil youth travelling in a mini bus assaulted and robbed of his gold chain, gold ring and wristlet by a person in

commando uniform. Police arrest the assailant.

Tamil students from the estates attending Tamil school in Kegalle town complain to their principal of harassment and assault by Sinhalese students on their way to school.

JULY 14

At the 10th unit in Pavatkulam, Vavuniya, last night, black uniformed army men coming in a jeep shoot and kill 11 innocent colonists, 9 males and 2 females including all the members of a family. It is reported that 2 of those killed were Sinhalese and the rest Tamils.

Militants mount offensive as soldiers come out of army camp at Valvettirai early morning. Farmer Rasa (60) who was watering his garden at that time shot dead by the soldiers. Gun battle between both parties for nearly 6 hours, within a range of 75 yards of each other. Helicopter comes out in assistance to the unit on ground and fires continuously. Several houses damaged. Shelling from inside army camp towards residential areas. Two youths injured. It is reported that 6 soldiers were killed and many more injured.

Tamil youths under remand in Welikade prison, who had intimated their intention to fast into death if they are not tried within two weeks, refuse to accept letters sent to them in Sinhala.

Further reports on yesterday's incident in Mannar put the death toll to nearly 80 including 6 soldiers. According to local information, in the indiscriminate aerial bombing it is the innocent civilians, men, women and children who were worst affected and killed. More than 50 houses were damaged and it is suspected that more dead bodies are yet lying in the uncleared debris.

Black uniformed men in patrolling naval boat off the coast of Valvettirai shoot and kill Jayadas of Inparutti who was out fishing in his Kattamaran with his brother-in-law in the early hours. Udayakumar his brother-in-law dives into the sea and escapes. Jayadas' body was later discovered tied to the Kattamaran anchor with gun shot and sword cut injuries.

LTTE in a statement says that soldiers who came out of Mutur-Kattaparichchan camp were attacked by them and forced to retreat. It is believed that a few soldiers died and a few more injured.

C. Chandirakanthan (36) of Kamparmalai and E. Vaitialgam (80) of Valvettirai injured by

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

shrapnel of shells fired from inside Valvettiturai army camp and admitted to hospital.

A private lorry on its way to Mannar from Jaffna set ablaze by armed forces on Adampan-Mannar road. Whereabouts of driver and cleaner not known

JULY 15

A modern power boat, fitted with guns, anchored at the Karainagar naval base jetty blow up in pieces on LTTE guerrillas detonating sea-mine already laid by them. It is reported that all those were in the boat had been killed.

More corpses recovered in Mannar Adampan area. In the Adampan incident, 7 Muslim Tamils belonging to one family locked inside a shop and set on fire. More than ninety Tamils from Adampan are reported missing.

Unknown youths enter "Elephant House" bottling plant, located in harbour St., an active spot in Trincomalee town, from the rear side, tie up the watchers, and bomb blast the buildings last night. Machinery damaged and buildings razed to the ground. Damages estimated at Rs. 3 millions. No casualties. Army arrives in the morning and take into custody the watchers who were on duty at the entrance to the bottling plant and a few others for investigations.

Attempt by about 100 soldiers to come out of Pt. Pedro army camp stalled by militants mounting offensive against them. Cross firing goes on for over 2 1/2 hours.

Julian Tyrone Fernando (55), a tailor of Palaiyootu, Kilavipalam, shot dead by Home Guards as he leaves home to purchase certain items in a nearby shop.

Army shoots and kills Bakeer Bawa Sahul (32), a Muslim Tamil at Nilaveli in Trincomalee district.

Last night, 15 armed men enter Valaichchenai Paper Factory and take away machine spare parts, food items and reams of paper worth about 5 1/2 lakhs in three tractors belonging to the factory.

In Kayts, near the market place, lorry transporting goods belonging to one Phillipiah, shot at from helicopter gunship and badly damaged.

EPRLF militants encounter a contingent of soldiers, numbering over 200, as they were coming towards Silawatte from the Mullaitivu army camp and open fire. Gun battle ensues and continues for sometime. Unable to face the heavy firing from the militants, soldiers retreat to camp. It is believed that at least 2 soldiers died and several injured. Buses to Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Vavuniya from Jaffna passing through Mullaitivu detained at Mullaitivu Depot for a few hours and released towards the afternoon.

Colombo newspaper "The Island" reports

that Police commandos recovered a large quantity of food items, medicines and a tractor from a EPRLF terrorist camp at Kangikudachchiam, Thirukovil in Batticaloa.

JULY 16

In Mutur, soldiers from Mutur, Dehiwatte and Seruwila army camps cordon Mallikaitivu, Manalchenai, Peruvali and Pattithidal villages and shoot and kill 67 innocent Tamil civilians including 30 refugees from the Peruvali Tamil Refugee camp. It is reported that the forces who entered the refugee camp, called out the refugees, lined them up and shot them. Another 30 Tamils were arrested and taken to camp. Whereabouts of those arrested are not known.

Militants attack soldiers from Thondamanaru army camp who attempt to effect repairs to the damaged main bridge which hampered easy movement. 3 army men including an officer killed and another soldier injured. The dead and injured picked up by helicopter. Immediately following, shells are fired from inside camp. 2 civilians including a woman injured and admitted to hospital.

LTTE guerrillas fling hand grenade at a jeep coming out of Thirukovil army camp. Commandos inside are injured and stunned. It is reported that guerrillas recovered First Aid medicines, equipment and dressings.

Another jeep that left from the same camp within a few hours of the earlier incident smashed in a land mine explosion detonated by LTTE guerrillas at Thandiady, Amparai. It is believed that a number of commandos were killed and a few others injured.

In Pooneryn, 2 civilians attacked by army men and taken to camp.

Jaffna Telephone Exchange Staff, who kept from work, for the past 2 months, on grounds of insecurity, resume work on being assured of provision of security measures by the army and departmental officers.

After an interval of many days, a contingent of over 100 soldiers from the Kankasanturai army camp proceed to Keerimalai a distance of 2 miles, on foot and return. A gun boat was covering them from off the coast and returned with them.

In the early hours yesterday, in Polonnaruwa, offices of the National Housing Development Authority completely gutted. Important documents relating to loans amount to Rs. 65 millions granted to the public by the board, several hundreds of deeds and "Swarna Bhoomi" deeds also burnt to ashes. It is reported that the steel cabinet inside the buildings contained Rs. 7 lakhs in cash.

The number of army check posts in Mannar increased following the incidents in Adampan, causing much inconvenience to passengers.

It is reported that a number of corpses are lying in the jungles of Adampan in a decomposed state, causing a foul smell in the area.

JULY 17

CTB bus that left Mullaitivu for Vavuniya, carrying 45 passengers, fired at and shelled from helicopter gunship at Nedunkerni. In this barbarous attack, 15 passengers including 3 women, 2 Muslims and driver Emmanuvel (50) are killed on the spot. 18 passengers injured and admitted to hospitals.

At Mutur hospital, the Mutur Magistrate after identification hands over 35 of the dead bodies (including 2 women) of the helpless Tamils massacred by the armed forces yesterday. No news of the rest of the bodies taken away by the forces after the gruesome act.

Mutur Police, grieved at the manner in which the civilians were slaughtered by the armed forces refuse to collect the dead bodies and take them to the hospital mortuary. Following this refusal, army carries out this work.

In a statement, EPRLF says that the People's Liberation Army attacked a contingent of over 200 soldiers who come out of Vasavilan camp and killed 7 soldiers. Several are reported to be injured. Army retreats to camp.

Shell fired from Pt. Pedro Joint camp kills Resitta (3) and seriously injures Mark Annamma (70), Amirthanathan Sebamalai-nayaki (25) and her infant daughter Resitta (3 months). Injured admitted to hospitals.

Army men in black uniform and regular soldiers carrying guns, knives, axes and swords enter the fishing hamlet of Pallikkudah, in Pooneryn and threaten the migrant fisherfolk to vacate the area. Shots are fired. Mathew Arulnayagam (17) engaged in mending fishing nets, injured and later admitted to Jaffna hospital. In the commotion many run for shelter and some are yet reported missing. Some are feared dead. These migrant fishermen, out of fright, return to their native places in Navanturai, Passayoor, Navaly and Gurunagar by boats.

60 new armoured vehicles move towards Mankulam from Vavuniya along Jaffna road. Soldiers accompany both in vehicles and on foot as well. Lorries, bowsers, trucks and big guns mounted on wheels follow the armoured vehicles. A new kind of armoured vehicles, new to the north, are also in this convoy. Transport between vavuniya and Mankulam disrupted.

Staff of the Jaffna Telephone Exchange who resumed work only yesterday, after keeping away for nearly 2 months, on grounds of insecurity, become panicky as firing erupts from the neighbouring police married quarters occupied by the army.

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

JULY 18

Soldiers on patrol duty attack members of the public on the roads of Unnichchai Batticaloa and also arrest and take 10 of them into custody.

Militants attack 2 gun boats, carrying naval personnel from Karainagar naval camp towards the coast of Kayts, with mortar shells. It is reported that one of the gun boats was damaged and a militant injured.

LTTE in a statement says that on the 16th, their guerrillas attacked and killed 20 Home Guards who were on their way to Denioya from the Dollar Farm camp in a tractor to "murder and plunder our people" Tractor attacked at a place 500 yards from the camp.

Jaffna university students lead a mass demonstration condemning the mass killings by the armed forces and Home Guards of innocent Tamils at Mutur, Nedunkerny, Trincomalee, Adampan areas and the proposed Provincial Councils. More than 500 students who boycott classes participate in the procession that went along College Street, Brown Road, Adiyapatham Road, Palaly Road from the campus. On return to the campus, a public meeting is held.

Staff of the Jaffna Telephone Exchange again keep away from work complaining insecurity and tension around their working place.

More than 600 soldiers arrive at Kilinochchi. New armoured vehicles, trucks and over 20 "scout" cars also arrive. It is reported that this is only a portion of the armed forces and militaryware that is moving towards the north.

About 200 families in Adampan rendered homeless consequent to the recent acts of arson and killing by the armed forces. G.A. Mannar is making arrangements for supply of food items to these desolate people through the Sarvodaya movement.

On the 16th, LTTE guerrillas foil attempt by army contingent to run over their camp in Othiamalai Nedunkerny, Mullaitivu. In a confrontation with over 300 soldiers, the guerrillas fight a gun battle for over 5 1/2 hours and force the army to stampede and retreat. On their way back, the army gets caught to a land mine blast at Periyakulam that causes heavy casualties and injuries. Two guerrillas Sasi and Rajkumar are killed in the encounter. LTTE salutes them for their bravery and courage.

Colombo newspaper "Sun" reports that terrorists attacked a farm last night near the sugar cane factory at Kantalai and killed 10 civilians and injuring another.

Colombo newspaper "The Island" reports that a soldier was arrested in a bus at Aluthoya yesterday for having in his possession detonator wire said to have been stolen from an army camp.

JULY 19

With the operating staff at the Jaffna Telephone Exchange failing to turn up for work on grounds of insecurity, telephone calls both outstation and local are completely disrupted causing inconvenience to Govt. departments and members of the public.

Early morning more than 200 soldiers from the Kilinochchi army camp, in 16 vehicles, move towards Elephant Pass army camp LTTE guerrillas mount 'sniper' attacks on the convoy as it reaches Paranthan junction. A few soldiers believed killed on the spot. Army suspends their advance for a few hours and return to Kilinochchi in the afternoon. Whilst retreating to Kilinochchi, army opens fire at Paranthan junction. Anantharasa, an employee of the Paddy Marketing Board, Paranthan, is killed.

Naval gun boats, shelling at close intervals, patrol the seas around Eluvitivu and Analaitivu without a break. Residents in these two islands are living in constant fear unable to attend to their daily chores and other essential commitments.

Mortar and shell attacks from Karainagar naval camp towards Paruthiadaippu, Kayts cause panic among the residents. Number of houses damaged and window panes shattered. A youth seriously injured admitted to hospital. Minor injuries to few others including a woman who had gone to fetch water.

Soldiers from Pt. Pedro army camp come up to Suppermadam and set fire to houses lying alongside. As the soldiers proceed, militants mount offensive firing mortars forcing them to return to camp. 11-year old V. Chandirakumar injured when army fired from camp on return. It is believed that a few soldiers were killed and a few others injured.

More than a hundred passengers coming in a bus from Mullaitivu to Jaffna checked by armed forces at a point close close to Paranthan. Passengers, men, women and children asked to sit on the ground and kept waiting in the hot sun for over 3 hours. Threatened with death if anything were to happen to the army as had happened during the past week.

Arrangements on hand to clear the more than 300 letter bags meant for the North lying at Anuradhapura over the past few weeks via CTB transport to Vavuniya in the first instance.

JULY 20

Army men from Valvettiturai army camp bomb blast and demolish more houses lying close to their camp. Explosions emanating from these heavy charge bombs, heard up to 3 miles, shatter window panes, glass and other moveable items in houses lying within a radius of 1 1/2 miles.

Parents who had gone to Boosa detention camp to see their children report incidence of varieties of infectious diseases among the 2100 Tamil youths detained there, due to lack of sanitary facilities. Visitors prohibited from handing over of items made of glass and cooked food brought by them as a precaution against suicidal attempts. A parent reported complaint of tortuous methods employed on some of the detainees who do not 'co-operate' and he said that the detention camp looked more like a segregated infectious hospital.

Last night, 5 armed men enter a house at Vannarponnai belonging to owner of "Indira Stores" and rob cash and jewellery worth Rs. 5 lakhs, at gun point.

In a statement LTTE says that in a land mine blast, at an army convoy of 2 scout cars, 2 trucks and over 200 soldiers from Trincomalee Fort camp, a scout car was blown off and occupants as well as those walking beside were killed on the spot. Helicopter lands twice at the site and removes the injured. A Tamil passing along this road at that time, his car shot and burnt along with his car.

In Udumpankulam, Amparai, militants attack a contingent of 50 soldiers from Komari, Lagugala army camps who come out on foot, accompanied by 3 vehicles, on 'search and destroy' operation. A severe gun battle ensues and a few soldiers are killed and a few more injured. Whilst retreating to camp, army shoots 2 persons, both aged 55, dump their bodies in a house and set it on fire.

In Batticaloa, over a hundred soldiers from Kallichchai Vadamunai camp come out on foot to go to camp at Welikande. A 3/4 quarter mile from Kallichchai camp, militants attack them with cylinder bomb and 15 soldiers are killed on the spot with many injured. A contingent of over 100 soldiers rush from Welikande camp in vehicles to assist the former. Militants attack them too and a few soldiers are reported killed. Meantime helicopter lands thrice to pick the injured and killed and then flies away on being fired by militants.

Actg. Magistrate, Trincomalee, issues warrant for the arrest of Home Guard Wilson Perera for the murder of M.M. Premaratne at Andankulam.

Nearly 300 Police commandos pour into the North at Karainagar in 2 ships, with air cover by 2 helicopters. Flown out to Palaly and Mandaitivu camps in helicopters.

A first aid surgical unit with modern equipment and facilities opened at Palaly army camp to provide treatment with the least possible delay to injured army men.

A large black ship anchored 1000 yards off the coast of Pesalai. Armed soldiers in small launches guarding vigilantly. Pesalai fishermen keep away from "Karaivalai" fishing.

Black uniformed army men go about in Pooneryn for over one hour between army camp and 4th mile post.

Diary of Events

and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

JULY 21

Shells fired from inside Mannar Fort camp. Several houses damaged. Details of casualties not available. Transport at a standstill. Tension in the city.

Armed forces from near Karadiyanaru army camp, Batticaloa open fire and kill a civilian and injure several others. Five houses burnt down.

Mr. Hardip Puri, First Secretary, Indian High Commission visits Jaffna and takes charge of injured Indian fishermen Ganapathy who was receiving indoor treatment there.

Whilst in Jaffna, Mr. Puri drops in at Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation office and learns of its services. He is informed by Prof. K. Sivathamby, its newly elected President, that 214 Tamils died of violence in the Northern and Eastern provinces during the previous 20 days in addition to another 20 Tamils missing from these provinces during the same period.

Staff at the Jaffna Telephone Exchange report for work after further assurances. Faults to equipment promptly cleared and local and outstation calls restored by noon.

A second attempt by armed forces stationed at Thondamanaru army camp to prepare the foot path beside the irrigation anicut behind Selvachannathy temple for 'on foot' troops movement abandoned on Liberation Tigers tightening up security in the area. This foot path when widened could have made it possible for the troops stationed at Palaly and Thondamanaru to move out freely 'on foot' to Valvettiturai.

Owner of "Maniam Textiles", model Market, Jaffna, Mr. S. Subramaniam kidnapped by unknown persons from his residence at Thavady.

Unknown persons bomb blast and demolish office and buildings of Pooneryn Parampan Nirai Govt. Mixed School and buildings of highways dept. Explosions are heard several miles away. People living close by vacate out of fright.

In Akkaraipattu, Batticaloa, 10 Tamil farmers engaged in 'chenai' cultivation shot dead by uniformed men.

Patrolling by STF commandos replaced and intensified by police in Batticaloa district. It is reported that armed forces had refrained from going into villages on 'search operations' during the past 3 days.

Complete hartal observed in Mannar mourning for the dead in the recent Adampan killings by the armed forces. Shops, Schools and even govt. offices remain closed. Roads are deserted with no transport. Police too confined to their barracks. Explosions heard at intervals.

JULY 22

Over a hundred soldiers, accompanied by armoured vehicles, come out of Pt. Pedro army camp through Vinayagar-Mudaliyar road. Militant sentries close to the camp engage in an hour long confrontation. It is believed that a number of soldiers were injured. Low flying helicopter circles over the site but flies away as the militants open fire at it. Army retreats into camp. Shelling commences from inside the camp. Thickly populated areas of Aathiyady, Thambacity are pounded. Schools are closed. Students sitting General Certificate Examination leave hall, out of panic, and examination is disrupted.

Sinnarasa Sugirthamalar, Sinnarasa Ranjithamalar (sisters), Iyamuthu Sivanathan, Arumugam Pathmanathan, Muthukumaran Kulasekaran, Gajendran Yogarasa and Nagarasa Jeyarasa returning Trincomalee from Mullaitivu in a mortar launch on 26th ultimo reported missing. These 7 persons were returning to village of Salli in Trincomalee from where they had gone to Mullaitivu as refugees on being dislodged by ethnic disturbances.

Army personnel bomb blast and break open iron doors of a row of 9 shops, opposite Odduchuttan Irrigation Office. Provisions, hardware, rice and other valuables found inside the shops ransacked, destroyed and robbed. Up to now 49 shops at Odduchuttan have been demolished in this manner by the security forces.

Brigadier H.H. Rupasinghe, Co-ordinating Officer, Northern Region appoints Col. C.J. Abeyaratne of the Palaly army camp to look into grievances of the people of the Jaffna peninsula. Those desirous of intimating their grievances asked to address him at a Army Headquarters, Palaly or contact him on 33611 (Colombo), 23380, 24451 (Jaffna).

Ariyaratnam Ariyarat 'executed' by LTTE for furnishing information to the armed forces as to the whereabouts of their camp in Adampan and for other anti-social activities.

K. Ratnasamy of Pt. Pedro also 'executed' for furnishing information to the Defence Ministry about freedom fighters. Incriminating documents recovered from him before execution.

29 people killed and over 24 injured when a land-mine explodes in Mamaduwa, Vavuniya blowing up a CTB bus between Kachchakodiya and Vavuniya. Injured rushed to Anuradhapura hospital. Security forces are reported to be conducting combing operations to arrest culprits after intensifying security in the area.

JULY 23

Ten persons injured when a parcel bomb explodes in Mukandiram road, Vavuniya. Roof

of shop in front of site of explosion completely damaged.

Last night, militants belonging to Liberation Tigers and Tamil Eelam Army mount offensive on soldiers who attempt to come out of Jaffna Fort camp towards Koddady Amman temple and force them back into camp. Following this, shelling commences from inside the Fort camp and Married Policemen's Quarters. It is learnt that militants too fired shells in return.

Heavy shelling from inside Pt. Pedro army camp. Number of houses damaged. Cattle killed. All schools remain closed. Tension prevails.

Soldiers camping in one of the islets in the Jaffna lagoon are seen wearing T shirts with Tiger emblem printed "Puli" in Tamil and "Tigers" in English, by the islanders.

LTTE in a statement says that in a land mine blast at Notchchimoodai a few soldiers were killed and a few more injured as a contingent of over 200 soldiers accompanied by 4 vehicles move out on foot from Omantai army camp. Immediately following the blast, their guerrillas mount offensive and force the army to pull back to camp.

Artillery shells from Jaffna Fort camp hit the house of S. Sinnarasa located at Nachchimarkovilady junction, over 3 kms. from the Fort camp. As the first shell knocks out the wall, inmates run out of the house and escape death from the second shell that falls right on top of the house demolishing it, in a matter of minutes.

"Hotel Ashok" just opposite the Jaffna clock Tower too shelled from inside the Fort camp and costly glassware shattered.

Security forces out on search operations arrest over 100 persons from Wappavedduwan, Batticaloa district and take 32 to camp after interrogation.

Home Guards Dharmadasa and Cyril de Silva arrested and remanded in connection with theft at the railway canteen, Trincomalee.

Security services conduct search along Trincomalee-Kandy road right up to Harbarana, a distance of 50 miles, on information that landmines had been laid. Trincomalee town cut off for transport till noon. Air cover is given to search party by helicopter.

Tamil devotees coming to worship at Sri Kathirvelautha Swami temple beside the Central Bus Stand, Kegalle, harassed and abused by thugs, and their belongings robbed.

Colombo High Court Judge K. Vicknarajah orders proper treatment when, Rasiyah Ratnarajah a suspect in a Prevention of Terrorism Act case, complains to him of indifference and neglect in not giving treatment to his arm broken by the security services when they arrested him.

SITUATION REPORT

(Continued From Page 2)

Sambandan's mother dead

The mother of TULF's senior Vice President Mr. R. Sambandan who died after a fall on Sunday was cremated in Trincomalee yesterday. The cremation was attended by several TULF politbureau members who had to rush from Colombo from discussions yesterday.

An Upali Airlines flight took the TULF members to Trincomalee for the cremation. She was 74 years at the time of her death and had not been with her children for almost two years. She had also been ailing for some time before her fatal fall at home, a TULF source said.

(The Island—19th August, 1986)

Cake for Amir

There was a surprise in store for TULF Secretary General A. Amirthalingam when he went to the B.M.I.C.H. committee room for discussions with the Government on 26.8.1986. It was his 59th birthday.

After extending his greetings President Jayawardene invited him to the adjoining room. There was a cake there. The Government Ministers and officials sang 'Happy Birthday'. The cake was cut and everyone had a piece. The cake had only a single candle, although Amir had turned 60.

(Saturday Review, Jaffna—30th August, 1986)

Population: 16m. by '88

A declining mortality rate and an increase in the number of women in the reproductive age groups will boost Sri Lanka's population to 16 million in 1988. Government projections have revealed.

Twelve years later it will rise to 19 million, according to statistics compiled by the Population Division of the Ministry of Plan Implementation. "The population of Sri Lanka in 1981 was 14.85 million. The birth rate was 28 per 1000 and death rate six per 1000 during that year.

Statistics show that the rate of natural increase in population during the past few decades had declined and averaged two per cent per year for the period 1971-1981....."

(Sun—20th August, 1986)

STF commandos for Yala

Special Task Force commandos units moved into the Yala National Park yesterday on the orders of President J.R. Jayawardene to prevent possible terrorist intrusions and poaching. The move came after a top level conference of military and State Ministry officials which examined the recent spate of incidents at the park. Last Thursday two wildlife officers were injured when their jeep came under fire. Two days later a bungalow at Talgasmanakada was destroyed.

The conference chaired by State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis, felt that positioning commandos in both the Intermediary and the Strict Natural reserve zones of the Yala Park could enable the government to open the park for visitors once again.

The government also believes that it would prevent terrorist groups from infusing weapons to the south via the park. On Monday the State Ministry announced that it had asked Dr. Shelton Atapattu, the acting Director of Wildlife not to report for duty, pending an inquiry on these and other alleged incidents.

The conference also discussed allegations of widespread poaching, gemming and felling of valuable timber within the park. Senior government sources said President Jayawardene had intervened in the matter and ordered the sanctioning of military personnel in and around the park to bring the situation back to normal.

The Joint Operations Command on Monday agreed to pull out several STF units from the Eastern Province to be deployed at Yala.

(Sun—20th August, 1986)

OIC's detention challenged

The detention of a police officer under the Prevention of Terrorism Act has been challenged by his wife in a habeas corpus application filed in the Court of Appeal.

The petitioner is Marie Rita Shobana Prabashini of Elin Children's Home, Memorial Lane, Manipay. She is seeking the custody of her husband Raymond Thavarajatheepan, an Inspector of Police who she claims has been detained since May 2, 1985 without any reasons being given as to why he has been detained.

She has cited Mr. Lalith William Athulathmudali, Minister of National Security, the Inspector General of Police, the Superintendent of Prisons, Welikada and the Attorney-General as respondents. Her application was supported in the vacation court and a three judge bench comprising Justice G.P.S. de Silva (President) and Justices Ramanathan and Gunawardene directed notice to issue returnable on September 3.

Her husband was working in the police department as an Inspector of Police and was OIC Valaichchenai police station. On May 2, 1985, he was taken into custody by CID officers when he called at the CID office on the orders of Mr. H.L. Piyasena, Senior Superintendent of Police, Batticaloa. He was detained at the CID office till May 14, 1985 and thereafter at the Welikada prison but no reason has been given for his detention.

Prabashini claims that her husband has had an unblemished character and to the best of her knowledge he was in no way connected or involved in any illegal or terrorist activity nor has he committed any offence under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the emergency regulations or any other laws.

(Daily News—20th August, 1986)

No "unrest leave"!

Public servants who visit the troubled north and east and then keep away from work citing unrest in those areas, are to be dealt with severely, the government has decided.

This follows complaints the Ministry of Public Administration has received that public officers, working in areas other than the north and east, visit Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Mannar and Vavuniya stay away from work afterwards.

The ministry has turned down requests for leave from those officers and instructed Government Agents to pursue disciplinary action against them, officials said.

(Sun—21st August, 1986)

Rs. 12,000m. for "war" in North

A reasonable solution to the ethnic issue is a must to bring about peace and prosperity in the country. It was only then that the country could be developed to safeguard the future of the nation, said Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaveli Development addressing a public meeting held at Sri Bodhirukkarama Purana Viharaya, Wadugedera....

He said that Rs. 8,000 millions were spent in the last year for the "war" in the North, and Rs. 12,000 millions will be spent this year. "How long will be have to continue with this. It's a fact that communal troubles had neither a beginning nor end. That is we will have to spend on a "war" for ever without diverting to the development," he said.

"Had we done so, where are the jobs for our youth". It's true that they get jobs where they are enlisted in the army to go North. Our children will have no schools, no hospitals, no roads, no irrigation canals to supply water for our cultivators. What will be the country if we continue to spend millions on a "war". All the development projects will come to a halt with no future for the nation.".....

(The Island—21st August, 1986)

Cancer deaths in Jaffna

The rate of death from cancer is increasing every year in the Jaffna district. At present, nearly one thousand and thirty people are suffering from cancer in the district. According to statistics, 500 persons have died of cancer, from 1981 to 1985 here. The cancer patients in Jaffna used to go to Maharagama Cancer Hospital for treatment, but during the past two years the number of patients seeking treatment at Maharagama has dwindled.

The death rate during these two years has shot up due to patients shunning the Maharagama Cancer Hospital for security reasons. The G.G. Ponnambalam Memorial Cancer Hospital in Tellipallai so not functioning at present, as there is no qualified doctor to treat cancer patients.

(Daily News—22nd August, 1986)



Jaffna grapes are turning sour!

Fruit, both imported and locally produced, is available aplenty in the Pettah, but at a price. The grapes in this picture are perhaps the only exception. They come from the vineyards of north Sri Lanka, where farmers made a gallant and successful bid to divert a few of the millions of rupees spent on imported varieties into their own pockets.

Their efforts over the last few decades were showing all signs of being crowned with success until the outbreak of disturbances all but ruined their vineyards.

But the grapes keep coming through to Colombo—although neglect seems to have turned them somewhat sour. The fruiterer

on the pavement of the Pettah is too often obliged to turn his face the other way when a customer who has just sampled a grape turns a soured, questioning face at him.

The urge to take the delicious looking bunch home, however, wins over quality and the price, at around Rs.4 for 100 grammes, is attractive. Few can afford the imported variety at around Rs.7 for the same quantity.

Grape imports, according to Customs returns, had dropped to around Rs.5m. by 1982, with the concentrated efforts of Jaffna farmers to produce more. The disturbances which hit the country the next

year showed an immediate impact—grapes worth 11.8 million were imported in 1983 alone....

"Currently around 1000 farmers are engaged in grape farming in the Jaffna district. 600 to 625 vines can be established in a hectare and the average yield varies between 12.5 and 15 metric tonnes." The total production has been around 3,700 tons per year.

As for the other fruits in the picture, the apples sell at between Rs.7 and Rs.15 per fruit, and the Jaffna oranges at Rs.10 and Rs.12 per fruit.

(Daily News—25th August, 1986)

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:—

NAGALINGAM—PARAMESWARAN—

(Retd. Teacher, Chavakachcheri Hindu College and Nigeria) husband of Yogeswari, father of Surgh (Engineer, Nigeria), Sasikala (Colombo Medical College), Ramesh and Kalyani. Cremation in London. 111, Brown Road, Jaffna.

SHANMUGANATHAN.K.V.S.—

(Advocate) expired. Husband of Kanagamani, father of Sriskandarajah (Police), Sriskandakumar (U.K.), Rajakumari (U.K.) and Ravikumar. Brother of Kathirkamanathan Kathiramalainathan (both

in U.S.A). "Kanthan Karunai", 431 Temple Road Nallur. Jaffna.

ARUMUGAM.T—(Retd. Accounts Officer, Railway). Husband of the late Nallamma, father of A.Sanmugarajah. Cremation 18th August, General Cemetery, Kanatte. 87, 5th Lane, Colombo - 3.