



A TIRU Publication

SRI
LANKA
SITUATION
REPORT

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SITUATION REPORT

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

How "Tigers" are born?

The Jaffna Mothers' Front has expressed shock at the unseemly conduct of an Army Officer who had entered the Labour room of a hospital in one of the islands off Jaffna, and by arrangement with the doctor in charge, had witnessed the delivery of a child. The Mothers' Front has also condemned the action of the doctor.

It was stated that the officer-in-charge of the Army Camp in the island had jocularly told the medical officer that he would like to see "how a Tiger cub" is born! He had then come at the appointed hour, left soldiers to guard the premises, hung up his personal revolver outside and entered the Labour room even as the expectant mother was undergoing labour pains, and waited to watch the baby being delivered. Complaints have already been sent to the army authorities, demanding disciplinary action against the officer.

(Eelanadu, Jaffna August 4 : Eelamurasu, Jaffna August 8, 1986)

S.P.'s post - No takers

There are no takers for the post of Superintendent of Police in the Jaffna division. Top police sources told "The Island" yesterday that no senior police officer had come forward to take up position as SP North, since the transfer of Senior SP, P. Udugampola, who was transferred out on the completion of his stint there.

Sources pointed out that an SP had been earmarked for this position in the North, but he had reported sick. Meanwhile, until an SP is assigned to the Jaffna division, SP (Palaly) Sarath Brelessa will act as SP Jaffna, sources said.

(The Island - 3rd September, 1986)

Soldiers join militants.

Two army soldiers who had disappeared mysteriously during the last weekend from the Elephant Pass. Army Camp are suspected to have joined the terrorists, according to security sources.

The terrorists have announced that these two army soldiers have obtained membership of a terrorist group. A spokesman for the security forces when asked said that these two soldiers may have been abducted by terrorists.

Meanwhile, sources in Jaffna disclose that these two abducted soldiers are been used to

feed stories to the international press as a new form of propaganda, the sources added. Attempts are being made to re-capture these two soldiers, the same sources said.

(The Island - 4th September, 1986)

Complaint to Canadian Govt.

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tyrone Fernando, today summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the most senior official of the High Commission of Canada, in the absence of the High Commissioner, and conveyed to him the concern of the Government at the libellous statements appearing in the Canadian press and television about Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in Canada, General T.I. Weeratunga, alleging human rights violation by him in anti-terrorist operations while he was serving in the Sri Lanka Army.

Mr. Tyrone Fernando pointed out that the statements were not accurate and that the government of Sri Lanka called upon the Government of Canada to take all appropriate steps in terms of Article 29 of the Vienna Convention to prevent any attack on the person, freedom and dignity of Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in Canada.

(The Island - 5th September, 1986)

Veteran journalist dies

Thambirajah (Tom) Ramanathan who had a 25-year career in journalism in Sri Lanka died at his home in Jaffna on Saturday, the family said. The funeral took place on Sunday.

Ramanathan who had worked both at the Times of Ceylon and Lake House had previously edited a paper in South India for the Justice Party. A remarkably sensitive man, whose life included periods as hitchhiker, vegetable grower, script writer and lover of Carnatic music, Ramanathan once won the £100 prize offered by the "Encounter" magazine for the best short story from an Asian or African writer.

That was way back in 1957 when he wrote a story on "The biggest census in the world". His writings have also been carried in "Quest". Educated at Wesley College, Colombo, and the University of Ceylon, Ramanathan who did not graduate lived in India from 1943 to 1951 before he returned to Ceylon.

(Daily News - 3rd September, 1986)

Plea by PTA victims

Tamil terrorists now under detention in prisons pending trials against them under the Prevention of Terrorism Act want their cases heard by the International Court of Justice.

A letter to this effect written and signed by two detainees at the Welikada Prison and addressed to the Secretary General of the

United Nations Organisation was handed over by them in open Court to the Colombo High Court Judge Wimal Wiskremasooriya.

The letter dated September 1st, 1986 was signed by Benedict Sripatham (23) and Subramanian Thayanidhi (25) both of Batticaloa. This eleven paged hand written letter had referred to several subjects relating to the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Sripatham and Thayanidhi are indicted in the Colombo High Court on several counts under the PTA. They had stated in the letter that their fervent request to the Secretary General of the UNO was that their trials be taken up before the International Court of Justice at an early date.

The two accused, in their letter, had referred to the sovereignty of the people, systematic annihilation of the Tamil speaking minorities, declaration of war and their participation in the war.

(Sun - 3rd September, 1986)

Bombs at SLMP rally

"More than 40 people were injured - 10 of them seriously - when two bombs exploded at a crowded Sri Lanka Mahajana Party rally held at Mount Lavinia junction last night.

Pandemonium followed the explosions as thousands of people panicked and stampeded turning the Mount Lavinia junction into a centre of chaos. Police and eyewitnesses said the bombs were thrown at the stage when party leader Vijaya Kumaranatunge had just begun his speech. The bombs exploded a few feet away from the stage. Mr. Kumaranatunge was unhurt but party strongmen threw a cordon around him amidst screams and confusion....."

(Sun - 5th September, 1986)

All-out war possible, but...

President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday told a gathering of Buddhists in Kurunegala that all out war with terrorists in the North and East was possible, but it would earn the country the wrath of the world, including the government of India.

Speaking at the Town Hall, President Jayewardene said there was law-breaking even in Colombo, but his government would make every endeavour to protect the peaceful way of every citizen.

"The ultimate decision will be with me and my cabinet, and we will not allow anyone to divide this country", he said....

The President observed that various groups in this country commanded their share of power. "But while the UNP government is in power, it was the duty of the people to give their support to resolve the crisis"

He warned it was a punishable offence if people attempted to sabotage laws passed in parliament.

(Sun - 9th September, 1986)

(Continued on Page 7)

DIARY OF EVENTS

and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from July 12 - July 23 were carried in Issue No. 18 of the Situation Report

JULY 24

Tamil-owned lorry loaded with tobacco leaves, waylaid near Madawachchiya by armed men. Those in the lorry attacked with knives and other weapons. Two Tamils admitted to Vavuniya hospital with stab injuries.

One of the 3 boats carrying students and their parents, numbering 25 (all Tamils) from Mullaitivu to Trincomalee missing at sea. These private students who had come to Mullaitivu from Trincomalee as refugees, on account of ethnic disturbances there, were returning to sit the forthcoming G.C.E. A/L Examination at centres assigned for them at Trincomalee. They left by sea fearing travel by road.

Militant Tamil youths seize illicit liquor worth over Rs.25,000 at a number of shady joints in Karainagar. Drums and cans with the hooch destroyed at sites of seizure. Pamphlets warning against manufacture and sale of illicit liquor distributed in Karainagar a few days back.

In Morawewa, Trincomalee, Home Guard Ukkubandage Dissanayake(24) shoots and kills fellow Home Guard Piyasenege Dissanayake(22) with gun given to him by Govt. for protective work. Personal enmity, is reported to be the cause.

Army drops pamphlets over Kilinochchi asking those who had evacuated during the recent disturbances to come back to their homes. "Cows and goats are your wealth and it is your duty to come back and save them. Temples are lying deserted. Come back and reopen them and arrange for regular prayers" so runs the contents.

Govt. owned "Daily News" reports that terrorists struck again exploding a parcel bomb in a crowded bus plying to Anuradhapura from Vavuniya killing 12 and injuring 28.

Tamil families of Uppuveli, Trincomalee, evacuate the area consequent to atrocities committed by Home Guards and security forces on them in the recent past. Many arrive in Mullaitivu by boats, some are moving into Jaffna Refugee Camps from Mullaitivu.

JULY 25

PROTEST DAY processions, demonstrations and meetings, condemning State Terrorism against helpless Tamil civilians, held in every nook and corner of Tamil

region. Workers keep away from work; no transport, schools, business and trade establishments, Govt. offices remain closed. Workers, farmers, mothers, students and others participate in meetings in local centres expressing solidarity and sorrow.

Navy personnel who "arrest" fishermen with their fishing boats off the coast of Valvettiturai use them as hostages and transport food items from naval craft, the fishermen moving ahead of launch flying white flags in their boats. They are permitted to get back to their houses once the work was over.

Gramasevaka officers of Pachchilapalli area, kidnapped by unknown youth, whilst waiting at Pallai Bus Stand en route to Kilinochchi, to meet army commander over there. Released later warning that they should not go to army camps.

S.Peter Bernard and M.Leo Bernard arrested by armed forces at Nedunkerny. They were on their way to Vavuniya with bowser belonging to Mullaitivu Fishermen's Co-Operative Society to bring diesel oil.

In Inparutty, helicopter gunship fires at fishermen who were preparing to proceed to Pokkanai for fishing. They jump into the sea and swim ashore. Boat riddled with bullets. No casualties.

In Mutur, security forces shoot and kill Nazir(21), a Muslim Tamil who was pasting posters depicting the massacre of Tamils in July 1983.

Abraham(32), attached to the Mullipottanai sub post office, attacked by goondas when returning after distributing letters, as he happened to be a Tamil.

Sanmugarajah of Kalliady, Velaichchenai "executed" and tied to a lamp post.

In Mannar, Yoganathan(20), shot dead by the armed forces who were out on patrolling. Puspalatha(26) injured in the army firing. A teacher attached to St.Xavier arrested and taken into custody by the army.

Resumption of train services between Vavuniya and Colombo.

A pillar in memory of Indian fishermen killed by Sri Lankan navy men in Indian waters and washed ashore at Velanai beach, erected at Thurayoor.

150 families who evacuated Mallikaitivu, Manalchenai, Peruwali and Pattithidal villages of Mutur, on account of army atrocities, take shelter in a temple in Iruthayapuram. Govt. has so far not provided any assistance. YMCA doing its best to sustain them.

Gun-fire from inside Jaffna Fort army camp. This has become a routine affair now.

Over 200 Tamil students who attend afternoon sessions at Kannangara Madhya Maha Vidhyalayam, Matugama, boycott classes consequent to harrassment, assault, and abuse by Sinhalese students who attend morning sessions.

Colombo newspaper "Sun" reports that a Sinhalese "Ukkumali", alleged to be an active member of a Tamil Terrorist group has been arrested by security forces in Batticaloa.

JULY 26

The boat, with students and their parents, reported missing in the seas off Trincomalee, captured by navy handed over to army. Party released at Pulamodda after inquiries.

A motor boat from Rameswaram, with 7 Indian fishermen, buoying at sea for over 6 days, due to engine trouble, rescued and brought to Delft by another motor boat.

50 Tamil youths, who were arrested in their homes by armed forces a few days back and detained at Trincomalee Fort camp, are being transferred to Boosa detention camp. Parents distressed over this incident appeal to Citizens' Committee to intercede in the matter, submitting that these lads are those who have completed their studies and were remaining in their homes.

Ramalingam(59), S.Ledchumikumar, watchers at Mandaitivu Fish Powdering Mill, disappear mysteriously. Their dinner packets and clothes found at their place of work. Tension in the area. People around, out of fear, are staying away from their homes at nights.

Families of 32 fishermen massacred at Mandaitivu on 10th Jaffe to be given free rations for a period of 3 months. Also a week's rations to the 800 families who have come into the Jaffna peninsula from Kilinochchi as refugees.

Naval ship "Weerasooriya" is anchored between Palaitivu and Iranaitivu in the Jaffna lagoon. Fishermen who engage in shallow water fishing along the coast alarmed and refrain from entering the sea.

Armed gang rob the C.W.E.. Stores at Kalmunai and take away two lorry loads of goods. Lorries belonging to 2 Muslim traders found abandoned outside the Kalmunai limits.

JULY 27

Thangarasa Saroja(35), mother of 4 children, of Marampaikulam, on the borders of

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Vavuniya, admitted to Vavuniya hospital with gun shot injuries. It is reported that she was shot at by 2 men belonging to the majority community. Her house and another neighbouring Tamil house set on fire. Tension in the area.

C.T.B. bus depot at Kilinochchi, closed for the past 2 months, because of fighting between army and militants, is reopened for operations. People anticipate restoration of services to Thunukkai, Uruthirapuram, Skandapuram, Ramanathapuram and Iranaimadu early.

LTTE in a statement says that a contingent of over 100 soldiers moving on foot, accompanied by 4 vehicles, towards Mutur army camp, from Kattaiarachchan army camp, was attacked by their guerrillas detonating a landmine 1/4 mile from the camp. Soldiers stampede and retreat to camp in disarray.

At dawn, militants mount offensive and stall an attempt by armed forces to come out of Jaffna Fort camp. Immediately thereafter shells are fired from inside the camp. Militants retaliate. Firing continues from both sides till late hours.

Mr. Rajadurai, a Hatton National Bank Officer, who arrived at Anuradhapura from Vavuniya by Yal Devi on 24th is reported missing.

Army men at Vavuniya Railway Station Road check post detect bomb inside vegetable bag that was being taken to market by a young boy in a bicycle. Boy arrested and taken in for questioning.

In Trincomalee district more than 10 Sinhalese Home guards are under arrest for offences such as thefts, intimidation, murders and other nefarious activities.

Militants mount heavy offensive on troops, numbering over 100, who came out of Elephant Pass army camp, on foot, accompanied by 2 armoured vehicles. The contingent retreats into camp and fires back. Because of firing and counter-firing for over 4 hours, all traffic held up at both ends, viz. Pallai within the peninsula and from Paranthan to the salters on the mainland.

Defence sources report that Govt. is to purchase 12 Israeli-built patrol boats fitted with radar and other modern equipment to be deployed on the seas in the North and East for surveillance and security.

Co-detainees go on fast on learning of assault on 2 Tamil youths, detained at Welikade prison, on 23rd night. Fast called off after 86 hours when jail officials produce the 2 youths to confirm they were alive.

JULY 28

Over 200 navy men come out of Karainagar naval base camp, and about 50 of them enter

the govt. bus depot and attempt to hijack a bus. Militants mount offensive and a gun battle erupts. Forces retreat to the base camp and start shelling from there.

An army convoy with modern weapons and armoured vehicles, lined up at entrance to Jaffna Fort camp, makes several attempts to come out. Militants fire continuously and foil attempts. Both parties attack with mortars, shells and grenades. A shell from inside Fort camp lands within Jaffna hospital and explodes. Another one injures 3 persons. A few residents of Koddady evacuate interior.

Army bomb blasts unoccupied houses close to the Palaly army camp and demolish them. Doors, window frames and wooden furniture removed to camp. It is understood that these are being taken for use as firewood. The heavy explosives used in blasting are heard for miles. Doors and windows of houses in adjoining villages are shaken.

E.P.R.L.F. in a statement says that their military wing the PLA attacked an army contingent of over 200 soldiers who attempted to come out of Vasavilan camp in trucks and on foot and forced them back to camp with casualties.

In Morewewa, Trincomalee, jeep carrying 3 Air Force men and proceeding along Pankulam road runs over landmine. All three injured.

Security forces arrest four Sinhalese youths to be in league with Tamil militants. Govt. reports that these are members of the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Perumuna and pamphlets and posters in support of Tamil militancy were found in their possession.

Navy men assault and chase fishermen off the coast of Valvettiturai after damaging their nets and boats. Seven are injured.

Hundreds of specially trained Home Guards arrive in Potkerni area in Mannar. It is reported that they will be put to work only during day in checking vehicles and identity cards. They are to be accommodated in a mosque.

Lt. Col. Wickramanayake and private Seneviratne of the Jaffna Fort Garrison killed by mortar attack by militants. Another soldier injured in the same incident.

JULY 29

PLA, military wing of EPRLF, attacks naval boats at Karainagar naval base destroying a gun boat. It is reported that a few navy men were either killed or injured. Many jump into the sea and swim for safety.

Over 200 Railway Security Guards, trained in military combat, refuse to work at Trincomalee. Railway decides to terminate their services.

Heavy shelling from inside the Jaffna Fort camp. A shell falls on a house at Stanley Road, Ariyakulam and kills Markandu Chandradasan

(33) and seriously injures his father Sellthamby Markandu (60). Koddady, Navalar Road, Clock Tower area, Courts area were other targets. Kanapathy (37) of Pirappankulam, Rajan (22) and Kamalesan (22) both of Annasaththira Lane seriously injured. All injured admitted to Jaffna hospital. High Court, Magistrates Court, Central College Library, Nursery school buildings damaged. Judges inspect damages to courts buildings and report to Judicial Service Commission.

Convoy of over 200 soldiers passing through Eechchankulam, Vavuniya attacked by LTTE guerrillas. Gun battle erupts and goes on for hours. Nirupan (Kalanidhi, Pavatkulam) of the guerrilla group killed in encounter.

JULY 30

In Vavuniya, Ratnam Ravindran (19), attached to the Post Office arrested by the armed forces.

Following threats by Home Guards, 43 Tamil families in Seruwila Division, take shelter in govt. school at Eechchantivu, Kinniya.

One of the trucks with soldiers, en route to Orantai and Kalmadu, runs over landmine. Explosion kills 5 soldiers and injures many others. Following this, soldiers fire indiscriminately. Many civilians are feared killed.

Sellathamby Markandu (60), admitted to Jaffna hospital with injuries sustained in shell attack yesterday succumbs to his injuries.

Over 150 devotees, between the ages of 15 to 40, assembled at Amirthakali Mamankeswar temple, rounded up by STF commandos who cordoned off Mamankam and Iruhayapuram areas. Devotees stampede as the STF moves into the temple.

18 families who were already refugees in Nilaveli and Kuchchaveli and to whom rations had been denied by govt. arrive in Mullaivivu by boats. Their main grievance is the indiscriminate arresting of their children by armed forces.

Security forces in civvies move into Paravaipanchan, Maruthady areas of Kilinochchi and arrest over 40 youths and adults and take them to camp. Released in the evening after interrogation.

Entrance Tower and Sanctum Tower of Thurkkai Amman temple, Punnalaikkadduvan North, badly damaged by mortar attack from Vasavilan army camp.

JULY 31

Truck driver S. Velayutham and cleaner A. Karupiah (both of Thannirootu) taking fish from Mullaivivu attacked by armed Sinhala goondas at Madawachchiya and killed. Bodies

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lying at Madawachchiya hospital. Truck set ablaze.

Police arrest 2 Tamil youths who were staying in a Sinhala home at Bingiriya.

Sethu Ravindran (21), who went to work at Development Council sub office, Vavuniya reported missing. Army Command contacted by Citizens' Committee says that no such individual was arrested by them.

Colombo High Court sentences Sithamparapillai Saraswathie, a middle aged woman from Hospital road, Chankanai, to 18 months imprisonment for failing to inform police of her awareness, between January and March 1983, that Umakaran, Eesan, Kannan and Sivanewaran were committing offences under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Armed forces, on patrol duty, arrest Veeraiya Vijayapalan (19), Marimuthu Subramaniam (22) and Ramiah Asaithamby (26) all three from Sinnakulam and take them to camp. Relatives on their way to Vavuniya, to meet the Citizens' Committee, come across their dead bodies (with hands tied) in the fields of Sastri Koolankulam.

At Chenkalady, Batticaloa, unknown persons open fire at motorcade taking Home Minister K.W.Devanayagam and his party to Kalkudah on official visit. A constable is killed and 2 more injured. Injured flown to Anuradhapura by helicopter. Minister cancels his programme and returns to Colombo under heavy security.

Northern Region Tamil Information Centre inaugurated in Jaffna. The secretarial officer T.Pirahalapan states that the centre will work in collaboration with the freedom fighters, be not aligned to any of the movements and function independently towards achieving specified objectives. It hopes to get in touch with Tamil Information Centres outside Sri Lanka and exchange news whilst feeding local information.

AUGUST 1

In a direct confrontation between militants and armed forces at Kanguveli, 500 yards from Kattaiparichchan, five soldiers are killed and many more injured. The contingent numbering over 100 retreat in disarray, carrying the casualties, unable to face the heavy firing from the militants.

Three armed unknown persons enter Batticaloa district court and rob Rs. 3000 at gun point and get away.

Sathiaseelan (33) and Thirunavukarasu (45) together with their wives returning from their homes (lying west of Vasavilan Maha Vidyalayam and which they vacated when the army moved into it) where they had gone to pick up certain items, arrested by army men who were in ambush. Men taken to camp for interrogation whilst the wives were released.

In Vavuniya, armed forces enter houses at dead of night and put up youths sleeping at home and take them to camp. This happened in Vilaththikulam, Karadikulam and Sastrikulam areas. Consequently people move out into jungles at nights.

AUGUST 2

Tamils living in Maharambaikulam, a border village in Vavuniya, harassed and threatened by Home Guards armed with govt. supplied guns, are contemplating evacuation towards the north of Vavuniya.

LTTE guerrillas claim to have captured Israeli made hand grenades and other fire arms at the direct confrontation they had with the armed forces at Eechchankulam on 30th July.

Over 300 soldiers in twenty trucks, from the Army - Police joint camp at Kilinochchi seen going past the 155th mile post.

Foreign media men with the assistance of those within the Jaffna Fort, take photographs of buildings and other edifices around the Fort, like Municipal Council, Public Library, demolished Police Station etc.

In the early hours of the day, the armed forces who cordon off over a 100 fishing wadiyas belonging to Tamil fishermen of Kaluvankerni, Kalkudah set them on fire. Menfolk said to have left for fishing at time of incident. Wailing women and children run out of huts seeking shelter.

P. Sinnathamby, S. Panchadcharam, C. Sanmugalingam, L. Nadarajah, P. Gunapalasingam, Thangarasa, P. Sivalingam and M. Mahendran who had gone to receive Home Minister K.W. Devanayagam at a function at Chenkalady, Batticaloa kidnapped by unknown persons.

Security at Jaffna Fort army camp tightened. It is reported that Israeli experts were brought from Colombo to install sophisticated weapons.

Trustees of Sellasannithy Murugan temple and secretary Myliddy Citizens' Committee meet Jaffna district Co-ordinating Officer and request that the army be shifted for at least a month for the peaceful conduct of the annual festivals. No decision taken on the request. Co-ordinating Officer, however, assures full protection and support from the army adding that army movement in the area would be stopped unless otherwise provoked.

AUGUST 3

Last night, over 200 soldiers wait in ambush in Verpankulam, Nedunkulam areas in Vavuniya. K. Udayakumar (18), M. Rasendran (26), K. Kanagendran (22) and A. Amirtharaj (24) from Verpankulam returning after a

T.V.show arrested and taken to camp. Citizens' Committee Vavuniya who contact Army Command are told that no such individuals were arrested by them.

Batticaloa Citizens' Committee appeals for the release of the 8 persons kidnapped for participating in the reception to the Home Minister.

Large scale search operations afoot in several villages in Batticaloa suspecting arrival of militants from north. Road blocks, check posts established and heavy army movements. All army camps in Batticaloa alerted.

A bell belonging to the Nagabooshani Amman temple in Nainativu is being used at the Nainativu army camp to indicate meal time. That bell is being pealed as for "poojas" from inside the army camp to summon soldiers for their meals. It is understood that the army authorities had taken this bell from the temple priest, duly acknowledging it.

AUGUST 4

Mortar shells fired at Kankasanturai, Myliddy coastal areas. Helicopter surveillance of coastal villages intensified.

Staff members of a newspaper in Jaffna on their way to Palaly army camp, at the instance of army authorities, turned back by militant sentries at Punnalaikadduwan.

Unknown persons enter official residence meant for G.A., Jaffna, at night, and damage doors, windows and furniture. Present G.A., Jaffna is not occupying this bungalow after it was vacated by former G.A., Jaffna Mr.Devanesan Nesiah.

Soldiers from across Thondamanaru lagoon shoot and seriously injure a devotee of 60 who was about to enter Sellasannithy temple for worship. LTTE guerrillas hearing of the incident, under great personal risk approach site and remove him to hospital.

According to information furnished to the Co-ordinating Committee of Citizens' Committees, 271 Tamils lost their lives and 96 Tamils missing on account of army atrocities during month of July 1986 in the North and the East.

AUGUST 5

Army sentry at watch tower of Santhiveli camp, Batticaloa guns down another soldier of the same camp, who was out in the open in civvies mistaking him for an outsider.

Powerful shells fired last night from inside Jaffna Fort camp shake town as they come down and explode one after another in the commercial centre causing severe damage to number of buildings, shops, establishments,

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sheds and hotels. Hospital window panes shattered. Damages estimated at Rs.15 lakhs.

In a search operation by STF commandos, over 300 Tamils, including a newspaper reporter from Colombo, arrested and taken for interrogation, in Kalmunai, Amparai.

A joint party of army men and Valaichchenai police, on their way to Mankerny camp, fired at by STF commandos at Petrol Shed junction, Valaichchenai, on mistaken identity. A police constable dies on the spot whilst 3 others are injured.

Landmine blast derails a goods train at Monkey bridge, Trincomalee. 8 carriages damaged. Three railway employees, including driver, injured.

LTTE guerrillas open fire at STF commandos on patrol duty at gulf between Morakkoddanchenai and Kiran. They were out on launches captured from Tamil fishermen. Many who jump into the sea are feared killed. Boats damaged.

AUGUST 6

Launches, trawlers, vans, lorries property of Ports Authority, Trincomalee bomb blasted and sunk by militants who enter the Mud Cove jetty early morning. Loss to Ports Authority estimated at Rs. 6 millions. EPRLF claims responsibility.

In Amparai, LTTE guerrillas fling hand grenades at STF commandos who come out of Thirukovil camp in a jeep and seriously injure 2 of them.

Hand grenade flung into LSSP leader Dr.Colvin R de Silva's Colombo home by an unknown attacker, fails to explode as the pin had not been drawn.

Three Home Guards on sentry duty at Raanamadu, Amparai, on behalf of Central Police Batticaloa shot dead. LTTE claims responsibility.

No "poojas" at Sellasannithy temple so long as the army camp remains at the present site.

AUGUST 7

Devotees from various parts of the peninsula who call at Sellasannithy temple return disappointed as poojas are not to be held for security reasons.

Fishing boat off Polikandy coast with 2 fishermen is knocked by naval boat and sunk. Gowrirasa (23) swims ashore, while Sivanesarasa (18) is missing. He is feared to have been drowned or killed by naval guards.

A special unit of experts from Mossad established in Joint Army Command Hdqrs. Jaffna. It is reported that this step has been taken following attacks by militants on Jaffna Fort garrison.

Six out of eight kidnapped at Chenkalady released. One of them Mr. Sivalingam 'executed' and Mr. Sinnathamby yet to be released.

Kilinochchi hospital yet remaining closed. A high ranking army officer of Kilinochchi camp requests all hospital staff attached to Kilinochchi hospital and now working at various hospitals in the Jaffna peninsula to return to work.

AUGUST 8

Armed forces shoot and kill 9 farmers in settlement No.13 lying along Batticaloa district boundary. Seenithamby (35) and Amirthalingam (14) from Raanamadu, next to Mandoor, identified.

Jewellery and cash worth over Rs.3 1/2 lakhs robbed by unknown persons from house of K.Saravanamuthu (Retd. teacher) and President of Manduvil Amman Temple Trust. This includes jewellery belonging to the Amman temple, kept in the house for safety.

LTTE opens "Suggestions Boxes" in Jaffna inviting the public to offer comments and suggestions related to the Liberation Struggle and LTTE activities.

Government refuses to renew visa to B.B.C. correspondent Humphrey Hawkesley and he leaves for Madras.

More than 10 Home Guards (all Sinhalese) taken into custody by armed forces for thefts and molesting of women in Tamil houses in Vavuniya district. Shot guns issued to them recovered. Their homes too searched for loot.

AUGUST 9

Militants attack a contingent of over 50 soldiers who come out of Kattaiparichchan camp with rocket launchers and automatic rifles. A van accompanying the contingent destroyed and burnt.

Four refugees, including a woman and a child, shot and killed by armed forces at Sampur Maha Vidyalayam, Kattaiparichchan, Mutur.

Thalzvupadu sub post master Mr. Dias 'executed' and tied to lamp post for being an army informant. Before being shot, he confessed to the general public his mistakes.

In Colombo, grenade thrown inside garden of Kynsey road, residence of SLMP leader Vijay Kumaranatunge, fails to explode as clip remained intact.

High tension in Mullaitivu as army manoeuvres to encircle town. Militants mount offensive and army returns to camp.

AUGUST 10

PLOT puts up 15 ft. high bunker with sand bags and tin sheets, about 200 yards from the Jaffna Fort Army camp, on Kankesanturai road.

A shell fired from inside the Jaffna Fort hits crowded vegetable market in the Jaffna Bazaar killing 3 persons and injuring 11 others. Utter chaos in Bazaar area. Other parts in town too were shelled.

STF commandos on search operation arrest 16 youths, tie their hands and detain them in a school in Chenkalady. Taken to Karadiyanaru army camp towards the evening.

In Vavuniya, posters put up by LTTE finally warns of drastic action against those who go to army camps under any circumstances.

Colombo newspaper "Sun" reports that 6 soldiers were killed and 5 others injured when a landmine exploded 2 miles north of Vakaneri in Batticaloa district.

AUGUST 11

Helicopter gunship approaching Jaffna Fort camp strafes Saththira Santhi area unprovoked. Alerted militants open fire at helicopter with sophisticated weapons. Helicopter gunship flies towards Palaly strafing non-stop on its return. People in town stampede and run for shelter. Traders put up shutters. Tension prevails for a few hours. No casualties.

In Paranthan, all govt. offices and business establishments close on information that armed forces from Kilinochchi army camp are moving towards Paranthan.

Hostel students at Vembadi Girls' High School narrowly escape as their window panes shattered in yesterday's shell attack from Jaffna Fort. Trimmer Hall too is damaged.

Subramaniam Parvathy (70) injured in shell attack from inside Army-Police Joint Camp, Pt. Pedro. Admitted to hospital.

Mr.Sinnethamby, last of 8 kidnapped persons who participated in reception to Home Minister K.W.Devenayagam, released.

Two fishermen of Uduthurai out at sea in their boat disappear mysteriously. Abandoned boat brought ashore by other fishermen without outboard motor. It is reported that a naval vessel is anchored in this area for over a week now.

SITUATION REPORT

Eelam postal service

Northern terrorists have set up their own postal service and TV and also established a mini-zoo in Nallur with a view to collect funds for the Eelam movement.

According to informed sources, the delivery of letters within the Peninsula is now being done by members of terrorist organizations and all letters carry Eelam stamps issued by terrorists.

Residents, it is reported are now in a quandary as to which stamps should be affixed to letters mailed to destinations outside the Northern peninsula. "We paste government stamps on all Colombo-addressed letters and hope for the best", a Jaffna resident said on the telephone.

The TV service, launched by the terrorists, telecasts a revolutionary programme once a week.

(The Island - 8th September, 1986)

Monks threaten govt.

The Maha Sangha will on September 21 decide on a proposal to carry out a starve-to-death campaign until the government withdraws the present set of proposals to solve the ethnic crisis.

This was decided at a meeting held at the Abhayaramaya in Narahenpita presided over by the Ven. Palipane Chandananda Nayaka Thera of the Asgiriya Chapter and attended by over 2,000 Buddhist monks.

It was also decided that President J.R. Jayewardene should tender an apology to the Maha Sangha for the alleged "adverse comments" on the sangha he made recently.

A proposal asking for an impartial inquiry into the July '83 incidents was also unanimously passed by the meeting. The proposal to starve unto death was made by the Muruttettuwa Ananda Thera, President of the Public services United Nurses Union.

The Ven. Palipane Chandananda Thera said that the orders to the youths in the forces had become inoperative as correct orders had not been issued to counter terrorism. "We have no grudge against Tamils, Muslims or Sinhalese. We have tolerated the government long enough and we have entered a critical juncture," said the Ven. Chandananda. When terrorism cannot be brought under control within a unitary government, how can it be possible under nine provincial councils, the Ven. Thera asked.

(The Island - 9th September, 1986)

Taken for a ride, by Air Lanka!

Passengers on an Air Lanks flight headed for Europe last Sunday finally got to their

destination some twelve hours later than they should have, after a globe-girdling flight that put to shame the legend of Parangiya Kotte giya.

People bound for Rome, Frankfurt and Paris did get there - via Harare' "We were not told that the plane was first going to Harare, taking the Prime Minister and his party for the Non-Aligned summit, until we checked in. After that we were virtually Airlanka's prisoners until we got off at our destinations", one angry passenger said.

He said he was quite sure that Mr. Premadasa was totally unaware of the inconvenience caused to other passengers on the flight. The flight to Harare took eight hours and those passengers who were not disembarking there were kept on board the plane for two hours. They were not allowed to get off, stretch their legs and freshen up.

From Africa, the plane then headed for Europe, making a re-fuelling stop at Rome. For the angry passengers that meant another two hours on board the aircraft, as they were not permitted to disembark.

Then the flight went on to Frankfurt where the passengers were told that the stop was for 45 minutes. But that proved to be a two-hour stopover. Then the flight went on to Paris and arrived after midnight, although the scheduled arrival was 12.15 p.m.

"It was a terrible ordeal. Many of us would never have taken that flight if we knew what we were in for. In fact, when the captain announced at the end that he hoped we had a pleasant flight, there was a spontaneous jeer", the passenger said.

A protest to Airlanka was signed on board the aircraft and many passengers on the flight said they'd never fly Airlanka again. An Airlanka spokesman in Colombo said that security considerations precluded their telling passengers early that the flight was going to Europe via Zimbabwe.

"We didn't take any cargo on the flight, also for security reasons... we are short of planes and that adds to our problem. But one report I must correct. Our Chairman, Capt. Wikramanayake, was not flying that plane".

Asked whether it was fair to compel passengers who paid good money for their tickets to spend many empty hours on an aircraft to fly where they did not want to go, without first adequately warning them, the spokesman agreed that the passengers did have a cause for complaint.

"We're very sorry about that. We did our best to see that they were comfortable. There was a published allegation that the toilets were messy. That's not true. They were cleaned whenever the plane was stopped", he said.

(Daily News - 6th September, 1986)

Fr. Singarayer trial

Colombo High Court Judge, Mr. T. Suntheralingam yesterday reserved order for September 15 on a defence application that Fr. A Singarayer be charged separately from four other accused on the first count in the case in which he is indicted with having harboured terrorists involved in the attack on the Chavakachcheri Police Station and withholding information to Police about these terrorists.

The first count in the indictment against Fr. Singarayer is that he had a common intention and acted with the other four accused in harbouring the terrorists involved in the Chavakachcheri Police Station attack.

The other accused are Fr. Jayatillakarajah, Dr. Jeyakularajah and Mrs. Nirmala Nithyanandan and her husband, Mr. Nithyanandan. Yesterday, Senior Defence Counsel, Mr. Bala Tampoe argued there was a mis-joinder in the indictment. In support of his argument to try Fr. Singarayer separately on the said count, counsel contended that there was no evidence whatsoever which brought Fr. Singarayer into any common intention or act with the other four accused.

There was nothing in the statements of the other accused to show that they admitted having done anything that could be construed as evidence of the commission of an offence in association or with the knowledge of Fr. Singarayer. There was nothing to indicate he was involved with the others.

Senior State Council, Mr. A.R.C. Perera contended that the defence argument that Fr. Singarayer be tried separately on the first count did not hold weight because the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) under which the offence was cited was a bit different from the general law. State Counsel pointed out that section 28 of the PTA defined that it should supersede all the laws of the country.

State Counsel went on to contend that there was evidence to prove that Fr. Singarayer did act with a common intention. Therefore, the State was justified in bringing Fr. Singarayer along with the other four accused.

At the outset, State Counsel moved that a slight amendment be made in the indictment. State Counsel further informed Court that the other four accused who were absent were not legally represented.

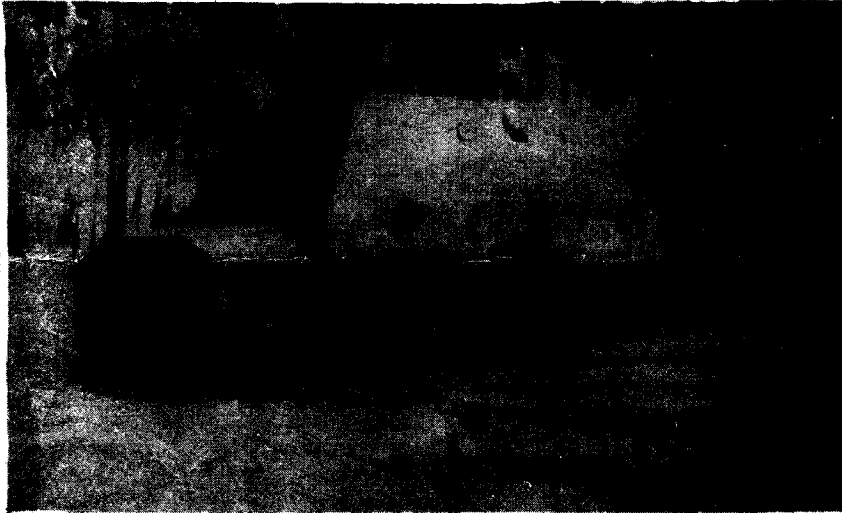
State Counsel submitted that the indictment had been served on the respective accused, but that they were absconding or had left the island. There are 20 witnesses cited in this case....

The defence team comprises Mr. Bala Tampoe and messrs I.F. Xavier and K. Alagaraja.

(The Island - 10th September, 1986)

SITUATION REPORT

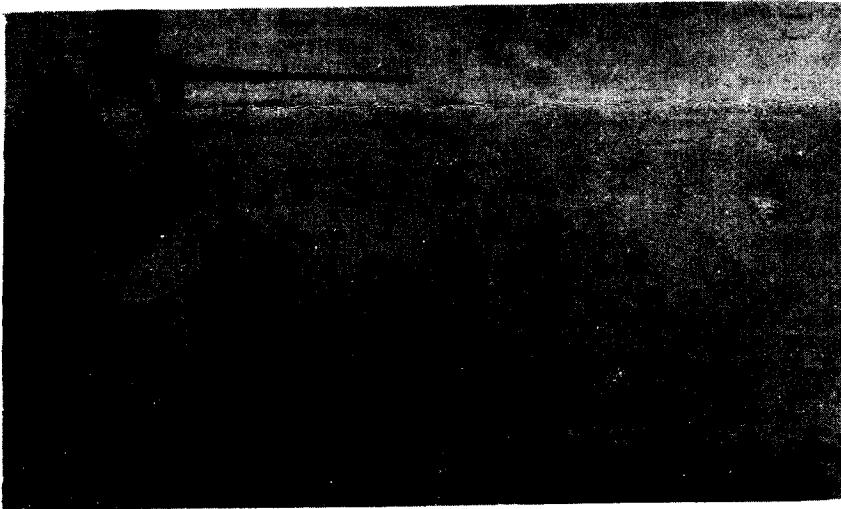
These are Monday's pictures, taken on the two fronts of the Northern Province, where the security forces continue their vigil in the face of intensified terrorist activity.



A Sri Lanka navy gun boat checks a civilian fishing craft out at sea off Kankasanturai. Fishermen keep putting out to sea despite warnings against fishing in the surveillance zone.



The armoured vehicle was seized by the army from terrorists during an action a few weeks ago. The vehicle, a commercial lorry, had been converted for fighting purposes. Its outer shell is a bullet proof steel sheet. Our cameraman took this shot at Karainagar camp.



(Daily News - 4th September, 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 Srilankan newspapers:-

RAJAPOOPATHY ARUNACHALAM -

One-time President, Federal Party Women's Front, wife of N. Arunachalam, retired principal Madhya Maha Vidyalaya, Maduvil, mother of Raghupathy, mother-in-law of V.N.Navaratnam ex- M.P., Chavakachcheri, grand mother of Dr.Sri Namasivaya (USA), Sri Vallipuranantha (Canada), Maitrey (Medical College, Tanjore) & Sri Shanmuganantha (Presidency College, Madras). Cremation at Chavakachcheri. "Rajapoopathy Maligai", Police Station Road, Chavakachcheri.

SARAVANAMUTHU. S - (retired Post

Master) husband of late Suncerammal. Father of Pathma (N. Borneo), Thaya (U.K.), Dr. Vivekanandaraja (N. Borneo), Saravanandaraja, Saroja, Sivanandaraja, Sothiraja and Kuharaja (U.K.). Funeral 2nd September. Kalasalai Road, Thirunelvely North, Jaffna.

RAJANAYAGAM, Saverimuthu Linus

Paul - (Inland Revenue Dept.) husband of Marie. Father of Dharmini, Nirmalan, Arjuna. Cremation 6th September. 9/5, Pathiba road, Colombo - 5.

KADIRGAMANATHAN (Kapina) -

Addl. Director, Treasury. Husband of Vidyawathy. Father of Dr. Sritharan (U.K.), Mahapathy (U.K. Cambridge), Visakan (U.K. Cambridge), Janarthanan (India), Apama and Vasuda (Chundikuli Girls College). brother of the late S. Sittampalam. Cremation 8th September. 9/3, Station Road, Bambalapitiya, Colombo - 4.

VELUPILLAI Evelyn - wife of S. Velupillai

Mother of David and Tony. Cremation on 31st July in London. 23, Chestnut close, London N14 4SG.

NAVARATNAM. V -(Retired Asst. Director,

Census and Statistics). Husband of Pakiaranee. Father of Anita and Nirumbini. Funeral on 7th September. 95, Kandy Road, Chundikuli.