

News Review

EELAM/SRI LANKA

The atrocities of the Sri Lankan armed forces in the Northern and Eastern part of Sri Lanka is on the increase. Every day innocent Tamils are being harrassed, killed, their properties destroyed and made refugees in their homeland. Recently, the Armed Forces, the most undisciplined in the World according to the Time magazine went on killing sprees in the North and East of the island. Following the attacks on army convoys in Karavetti, Thikkam and various other places the armed forces have increased their retaliation against the innocent Tamils. In one village alone seventy youths between the ages of 16 and 25 were packed in a community centre and burnt alive. Similar attacks on innocent Tamil Speaking People had also been reported.

Following the attack on Karainagr Naval Base in which both the militant youths and the navy suffered high casualty, more than 2500 houses were reduced to ashes in Karainagar, 50 innocent Tamils killed, and more than 20,000 people made refugees by the actions of the armed forces.

The pressure put by the militant youths on the armed forces has acquired a new dimension. The attacks on army camps, naval bases, and the ambushes on army convoys are becoming more daring and the individual military operations are more successful than ever before. While this so, the retaliatory measures by the army, and the collective punishment" the army imposes on innocent Tamils are also on the increase. Within three weeks more than 300 people were shot dead by the army. This is causing concern amongst the Tamil Speaking People. People are being alienated and made pure spectators by the modus operandi of military actions by some of the major Liberation Organisations and the "collective punishment" that follows them. Many wonder if the present strategy adopted by these Organisations is correct.

Commenting on the present situation, the spokesman for Eelam Revolutionary Organisers says "We do not believe in 'hit and run' tactics as the only way to mobilise the people. In fact, instead of mobilising and organising the people it has demobilised them. This is the bitter experience that we draw from the state of our revolutionary struggle for Liberation. We, too, believe that means justify the end. But the end should be the people and not the institutions or organisations or military operations. Our aim should therefore be to carry out military actions which should act as agents to mobilise people, disperse the enemy, not allowing the enemy to concentrate its forces in one area. Our objective must be to create self-defence centres, fortified villages, no-go areas, and self-sufficient economy — in essence to create alternative power centres. This needs time, effort and organising. In the meantime our military strategy should be to cause striking blow to the economy of

the enemy and to bring about a psychological set back to armed forces. In essence our political and military tactics should be subversion and sabotage. Considering the developing changes in Eelam and Sri Lanka, we believe there is an urgent need for a coordinated military activity between all the Liberation Organisations. We believe in this firmly and are working towards its fulfilment. Our activities are in accordance with our strategy as it would be clear from our recent SPRING CAMPAIGN."

Second explosion in Colombo within a month

A bomb exploded near the Sri Lanka army headquarters in Colombo on Monday night 30th of April, shattering window panes of several buildings in the vicinity including a luxury hotel. The bomb blast damaged the accounts and legal department at army headquarters. It should be noted that this area has been designated as high security zone. The explosion was heard 7 miles away. A new building in the neighbourhood had two gaping holes on its walls. This bomb blast came within 48 hours of National Security Minister Lalith Atulathmudali's statement in parliament that EROS was planning to explode bombs in the capital.

This was the second explosion in the city in April. On April 10, a bomb exploded in a railway station near the international airport on the eve of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit. The bomb blasts occurred in spite of the tight security, according to government officials.

Army attack on Eelam Revolutionary Organisers' camp thwarted

It is reliably understood from the spokesman for Eelam Revolutionary Organisers that a commando attack on their camp at Koduvamadu, Maddakalappu was successfully repelled. Commando unit of a strength of 45, led by S.I. Veeratunga in two military trucks descended on the camp on April 3, 1985. The first truck was blown to bits by the mines placed strategically with the safety of the camp in mind. The second was ambushed by the revolutionaries and Mr. Veeratunga was arrested. Together with the three informers who led the security forces to that attack, 36 commandos were killed, without any casualties to the revolutionaries. A number of weapons of the types S AK47 and M16 and enough ammunition were captured. It should be noted that this was the first time a camp of this nature was successfully defended without any casualties to the civilians or any Tamil militants. This is because it was not a planned attack but an 'opportunity ambush' in self-defence and the location of this confrontation was in forest not a village or town.

... Operations to relieve tensions in the Eastern Province

While government instigated violence between Islamic and Hindu Tamils was raging in the Eastern Province, Eelam Revolutionaries were actively engaging themselves in defusing the situation.

Since Mossad and SAS trained intelligence security forces were found to be in the forefront of this deep-seated conspiracy, to divide the Tamil speaking people, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisers have directed their campaigns in dislodging the fears and tensions created in that region. Apart from bringing the local Hindu and Islamic leaders together to discuss and to expose the government intentions, they have also carried out military operations in order to create conditions for such a process. The ambush on a police commando unit at Koamari, Ampharai — a Sinhala enclave created by the government through armed colonisation programmes, aimed at isolating the Tamil people — was one such operation.

This ambush happened on April 25, 1985, in the forests which surround Koamari, on the highway to Akkaripatthu — around which armed Sinhala colonisers are firmly entrenched. Police commandos lost 26 in their ranks and the revolutionaries returned their bases without casualties and with captured weapons and ammunition.

Against the tourist industry in the east coast

In a carefully thought-out military operation Eelam Revolutionary Organisers managed to put a certain end to the tourist industry in Trincomale — once a British naval base, of which facilities are now used by the USA.

Trincomale is being developed since 1945, as the bastion of Sinhala colonisation into Tamil areas, to bring about the necessary demographic change to this strategically located place, in order to cut-off the Northern Tamils from those in the East. Armed Sinhala settlers, paid informers and the stranglehold of the armed forces have been hindering any political work by the Tamils. Tourism is part of that Sinhala chauvinist strategy, catered for by the hotels and businesses built on the lands confiscated from the Tamils. Most of the tourists come from Australia, USA and Europe searching for coves and atolls for exotic sports such as scuba-diving, surfing, etc; but the beach resorts have become popular among the normal tourists as well.

The military operation though targetted at the tourist industry, it was also designed to deliver a psychological blow to the repressive forces and further, as a tonic to the Tamil people who have been harrassed and terrorised. The attack was carried out at Kuchivelli, on May 9, in which 4 police com-

continued on page 11

NEWS REVIEW

mandos were killed and more than 10 injured. Later, the explosion caused by the revolutionaries caused extensive damage to the properties near by and created a crater big enough to bury a whole truck.

Eelam revolutionaries disrupt massive Sinhala colonisation programme

The rational and constructive strategy of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisers, employing sabotage of the Sri Lankan economy as the primary military tactics, while organising the masses and creating a revolutionary rear, though promised much with the Oberoi bombing, while receiving set-back in an attempt to blow up the oil refinery at Sapugaskande, is now clearly emerging successfully in pointing the correct path to follow to all freedom fighters to forward the Eelam struggle. The attacks on the tourist industry in Tricomale and the Zachary-Dillingham irrigation projects have rendered the frequency for their strategy, to present itself as the correct form of approach, when all the conditions of our struggle are considered.

Zachary-Dillingham project is a section of the Mahaweli Development Scheme, to colonise Eelam areas with 200,000 Sinhala settlers — many of them would no doubt be armed — and located between Polonnaruwa and Manampitiya. It received its name from the US consortium Zachary-Dillingham, which undertook the project, with the approval of its government, even though US officials knew of the Sri Lanka's real intentions and the conflict of Eelavar with that inherent chauvinistic design.

In a two-pronged attack on May 19, against the field camp of the construction team, which was made up of 49 Americans, their 51 dependants and 22 others of European origin, no casualty was caused to the team itself, but, to the security force, of whom several died. The foreigners were 'persuaded' to leave the area and are now said to be in the consortium's guarded base camp, located 10 miles south-east of Polonnaruwa. The project and all machines were destroyed soon afterwards.

For logistical purposes a security post near A11 road at Manampitiya was attacked by another unit of the revolutionaries, who overran the post and held it until it was necessary, during, 6 security forces died and 8 seriously injured. Revolutionaries also captured and secured the nearby rail bridge across the Mahaweli River. All participated in the attack returned to their bases safely. On the following day 11 more soldiers died and several were injured, while pursuing the revolutionaries into Eelam.

The continuation of the project now depends on the Sri Lankan government's determination to pursue its policy of bringing demographic changes to that area and also of the willingness of the consortium to participate in that conspiracy, perhaps while

endangering the safety of its individual members.

West German built propaganda machinery blasted

The importance of the media in a Ceylonese life and the governmental control over it, is well understood by all, especially by Eelavar, since the powerful disinformation campaign waged against their struggle for justice and peace has an unprecedented adverse consequence. The majority of the newspapers are either owned by the government or its UNP supporters and the oppositions' papers either closed down or silenced through various means, while the news itself is entirely censored by the government. The radio and TV networks are also owned by the state, thus, the whole of the media becomes a monstrous tool for its propaganda purposes. This situation is further aided by the western governments, especially by West Germany which built the Deutchwelle radio station in Trincomale, for it, which has spent several million Deutchmarks. The propaganda activities are further heightened and internationalised by the Sri Lankan government's agreement with the USA in allowing the Voice of America to build yet another radio station in the same vicinity, to bring yankee imperialism with its coca-cola civilisation to the nations in the Indian Ocean and to destabilise the region.

Preventing such imperialistic designs and countering the Sri Lankan government's vicious disinformation campaign and severing its organs — whoever have created and maintained them — are responsibilities of Eelam revolutionaries who are also true internationalists. Thus, the destruction of this West German sponsored propaganda machinery should have been well anticipated by many. In an attack on the radio station on 6 June 1985, Eelam Revolutionary Organisers completely destroyed the tower and the buildings and took away transmitting equipments worth thousands of pounds. All those participating in the operation returned to their bases safely.

Kaluthurai alcohol refinery burnt to the ground

Eelam Revolutionary Organisers further increased their activities against the Sri Lankan economy and have dealt a severe blow to it, by causing fire with incendiary devices to the alcohol distilling factory complexes at Kaluthurai near Colombo. The factory produces millions of bottles of alcohol, widely known in Sri Lanka as Arack, for export as well as internal markets.

The fire started by the devices on 7 June 1985, completely gutted the main factory premises causing damage worth 3 million pounds or more according to the officials. It is the major attack on a Sri Lankan economic installation and a successful one, resulting in a major fire in a region near the capital.

An operation to cut-off an armed Sinhala enclave

At this present stage of our peoples' struggle many have attached a label — revolutionary — a terminology they have taken it for granted, just because they carry a gun and prepared to die, but, without a proper understanding of the conditions of our struggle, a rational theory, philosophy and well thought-out strategy.

There are those with new-found Tamil machoism set about in ejecting the Sinhala occupying army, without a care for the consequences to the people and the adversities, constrains on the conditions of the struggle itself, as though it is a matter of courage and will to 'liberate' an empty land, with armed 'boys', casting the people aside; there are those who prepare an army of thousands like our old Tamil kings of Sholas and Pandiyas, waiting for an opportune moment to do the same 'job', while talking vociferously about mass, peoples struggle; and there are those who say everything everyone else says, hoping to be 'popular' by any means, hitting the same target again and again without any relation to what they copy from others around them. But, there are also those who believe in what they say and do, staying steadfast to the principles, philosophies and strategies, not wavering to pressures for greater, exaggerated publicity for their correct actions, thus, believing in the truths and the ultimate qualities of the people themselves, therefore, creating revolutionary villages, alternative power centres, etc., while mobilising them into various fronts and further trying to prevent the total erosion of the conditions of our struggle and care for the people — the victims of chaos and defend the gains with reoluteness.

That is, when Eelam is fast becoming a nation of empty lands, its people driven out to all corners of the world and to refugee camps, one who could fortunately think should question oneself: "Is the Palestinian tragedy going to be repeated to our people in Eelam?"

However, as revolutionaries we should carry-on with our correct activities, defending our land and people from further aggression of the Sinhala chauvinists, according to the strategies we have put forward. Eelam Revolutionary Organisers carried out an attack on the security forces on 26 May 1985, in a Sinhala colonised area near the village of Kiran, situated between Muthur and Batticola, killing 37 of the Sinhala armed forces. Several weapons and enough ammunition were also captured, before the revolutionaries returned safely to their bases.



Daily Telegraph

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Thatcher airport bomb blast

By JAMES MacMANUS
in Colombo

MRS THATCHER flew into Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, last night on the most difficult stage of her Asian tour, hours after Tamil secessionists had detonated a bomb in the grounds of the international airport.

The explosion at a railway station 200 yards from the main terminal killed an airport worker and wounded several others. Armed troops ringed the tarmac yesterday as Mrs Thatcher arrived in the highest security of her tour so far.

Tamil guerrillas fighting for an independent state in the north of the island have vowed to mark the Prime Minister's two-day visit by stepping up their terror campaign.

On Wednesday evening Tamil guerrillas launched a six-hour attack on the main police station at Jaffna, in the north of the island, burning down the building and damaging several others in the city, according to independent sources.

The Government announced last night that four policemen and 20 secessionists had died in the fighting, but other sources placed the death toll at 40.

Rousing reception

Mrs Thatcher, who is to inaugurate a British-funded dam on the island today, will hold talks with the Government about the security situation and political moves to meet Tamil demands for a greater say in the running of the island.

Britain has given more than £110 million for the dam across the Mahaweli river near Kandy, designed to irrigate thousands of acres, help settle hundreds of families in new cultivable land and generate 210 megawatts of power.

Earlier yesterday Mrs Thatcher was given the most rousing reception of her Asian

Continued on Back P, Col 5

Thatcher

By JAMES MacMANUS
Continued from Page One

tour when thousands of flag-waving schoolchildren and cheering students mobbed her during a visit to Bandung, in the highlands of Indonesia.

Shouting "We love you, Maggie," and less to the point, "Liverpool, Liverpool," the students at the town's Institute of Technology threatened to sweep the Prime Minister off her feet.

With little police protection from the boisterous crowd the British party was at one point cut off in a sea of young Indonesians all reaching out to touch the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher, looking slightly shaken by the most disorderly scenes of her 11-day tour, was escorted to her car by her three British bodyguards and four Indonesian military policemen.

Signs of fatigue

During the Prime Minister's visit, Mr John Andrews, a British lecturer on attachment from University College, London, warned her that promoting British products abroad was not enough.

Mr Andrews in Bundung on a four-year contract under a World Bank programme, said "The British Government has not woken up to the fact that it must sell the country's academic services and get more overseas students into Britain if we are to promote trade successfully abroad."

Later Mrs Thatcher, who showed signs of fatigue on the eighth day of her seven-nation

tour, watched an aircraft display and toured a factory where a state-owned company manufactured planes and helicopters in association with Spain, West Germany and France.

Mrs Thatcher praised her exuberant welcome in the city but the 30-minute flight back to the Indonesian capital brought the fourth major Press conference of her tour and revealed a tired and irritable Prime Minister.

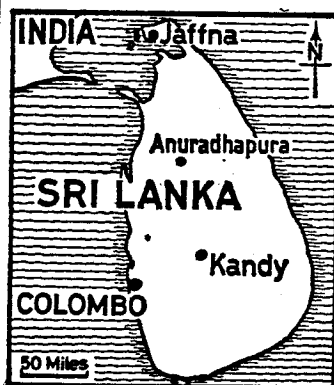
Under pressure from British correspondents, she twice refused to answer questions about Opposition criticism of her anti-union remarks in Malaysia and Singapore.

Sharp response

To her first questioner she snapped: "I have not come all the way to Indonesia to discuss comments about me by someone at home."

When another questioner said he wished to raise the issue of the sustained Labour party attack on her tour this week, the Prime Minister cut short the question, saying with evident anger, "I don't see why you should. We are in Indonesia and we are having a Press conference with our Indonesian guests."

That sharp response effectively ended British participation in the Press conference and left Indonesian journalists free to elicit the view from the Prime Minister that "I am confident a resurgent Britain will develop closer relations with Indonesia. I am sure trade will increase—we are the best of friends."



THE GUARDIAN Friday April 12 1985

Terror alert as Thatcher keeps date in Colombo

By Eric Silver in
Colombo and David McKie

Security Forces were put on alert last night after two terrorist attacks on the eve of Mrs Thatcher's two-day visit to Sri Lanka.

Armed police were posted along the 20-mile route from the airport to the president's palace when the Prime Minister arrived from Jakarta.

Twenty Tamil guerrillas and four policemen were killed when insurgents attacked Jaffna police station in the Tamil northern peninsula and a woman died and four other people were injured in a bomb attack on a train near Colombo airport, both incidents happened on Wednesday.

Before leaving Jakarta Mrs Thatcher refused to be drawn on the controversy after Labour attacks on her as the enemy abroad. "I did not come all the way to Indonesia to discuss comments about me by someone at home," she said.

"My interest at the moment is not in the Labour Party and I don't think there is anything constructive I can say about it."

She was under fire again yesterday when the Liberal leader Mr David Steel ridiculed her insistence that the Government's student grants fiasco occurred while she was out of the country.

Speaking in his constituency, Mr Steel said: "Mrs Thatcher has confided to us from the safe distance of Jakarta that things only go wrong in this country when she is away. In the House of Commons she used the same alibi over the Ponting prosecution, claiming she had been in Switzerland at the time.

"When the cat is away the

mice obviously get up to all sorts of mischief. Perhaps the Prime Minister could check her diary and let us know where she was on other occasions — when house building ground to a standstill; when the teachers were converted from mild moderates to angry radicals; and, above all, when unemployment trebled to 3½ million.

"I wonder what is going wrong at this very moment as the victor of the picket lines tells her personal story of triumph all over south-east Asia.

"I wonder if she told the Chancellor or the Employment Minister that she had commanded inflation to come down to 3 per cent. I notice that she had no similar instruction for a reduction in unemployment."

Mr Steel said Mrs Thatcher's "one-woman government" had become ridiculous. Britain had a cabinet, not a presidential system of government. The Prime Minister might have become enamoured of doing things the American way but she ought not to forget how the British constitution worked.

In Colombo, security sources suspect that the rail bombing was timed to coincide with Mrs Thatcher's visit.

Buses ferrying passengers in both directions between Jaffna and Colombo for this weekend's Tamil new year were reported last night to have been delayed by intensive security checks, but President Jayawardene issued strict orders that there were to be no army reprisals against Tamil civilians, who he believes are turning away from the guerrillas.

Leader comment, page 12

ANTI-TERROR TROOPS GUARD THATCHER

By JAMES MacMANUS in Kandy, Sri Lanka

HEAVILY-GUARDED against guerrilla attack Mrs Thatcher inaugurated the Victoria Dam, Britain's largest single aid project, in the central hills of Sri Lanka yesterday.

The Prime Minister and her husband flew by helicopter from the capital, Colombo, to the British-built dam, where she told President Jayawardene: "Together we have created this mighty work, which will stand for decades as a sure sign of what friendship and co-operation can achieve."

Troops were posted in the forested hills around the dam, which was built with £113 million of British aid, as a giant hydro-electric project was formally opened in sweltering heat.

No further guerrilla incidents were reported yesterday, but reliable sources disclosed that during last Wednesday's attack on a police station at Jaffna, in which at least 20 people including four policemen died, nine police commandos were abducted.

Mrs Thatcher was criticised at the ceremony by another British

whether the Victoria Dam which the Labour Government had indicated it wanted to go ahead should do so. The actual decision to go ahead was, indeed ours."

During the drive to Kandy, the spiritual capital of Ceylon, from the dam, the Sri Lankan leader and the British Prime Minister discussed the Tamil separatists whose struggle with the authorities in the north of the island has set in train a cycle of violence against civilians for which both sides are responsible.

Mrs Thatcher repeated Britain's view that the violence is an internal matter.

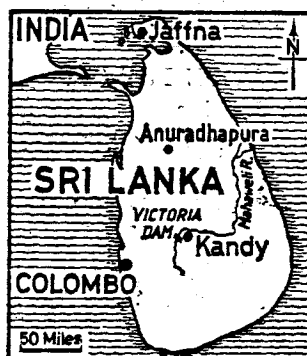
She will fly to New Delhi today for talks with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister. There is little doubt that she will discuss her briefing on the guerrilla war in Sri Lanka with her Indian host in a possible effort to bring India and Sri Lanka closer together about an issue that deeply divides them.

Irony in Delhi

At the fourth press conference of her Asian tour the Prime Minister emphasised that Britain supported the democratic government of Sri Lanka in its fight against terrorism. She would not be drawn on Britain's reluctance to sell heavy weapons to Colombo.

Tonight's talks in New Delhi will have a certain irony since Mr Gandhi's concern about the fund-raising and propaganda activities of Sikh extremists in Britain is not matched by any desire to curb the fund-raising, propaganda and training activities of Tamil extremists based in the Indian city of Madras.

It is unlikely that Mrs Thatcher will make this point since, judging by recent hard-line Indian statements, she will have a difficult time in persuading the Indian leader that more cannot be done to prevent Sikh activity in London.



guest, Mrs Betty Boothroyd, M.P. for West Bromwich and a member of the Labour National Executive Committee.

She said that "it was a bit of a cheek" for the Prime Minister to claim credit for the dam since the Labour party had sanctioned the project before the Conservatives came to power in 1979.

At a Press conference, the Prime Minister retorted: "I can assure you it was our decision. Every single thing we looked at afresh when we came into government.

"One was the question of

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 12 1985

Prime Minister's seven-nation tour

24 die in Tamil rocket attack as Thatcher arrives in Sri Lanka

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Mrs Margaret Thatcher flew into Colombo last night but before she arrived, Tamil rebels, who are conducting a terrorist campaign to force the establishment of a separate state in the north and east of the island, marked the occasion with a series of vicious attacks in which 24 people - including four policemen - died.

The strife-torn north of Sri Lanka was subjected to the worst attacks when a number of rockets were fired at the complex of offices housing the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Northern Region, in Jaffna. The attacks began at 9.30 on Wednesday evening and continued until 2.30 yesterday morning, by which time, reports say, the complex was razed to the ground.

Jaffna police station close by was also damaged, and so were the town hall and other buildings in the area. The rockets were fired from a mile away.

After the attacks there were also fears that a number of senior officers had been abducted as their colleagues were unable to contact them.

Yesterday young men armed with rifles openly toured Jaffna advising people to beware of

reprisals by the Sri Lankan armed forces and to return home. Most inhabitants complied and by mid-morning the town had the air of a ghost city.

A government spokesman said that the 20 civilians who died were all Tamil terrorists.

The airport at which Mrs Thatcher landed was also subjected to an attack when a bomb exploded in a train at the airport station. The train was 10 minutes late arriving but had it been on time it would have been crowded with around 500 young women working at the port's free trade zone.

A beggar woman was killed and three railway employees were injured in the incident.

It was supposed that the extremists planned the attack to create a sufficient outrage to cause Mrs Thatcher's visit to be cancelled at the last minute, or at least to embarrass the Sri Lankan Government.

As it was, Mrs Thatcher was greeted at the airport by Mr Gamini Dissanayake, the Minister in charge of the huge dam on the Mahaweli River which she is due to inaugurate today. She was taken to the residence of the British High Commissioner for a briefing on the situation.

At the time of its inception the Victoria Dam represented the largest single British aid project anywhere in the world. British companies have built it and provided the power station equipment. All in all it represents £113 million of British money donated by the Government.

The dam, set in a beautiful steep-sided jungle-clad mountain valley in the heart of the central highlands, will provide both hydro-electric power and irrigation.

● Mrs Thatcher will meet President Jayewardene in Colombo today (Henry Stanhope writes).

She will then deliver an address to the Sri Lanka Parliament tomorrow before flying to Delhi for talks and dinner with the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

The final call on her Eastern odyssey will be on King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who invited her to stop at Riyadh during her return flight to London for discussions on the world scene in general and the Middle East in particular. The Gulf War will figure prominently.

The Prime Minister arrives back at Heathrow airport later on Sunday.

The Daily Telegraph, Tuesday, May 14, 1983

Sri Lanka mine blast wrecks tourist season

By VILMA WIMALADASA in Colombo

A LAND MINE set off by Tamil separatist terrorists close to holiday hotels in the seaside resort of Trincomalee—once a British naval base—has almost certainly put an end, at least temporarily, to tourism in the area.

According to unconfirmed reports at least two policemen died and some others were seriously injured as their jeep travelled along the Kuchavelli-Trincomalee road near the hotels.

Sources from the Nilaweli Beach hotel, one of the largest hotels, said that even now there are only about 100 tourists among all the hotels in the area.

They panicked at the new developments and most of them wanted to return to Colombo.

This is the east coast tourist season and until recently Trincomalee was one of the most popular beach resorts.

The Navy, Army and other security forces who moved into the areas following the incident, are directing operations from the hotels, according to the source.

This has added to the general panic among the guests.

Trincomalee, which boasts a natural harbour, also has the recently-built Deutshwelle radio station, which cost several million Deutchesmarks, some miles along the road from where the mine went off.

Tamil blast shakes hotels

From Roland Edirisinghe in Colombo

Tamil guerrillas, fighting to set up a separate state in northern Sri Lanka, have triggered a huge explosion near the army headquarters complex in Colombo signalling their ability to strike at will when and where they choose.

Army headquarters are in Baladaksha Mawatha, next to Colombo's five-star hotels — the Hotel Lanka Oberoi, the Taj Samudra, the Holiday Inn and the Galle Face Hotel. The bomb went off while a party was going on at the officers' mess of the Sri Lanka army. The explosion caused minor damage but no one was injured. Some of the tourist hotels also suffered vibration damage with windows shattered.

Galle Face, the city's marine drive, is to be the venue for today's May Day rally organised by the ruling party — the United National Party — at which President Jayewardine is expected to preside. There was speculation in Colombo yesterday that the bomb may have been meant to compel the President to abandon the rally on security grounds.

He has an enviable reputation for not scaring too easily, so today's rally will go ahead.

The authorities said yesterday that the explosion was caused by a parcel bomb which had been left at the roundabout leading to Baladaksha Mawatha. There was no explanation as to how it could have got there, in an area of maximum security.

Meanwhile, the State Ministry announced that one officer and five soldiers were killed at Polkandi in the Jaffna Peninsula on Sunday when an army detail was engaged in a combing out operation. They were killed when a land mine exploded in their path.

Vincent Tulloch adds from Kingston, Jamaica: Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa yesterday cancelled a press conference without giving reasons, but not before news circulated of a threat on his life.

Mr Premadasa, here on an official five-day visit addressed the opening session of the UN Commission on Human Settlements (Habitat) under tight security.

TAMIL TERROR SQUAD FIRE ON U.S. TEAM

By IAN WARD in Colombo

TAMIL terrorists opened fire yesterday on an American aid project attached to Sri Lanka's giant Mahaweli irrigation scheme, forcing the entire expatriate construction team and their dependants to flee to safety.

There were no casualties among the foreigners who were quickly withdrawn from the field to the consortium's guarded base camp, located 10 miles south-east of Polonnaruwa, the famed city of ruined temples.

An American Embassy spokesman confirmed that along with 49 American members of the team, their 61 dependants and 22 others, there was a Briton whom he identified as Mr David Burnie.

The attack against the Zachary-Dillingham section of the downstream works represented a major shift in terrorist tactics. It was the first time the insurgents had attacked a foreign project.

Gunships fly in

Soon after the attack Sri Lanka's High Command ordered several helicopter gunships into the area and launched a ground sweep against the terrorist band.

I understand the helicopters are to be used to protect both camp personnel and machinery from further possible terrorist action.

In an apparently co-ordinated action, another Tamil terrorist unit attacked the nearby All road and rail bridge across the Mahaweli River at Manampitiya, close to Polonnaruwa.

They strafed a guard post and killed four policemen. Four other security troops were reported injured.

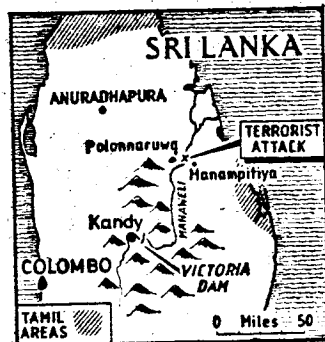
The terrorists actually held the bridge for some time until security reinforcements fought back and eventually gained control.

8 a.m. Attack

Zachary-Dillingham is the American consortium handling the project which is introducing specialist irrigation techniques to the north-central dry zone of the island. Historically it was once one of the world's richest rice-growing areas.

The two-pronged attack against the predominantly American construction team took place around 8 a.m.

A key factor in the decision on their future will inevitably be the American Embassy's assessment of the terrorists'



motives for suddenly switching their attentions to the Mahaweli downstream project.

As no casualties were inflicted among the expatriates, the terrorists' intention may have been primarily one of unnerving the workers.

On the other hand, the militants might be trying to disrupt government plans for settling 200,000 Sinhalese farmers in the region which the Tamils regard as an important and integral part of their claimed separate state of Eelam.

Britain provided an outright grant of £100 million to construct the upstream Victoria Dam segment of the Mahaweli scheme. The Dam, near Kandy, was opened by Mrs Thatcher during her visit to Sri Lanka.

MASSACRE CLAIM

Youths dig own graves

Reports from Sri Lanka's Eastern Province last night claimed that members of the government's elite police commando unit, operating in several seaside villages, forced Tamil youths to dig their own graves before they were executed from 32 up to 62, were flatly denied by the High Command in Colombo.

Different sources claimed that the execution squads from the Special Task Force had taken young Tamil terrorist suspects from their homes early in the morning. They were lined up on the beaches in front of the shallow trenches they had dug and shot dead.

Foreigners become a target in Sri Lanka

By IAN WARD in Colombo

SRI LANKAN leaders feel confident the danger has now passed of a bloody racial backlash from the Anuradhapura massacre of 146 Sinhalese civilians by Tamil separatist terrorists last Wednesday.

But terrorist attacks and road minings in the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern sectors of Sri Lanka are keeping security forces under heavy pressure.

Five policemen of a special task force died and three were seriously injured when a mine was detonated under their patrol vehicle on the Batticaloa-Eravur road in the eastern province yesterday.

In the same general area pursuit was stepped up of Tamil terrorists who attacked the Manampitiya road and rail bridge on Monday.

Two-pronged attack

Also nearby, security forces continued to hunt the terrorists who made a two-pronged attack on Monday on a United States aid project within the giant Mahaweli downstream irrigation development scheme.

No casualties were suffered by the workers, but according to Government sources last night the American Embassy has ordered all expatriates and their dependants attached to the project to return to Colombo until security improves.

Western military observers regard the attack against the United States aid project as an important new direction for Tamil insurgents.

For the first time foreign nationals became a target, and it was also the first terrorist attack on the vital Mahaweli scheme consisting of the upstream Victoria dam and hydro-electric power complex and the downstream irrigation works.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister for National Security, emphasised yesterday that the slaughter of civilians in Anuradhapura was also a new dimension of Tamil terror.

"Here they kill innocent civilians in areas they do not claim," he said. Military experts are speculating meanwhile that there may have been a broad reassessment by the terrorists of targets and tactics if not of political philosophy as well.

Against this background Sri Lanka's influential Buddhist

hierarchy is calling for direct negotiations with the terrorist leaders, who up to now have been portrayed by Buddhist monks as common criminals.

Blaming increased terrorism, Sri Lankan authorities ordered all the island's wildlife parks off limits to the public last night.

The decision to halt visits to the Yala game sanctuary in the south, the Wilpattu national park in the north-west, and the Kumana bird reserve in the east, effectively blocks out Sri Lanka's one remaining tourist attraction.

The heightened terrorism of the past three months, culminating in the Anuradhapura massacre has had a serious effect on tourism.

THE GUARDIAN Tuesday May 21 1985

Tulf accuses the army of killing 40 youths

Workers flee from US camp as Tamils raid police station

From David Pallister
in Colombo

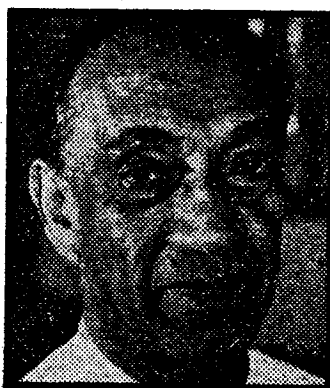
Tamil guerrillas struck deep into Sri Lanka's Eastern Province yesterday, attacking a police station close to a US agricultural development camp where 49 Americans and their families live.

The US embassy in Colombo said that the Sri Lankan workers at the site fled from the shooting, but with the poor communications, it was not known whether anyone was hurt or whether the camp itself had been the object of the attack.

An embassy spokesman agreed that the project at Polonnaruwa was potentially a target because the irrigation work was part of the Government's strategy to resettle Sinhalese farmers in areas claimed by the Tamil Separatists. "There have been no incidents yet of foreign nationals being attacked, but we will have to wait for a clearer report before we consider pulling our people out," the spokesman said.

Two policemen guarding a bridge at Polonnaruwa were killed yesterday in a Tamil attack. A third was wounded.

The attack on the Mannampitya police station, 30 miles inland, has demonstrated again the ability of the Tamil guerrillas to operate outside their strongest areas of support in the northern district of Jaffna. But repercussions and retaliations for the massacre of 146 Sinhalese civilians near the Buddhist shrine in Anuradhapura last week, allegedly by guerrillas, still dominate events on the island. In partic-



● President Jayewardene called a meeting

ular, President Junius Jayewardene is under increasing criticism and pressure for the apparent absence of security forces in the towns, although fears of a Sinhalese backlash appear to have receded.

Nevertheless reports persisted yesterday that a group of army commandos had rounded up and killed more than 40 Tamil youths in the Eastern Province coast town of Kalmunai at the weekend.

According to the local organiser for the Tamil United Liberation Front — the moderate political Tamil party — the youths were arrested in three villages and then made to dig their own graves before being shot.

The organiser, reporting by telephone to one of his leaders in Colombo, said he had collected the names of 22 young men who had disappeared. But when he and some of their parents went to the army camp, the command was un-

able to confirm their whereabouts.

The Government's chief provincial administrator for the area denied that the killings took place. He claimed that in a sweep by members of the police Special Task Force five Tamil terrorists had been killed and a further 20 escaped by boat.

Commenting for the first time on the Anuradhapura massacre, the minister for national security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, claimed that he had intelligence reports to suggest that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, one of the main guerrilla groups, was responsible. However, all five Tamil groups under arms have disclaimed responsibility.

The relative restraint of the Sinhalese community after the massacre was praised at the weekend by one of the country's three leading Buddhist monks, Palipane Chantananda, who made a rare political intervention by calling together representatives of all the political parties to discuss the security situation.

There was some suggestion of setting up a security advisory committee headed by Buddhist leaders, but no formal decision was taken except to hold a further meeting on June 4.

President Jayewardene, who may have given the meeting his tacit approval, did not send a representative from his ruling United National party. And, as if to capture the initiative, it was announced yesterday that he had called for a meeting of all religious groups for tomorrow.

Sri Lankan conflict**Rebel attack cuts Hayden tour**

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

While charge and counter-charge between the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamils of the Eastern Province were being exchanged yesterday over the deaths of a large number of young Tamil men, an attack on a bridge on the main road to the provincial capital, Batticaloa, has curtailed the plans of Mr Bill Hayden the Australian Foreign Minister, to visit the area later this week.

At the same time the mutual kidnapping of Tamils and Muslims in the area has not been resolved. Muslims kidnapped by Tamils have not been released, and as many as 60 Tamils are still being held by Muslims.

According to a number of Tamils who got away, the kidnapped people are being held on an island in Batticaloa lagoon. They have been tied, and the tendons in their calves have been slashed to prevent them from escaping.

The bridge at Manampitya, a few miles outside Polunnaruwa, was attacked by extremists yesterday, though they were fought off by the police picket guarding it. Two policemen were killed.

Mr Hayden was to visit Polunnaruwa, the site of ancient ruins of a former capital of Lanka, and a famous archaeolo-

gical and tourist resort. He arrived in Colombo last night for two days as part of his swing through the Indian subcontinent. He has already visited India, Pakistan and Nepal.

He will no longer be able to visit the town, and a substitute programme is being hurriedly arranged. Sri Lanka is running out of places of archaeological significance for him to visit which are not in areas threatened by terrorists.

Two members of the citizens' committee of the eastern town of Kalmunai spent yesterday in Batticaloa giving evidence about the murder of as many as 60 young men from their area by members of the Special Task Force, a police commando trained in counter-insurgency techniques by former members of the British SAS.

As reported in *The Times* last Saturday the committee alleged that 23 young men were arrested by the commandos in the village of Natpaddmunai, were taken away and shot and buried in shallow graves near Akaraipattu.

The committee now alleges that another 19 were arrested in the village of Tambiluvil, near Tirrukovil, and buried in the cemetery there. Other young men were arrested and killed elsewhere in the district. The

local militants exhumed the bodies, photographed them and reburied them.

According to a local religious leader, the Special Task Force became uneasy after this and exhumed the bodies again. They transported them across the lagoon and burned them away from the eyes of the inhabitants.

The Government is now saying that a group of young militants was surprised at a camp in Kallar, near Kalmunai, and scattered. According to a Government source, five young men were killed on the spot. One was captured but committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide pellet. Twenty other guerrillas made their escape.

While these disturbances continue in the east, the political situation in Colombo also remains uneasy. Many people in the south are blaming the Government of President Jayewardene for failing to control the terrorists, thus allowing the Anuradhapura massacre to take place.

The discontent was shown in plans by one of the most senior figures in the Buddhist church, the Mahanayake Thero of Asigiriya, the Ben Palipane Chandananda, to explore the possibility of forming an alternative government of national unity.

குண்டு வெடிப்பால் ராணுவ கட்டடம் பலத்த சேதம்!

இராணுவ தலைமை அலுவலகத்தில் உள்ள சட்டப்பரிவு உள்ள மூன்று மாடிக் கட்டடத்தில் நேற்று முன்தினம் இரவு ஏற்பட்ட குண்டு வெடிப்பினால் அதன் அடிப்பாகம் பலத்த சேதம் அடைந்துள்ளதாக அறிவிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

இக்குண்டு இங்கு இரவு எட்டு மணிபளவில் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்ததாகவும், அதைக் கண்ட அதிகாரிகள் அதை வெடிக்க வைப்பதற்கு முன்னரே அது வெடித்து விட்டதாகவும் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

குச்சம்பலத்துக்கு இதுவரை யார் பொறுப்பு என்பது கண்டு பிடிக்கப்படவில்லை. உயிர்ச் சேதங்கள் எதுவும் ஏற்படவில்லை.

ஒரு இராணுவப் பொருவினாலிய இது செய்யப்பட்டதாக அதிகாரிகள் கண்டு

-6-ம் பக்கம் பார்க்க

பிடித்துள்ளனர்.

இராணுவ தலைமை அலுவலகத்துக்கு அருகிலுள்ள திருமேட்டல், சிறு விட்ட இராணுவ தலைமை அலுவலகம் இக்குண்டு வெடிப்பால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டன.

OLD BRIDGE KEY TO STRUGGLE IN SRI LANKA

By IAN WARD

at Manampitiya, North Central Province, Sri Lanka

JUST as surely as Sri Lanka's Tamil rebellion will unhappily grind on into the months and probably years ahead, the bridge at Manampitiya, pot-holed, pitted and pathetic, is destined to become of vital psychological significance to both sides of the struggle.

Already the Tamil terrorists have signalled their interest in the dilapidated, colonial-British, concrete-and-iron structure with a probing attack last week which left two Government security troops dead and several wounded.

High command planners, whose level of defensive preparedness at the bridge had seemed to characterise a somewhat cavalier attitude, were suddenly forced to think in terms of its strategic significance. There followed a decidedly sobering exercise.

Quite clearly the bridge at Manampitiya holds the key to the terrorists' land supply routes between their strongholds in the island's northern province and their target areas for furthering the insurgency within Tamil townships and villages that dot the Eastern Province's coastal belt.

Deny the Government side use of the bridge at Manampitiya, which spans the broad, muddy-brow waters of the Mahaweli river, Sri Lanka's largest inland waterway, and the terrorists win virtual control of the jungle and scrub-covered flat hinterland approaches to the Eastern Province's central region.

Sole rail link

Across the bridge at Manampitiya runs the main East-West trunk route designated A-11, together with the sole rail link to Batticaloa, largest population centre on the east coast. So narrow is the bridge's passage-way that road traffic must stop if a train is using the single-gauge track.

Thus a relatively simple terrorist act would throw military logistical support and civilian supplies throughout the Eastern Province into chaos.



Equally important, from the terrorists' point of view, would be the effect such sabotage would have on the security forces' capacity to rush reinforcements to the comparatively sparsely populated flatlands on either side of the Mahaweli.

If last week's probing attack needed something more to jolt the thinking of Government military strategists back in Colombo, they did not have long to wait.

The days that have followed have demonstrated an unusually intense pattern of terrorist field action throughout this general north-eastern region to as far north as Trincomalee, the coastal port city which figures large in the development fantasies of Tamils committed to the creation of a separatist state called Eelam.

Certainly nobody can accuse the Colombo high command of panic over-reaction to the threat on the bridge at Manampitiya. Eight days after the probing attack the western approaches are defended by a handful of Army troops, who man a road block by day and

retreat to a sandbagged bunker by night.

On the eastern approaches, where the main guardpost is situated there is a slightly larger Army unit, which has taken the unusual defensive measure of leaning huge slabs of plate steel against the sides of the guardhouse, thereby effectively covering the windows from incoming fire.

How they will fire out of the guardhouse to repel an attack is difficult to imagine, and there appear to be no other forms of defensive position associated with the bridge.

If the Government is slow to react, the people in the area are not. Many Tamil families have shut up their houses and shops and fled, fearing reprisals.

At Polonnaruwa, the fabled city of ruins, a few miles back along Route A-11, the situation is the same.

At the Polonnaruwa guest house, where they built a special wing on a rock levee jutting into the lake especially to accommodate the Queen and Prince Philip on their 1954 tour, the manager awkwardly admits that tourist business has dropped to a trickle since Tamil and Moslem communities on the coast began arson raids on one another's villages some weeks ago.

Political sandwich

Tamils allege that the Government purposely incited the Moslems to violence to demonstrate a level of local antipathy towards the idea of Eelam, and at the same time to punish the Tamils for their continuing anti-Government actions. The Government describes such accusations as nonsense.

The Moslems, for their part, seem baffled and unquestionably unnerved by their position as the latest filling in the east-coast political sandwich.

Tie the east coast's racial problems, its plummeting security situation and its concomitant economic depression to the increased Tamil terrorist activity in the island's north-east and the result is indeed potentially disastrous.

How the West could save Sri Lanka

Colombo

As you drive along the road to Batticaloa, the major town on the east coast of Sri Lanka, little Tamil villages by the roadside gape with blackened walls and skeletal roofs. Every house bears the marks of intercommunal hatred.

In the north of the country, in Jaffna and the fishing village of Velvetiturai, houses and shops have been destroyed by military vengeance. A Buddhist Pagoda lies broken open in the centre of Jaffna, the victim of Tamil revenge. In the northernmost village of all, Point Pedro, the police station walls are cracked and broken, the roofs collapsed, testimony to the violence of the Tamil terrorists.

The archeological sites of Polunaruwa, the holy city of Anuradhapura and the remains of the palace built by a paranoid parricide in the fastness of Sigiriya, once earned Sri Lanka the title the land of ruins. It seems likely to earn the title again. In a makeshift mortuary at Anuradhapura last week the reek of death was overwhelming. Flies swarmed around the unclaimed bodies of innocent Sinhalese civilians caught at a bus stand or in a place of pilgrimage and shot by left-wing Tamil terrorists. The bodies included three saffron-clothed Buddhist nuns and a child.

At the weekend the citizens' committee in Kalmunai, in the east, reported that 59 young Tamils had been arrested by the security forces, killed and buried in shallow graves. I have personally heard evidence of

other massacres by Sri Lankan armed forces, some of them admitted by the government.

The truth is that all sides in the fearsome ethnic conflict have become brutalized by it. If it goes on Sri Lankan society can only fall deeper and deeper in blood.

Without such strife this would be a very fortunate land. It is warm and fertile, rich in gems. Its people are dextrous and clever.

President J. R. Jayewardene has said on many occasions that the conflict is an internal affair and interference will not be tolerated. It may have ceased to be a simple matter of internal policy, however, and friends of Sri Lanka have begun to ask whether something can be done to call a halt to the killings.

Already there are 100,000 Tamil refugees in India - nearly four per cent of the total Tamil population of the island. The Tamil middle-class are sending their young to Britain - 2,000 since the violence of July 1983, and the flow is increasing. Another 66 arrived at the weekend with nowhere to go and are being held in remand and detention centres.

There is a danger that these immigration problems will have further implications, and a possibility of the conflict being exported as Tamil and Sinhalese exiles quarrel abroad. It happened, for example, in Paris at the time of the 1983 riots. It could happen in London, Melbourne or Sydney, where there are large Sri Lankan communities.

The conflict has further international implications since the western powers, particularly the US, would be unhappy to see a left-wing dictatorship set up in even part of the island. India would be unhappy about any kind of great power presence in what it regards as its zone of interest.

The beleaguered Tamils look to India to intervene. Tamil political leaders frequently draw a parallel between the situation in East Pakistan before the birth of Bangladesh and that in the north of Sri Lanka now.

India, particularly at present as chairman of the non-aligned movement, must be committed to the principle of non-interference. But last year it helped to bring the Tamil politicians to the negotiating table and to establish a suggested agenda.

The political situation in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu will not allow the Indian authorities to suppress the Tamil guerrillas operating from there. But Rajiv Gandhi could restrict their operations, and also those of Sri Lankan political exiles if a settlement was in sight.

At present it seems unlikely that India can bring much pressure on Colombo, but Jayewardene and his government could lean heavily on western support and approval. Jayewardene has many friends in the West who admire the way he has handled the country's economy and militant trade unionism.

Britain should help because the seeds of the crisis were sown in the

unitary constitution at independence which did not contain adequate safeguards for the Tamils. The US should also perhaps be involved, along with Canada and Australia.

If these countries could agree on a programme with India that would satisfy Tamil aspirations, while not destroying the Sinhalese view of their country, it would be a step worth taking.

The programme could be close to the result of the all-party talks which ended in stalemate last December, with a proposal for a large measure of autonomy for each of the country's provinces. The gap between the two parties then seemed very small.

The danger here is that the outside interference would cause so much resentment that the proposals became wholly unacceptable. Again, India's influence might be beneficial, for Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike the former prime minister, and her son Anura, the present Opposition leader in Parliament, see themselves as allies of India.

Without some political solution the conflict will get worse. Already some Buddhist leaders are seeking a tougher attitude towards the Tamils and there are rumours of a possible unilateral declaration of independence by northern extremists, to be followed by a full-scale joint military operation by the guerrilla organizations. Time is running short.

Michael Hamlyn