

TAMIL EELAM INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

53 Bickley Street,
Tooting,
London SW17 9NF.
5th March 1986

Dear Sir/Madam,

URGENT APPEAL TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

Bombing of villages and towns; and burning alive, torturing and raping of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government armed forces and armed thugs have now reached an intolerable level! The scale of such atrocities have been especially stepped-up since the President of Sri Lanka, Junius Richard Jayawardena, had announced last December '85, that there will only be a military solution for the Tamil crisis in Sri Lanka! In fact at this very moment helicopter gunships and airforce planes are bombing to kill and wipe out the entire Tamil population of Sri Lanka, in the pretext of waging a war with the terrorists!

We are therefore drawing to your attention some vital facts relating to the situation in Sri Lanka:-

1. that the Kingdom of Tamil Eelam (consisting of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka) co-existed Independent of the two Sinhalese Kingdoms until October 1803.
2. that in 1833, Great Britain brought Tamil Eelam and Sinhala Kingdoms under a unitary state.
3. that the Tamils of Eelam are indeed a Nation by virtue of their possession of their own distinctive Language and Culture. And they live in a well defined territory in the North and East of the Island as given in the Arrowsmith Map of 1803, despite the continuous attempts of Colonisation with Sinhalese by successive Sri Lankan Governments!
Even before Independence was granted to Ceylon, the **Conservative MP for Hornsey, Mr Gammons**, expressed his fears for the safety of the Tamil people. He warned the Parliament on the Ceylon Independence Bill(House of Commons, August 1947) that, "The danger which Ceylon faces is that Ceylon is not a single unit. There are two races in Ceylon, the Sinhalese and the Tamils, a total of 6.5 million. They differ from the Sinhalese in race, religion and to a large extent in the background. They are extremely capable and intelligent people. I have had a lot to do with them because they played a very large part in the development of Malaya. It was the Jaffna Tamils who came in large numbers and started the railways and government services. Where there is a racial minority in the country, the danger is that it may become a Permanent Political Minority, Ceylon's evolution on a democratic basis is bound to fail. This imposes a great responsibility. It imposes on the Sinhalese the responsibility of seeing that they grant fair and if necessary rather more than fair treatment to the minority not only in Political Power but also in administrative responsibility so that the minority is not inevitably driven to regard itself as a permanent political minority"...
4. that Sri Lanka (Ceylon) was granted Independence in 1948 based on a unitary Constitution despite the protests by the majority of the Tamils. **Lord Soulbury**, the author of the Constitution of Ceylon, with regret, said this in 1964: "In the Constitution which I recommended there seemed to me at that time to be ample safeguard for minorities - but Section 29 has not been as efficacious as I had hoped - and I now wish that I had recommended a human rights clause as in the Constitution of India and elsewhere!" Even this Section 29 of the Constitution, safeguarding the minorities, was removed in the 1972 Republican Constitution!
5. that the Tamils had been discriminated since 1948 through the Citizenship Act and the Official Language Act: followed on by the successive massacres of 1956, 1958, 1974, 1977, 1981 and 1983! The killings have now escalated to a higher rate on a militaristic footing!
6. that the Tamils have since 1956 been adhering to a non-violent path in fighting for their rights! They have appealed time after time with non-violent methods. They have gone to every round table conference and returned with empty hands! Even the proposal submitted by the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front(T.U.L.F) recently, has been rejected by the Sri Lankan Government! This proposal (see annexure) was a genuine document that would have easily facilitated a solution for the problem in an amicable manner.

We, the Tamil Eelam International Research, therefore appeal to you, Her Majesty's Government to consider the urgency of the matter: It is you who left us in 1948 at the mercy of the majority Sinhalese Community! And that the excuse of territorial sovereignty cannot in International Law prevent you and the International Community in taking appropriate measures to stop this GENOCIDE! In fact the International Law, and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights(1948) casts a duty on the International Community, especially your Majesty's Government, to secure the basic human rights of the subjugated Tamil people threatened with annihilation! We are sure that through diplomatic and economic sanctions you could take the appropriate action - before it is too late!

Thanking You,
yours sincerely,



K. SRINIVASAN
Secretary

- Enclosures: 1. The T.U.L.F. Proposals
2. Newsreports of Guardian, 22nd Feb'86 and of Daily Telegraph, 28th Feb'86.

c.c. to all Members of Parliament, House of Commons.