

Mr. Hector Jayawardene began elaborating on the proposal by stating that the position of Srilankan government is what has been given by the President on 14.12.84 on the APC as well as that of Annexure<sup>s</sup> A.B.C. However, certain alterations could be made subject to mutual discussions. In passing he mentioned that he has not heard any proposal from the Tamil Groups so far. Other points he <sup>has</sup> stressed included that the unitary character of the constitution can not be altered but are willing to make certain amendments to the constitution. The changes that are sought will not <sup>my</sup> have to apply to the Tamils but to the whole of Srilanka. He then referred to the visit of Mr. Narasimha Rao, Foreign Minister of India on 28.7.83 and read out the press release Annexure -A(1) Press communiques. He then mentioned about his visit to Delhi and his meeting with Late Mrs. Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister and read out portions Annexure-A(2). He repeatedly stressed that the Indian Prime Minister had agreed on the integrity and unity of Srilanka. He then referred to the visit of Mr. G. Parthasarathi, personal envoy of the Prime Minister - Annexure A(3) and read out portion relating to the District Development Council and the measure of autonomy that could be enjoyed by the District and meaningful participation of people in the administration of the District. He then referred to the visit of Mr. G. Parthasarathi again on 10.11.83 Annexure A-4(1) and read out the salient points. He mentioned about the merger of the DDC within a province after acceptance by the Council's members and a referendum in the district. He then moved on to the CHOGM conference on 27 and 28.11.83 and the statement issued by the President J.R. on his return from New Delhi on 1.12.83 (Annexure A-5). He again stressed the clear terms of the Government of India's stand that India is against secession and that it stands for the independence, integrity and sovereignty of Srilanka. He read out the list of subjects given in Annexure 'B' which was suggested for the formulation of an agenda by the All Party Conference. He said that more could be added to the list. He then went on to Annexure 'C' of the APC and made the remark "he never knew who the father was". He read out in full all that were mentioned in Annexure 'C' and after

there is  
agreement

completing said that "we will take all that is in it". From there he said that either they could go up or down to Pradeshiya Sabha and Gramodaya Mandalayas at the grass root level. There will be 250 AGA divisions at the lowest level and whether/or not in the talks the government will go ahead with the G.M. in the next few months. While discussing the provincial councils he stated that the Chief Minister of a provincial council could either be appointed or elected and said "you will have to decide". If appointed he will be an "in line" Minister responsible to the person who appointed him or elected in which case he will be directly responsible to the people. He went on to discuss the subjects in Annexure "2" about the report of the working group of officials and experts to Committee "A" of the All Party Conference. He said "let us examine and see whether this would satisfy". The intermediate organisations like District Councils and Pradeshiya Council would be directly elected. Annexure "3" of the same report of the working group committee of the APC gives in detail the powers assigned to the Pradeshiya Council, the District Councils and those assigned to Centre. He could have discussions on these later.