

July 10, 1985

Mr. Jayawerden continued on the various aspects of the District Development Councils and then added that the District Ministers and the Pradeshiya Ministers must be a member of the Parliament as otherwise he will only be an "in like Minister" which will not be acceptable to the Tamil groups. Then he went into detail about the 2nd Chamber - vide JR's statement on 14.12.84 (page-12) in the Council of States as also the "Statement of Object and Reasons of the proposed legislation" and said "if you are not interested - you may ignore that part". The members of the Council together with those of 2 or more districts within a province can merge to form a provincial council. The Chief Minister, the Provincial Minister and the District Minister will have the same power as that of Government Ministers and will be appointed by the President. Ordinance enacted for the District Council/ Provincial Council would become law when approved by the President. If the President disagrees they will have three months to amend or change to make it "acceptable" to the President.

Mr. Jayawerden read out in detail pages 11 and 12 of the President on the APC plenary sessions on 14.12.84 and explained the various provisions in Gramadaya Mandalayas, Pradeshiya Sabhas, District Councils, Provincial Councils etc. He read out certain portion of paras 1 and 3 of the object and the reasons of the proposed legislation of the APC as well as the proposed tenth amendment to the constitution " 154 A onward". He also gave a chart showing the districts of the various organizations and concluded that what they offered is similar to the powers between centre and the union territories in India and privately Hector told one of the Tamil group members this has the approval of the Prime Minister of India. He made it clear that the bodies mentioned can not be given the powers available to the States in India - Also that the District Councils are the unity of major decentralization of power.

Note: No mention was made of the Annexure 'C' of the APC that Hector conceded yesterday, but delved into great and unnecessary details of the APC decisions as given out on 14.12.84 which according to the Tamil

Groups stand united ahead
தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

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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^s 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 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 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