

July 12, 1985

HW started the proceedings by reading out the communique from Colombo about the bomb incident at Kotahena Colombo, of the arrest of two persons by name and that the interrogation revealed that they belonged to Eros. He then mentioned about the phone call from the Indian Prime Minister and Government of India's communique. He said "we are aware you gentlemen have issued a denial". The Eros Representative Mr. Shankar read out the statement issued by the Tamil groups the previous day denying the involvement of Eros and condemning the attempted assassination. H.W. replied that he is unable to accept the statement to which Eros representative stated that Eros stands for a revolutionary change but not by any individual attacks as mentioned. Charles of Tale read out the statement of the group rejecting the proposals placed by the government delegation (copy attached). While rejecting the proposals he stated that any new proposals which come up to the expectations of the Tamil people will be considered. H.W. stated that he had noted what had been said regarding the proposals and the ceasefire allegation and added "if you have any counter proposals you should put forward for discussion". He read the relevant extracts of President Jayawardene's speech at the opening session of the Parliament debate on 20.2.85 (col " 11 " of the proceedings of hansard). He then read out portions of the daily news of 22/12 and Amrithalingam's statement in the rejection by the TULF of the APC on 20/2 (Hansard Col.625). He repeated the request to study the subjects to be devolved and wanted the Tamil groups to discuss this before proceeding further. He had not heard any reason for rejection. "You should put forward your proposals" he said. "The full extent of autonomy could be discussed and let us narrow the gap". Mr. Amrithalingam of TULF went into details of the APC - how it was conducted and how it was brought to an end. He then mentioned about the Press communique of the APC on 21/12 and mentioned about his letter to JR giving reasons for their disagreement with the APC proceedings. HW intervened and said that they have not seen the letter to the President and perhaps this could be made the basis for further discussions. Mr. Amrithalingam added that they could take into consideration the

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the proposals of Mr. Thondaman of CWC to the APC, which HW agreed to. All the leaders spoke one by one. Mr. ~~K~~edishwaran of EPRLF said "we are a peace loving people <sup>the</sup> resist to the force of arms because all forces of reasons failed in the past. Under the conditions of national oppression and intense state terrorism and the demand for a separate Eelam became the logical expression of the oppressed Tamil people and the armed struggle is a manifestation of this. If the Srilankan government gives us an indication of return to sanity and reason, our people will consider these proposals. The proposals placed on the table give no indication of this." Other points made by him were are (1) the proposals relate to the APC which stood rejected already. (2) The proposals are not close to regional autonomy even. (3) The EPRLF had charged the Srilankan Government earlier that they were using the APC as a smoke screen for a military solution to the Tamil national question. Proposals placed before them do not in any way meet the requirements. The Srilankan government has not in anyway understood the specific nature of the problem, for the following reasons.

"(1) The proposals do not recognize the concept of Tamil homeland interest. Instead it takes the district as a basic unit and has not accepted the region of North and East together. (2) It does not recognize the right of self-determination of the Tamil and the Sinhalese by means of a referendum. (3) It seeks to ran away from the will of the people by speaking of a simple amendment of the constitution by 2/3rd majority thereby avoiding a referendum. The government seeks to impose the constitutional dictatorship on the people." Concluding he said "ultimately the burden of presenting a political solution lies with the Srilankan government for 2 reasons: (1) The Srilankan government is responsible for the present state of affairs. (2) The Tamil groups do not have the State power to implement the proposals presented". In the name of peace, we earnestly request you to come back with proposals after studying the considerations mentioned earlier. Mr. R.Vasudevan of PLOT said as follows " we are in an environment where the homeland of the Tamils has been taken away and the fundamental democratic rights of the Tamil nation denied. For this we are continuing our armed struggle. However, we welcome the steps taken

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by the Government of India and the Srilankan government to bring about a peaceful solution. Your proposals are not for peace, not for recognizing the traditional homeland of Tamils, self-determination or the fundamental rights. Since all these have been taken away we are fighting. Your proposals should <sup>have</sup> dealt ~~having~~ with these questions and instead ~~of~~ you are talking of the powers of the District Councils etc. We know how the District Councils earlier could not function without the power promised. We expect reasonable proposals and would like to continue the discussions. We are expecting a good proposal so that we can move forward". Mr. Varadhan of EPRLF said "the proposal does not take into account the fundamental democratic rights or the national aspirations of the people for an integrated development of the Tamils or of the right of national self-determination or of permanent security for the Tamils from the Sinhalese goondas and the Army. The institutional changes suggested within the system will not solve the problem and if we are to be one nation you will have to change all that. To continue the discussions within the limitations of the present constitution would be of no use and you can not place the constitution made by you as an obstacle for the change. Basically the constitution represents (a) Sinhala Buddhist Chauvinism (b) accumulation of power in one man. All you have done is to find ways and means to strengthen the constitution and you will have to discuss with an open mind. From 1930 onwards all the rules and regulations made by the government were against the Tamil people and before 1948 people of both communities were willing to live together. If we are to live together again we have to go back to conditions before 1948. The Federal System which people wanted existed till 1972 and we will have to go <sup>h</sup> <sup>by</sup> ~~before~~ 1972 for the political, social and economic changes. You can not do all these to-day and therefore the only scientific conclusion that could be derived is to have a separate Eelam. We are prepared to describe and explain to you what we want. We are prepared to discuss. If not, please come with a fresh proposal which should <sup>new</sup> 3 conditions, namely, (1) remove constitution (2) stop strengthening the army and (3) stop putting the Sinhalese against the Tamils. If these are not done, any exercise will be a futile one. Mr. Sivakumar of LTTE said " from 35 years of bad experience