

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

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3rd November 1984

IN MEMORIAM
MRS. INDIRA GANDHI
SHABRA

61, New Bullers Road,
COLOMBO 4.

Telephone: 589310

207, Power House Road,
JAFFNA.

Telephone: 22073

Foreign hand in Indira killing ?

The mortal remains of the immortal Priyadarshani Indira Gandhi were cremated at Shantivana on 3rd November.

But that will not be the end of India's journey to becoming one of the greatest powers in the world—because, over the past 20 years, Mrs. Gandhi set the country on the correct course.

This is what those who derive any satisfaction from her assassination on 31st October should well realise.

There is no stopping of India from attaining her full stature in the comity of nations.

As her sole surviving son and successor as Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said: ".....India lives. India is immortal...."

Among the people who must be happy that Mrs. Gandhi is no longer on the scene must be certain Western leaders who did not like her guts, sections of the Sikh community in India and abroad who regarded her as the main obstacle to the achievement of their grand design and some politicians in Sri Lanka.

In Sri Lanka's particular case, can we forget—or forgive—the vile "Cow and Calf" campaign of the United National Party during the 1977 general election campaign?

Even after assuming power, the UNP maintained an anti-India—and anti-Indira-stance, bringing relations between Sri Lanka and India to an unprecedentedly low depth.

Now, the people responsible for these actions and policies, motivated solely by political expediency, have joined their ilk elsewhere in the world in shedding crocodile tears over Mrs. Gandhi's murder!

guards who pumped bullets into her frail body on that fateful day were acting alone or in conjunction with other forces within or outside the country.

Long before her tragic end,

of modern day world politics could not have failed to realise from where she believed the danger to her country could come.

The overthrow of her Congress Government in 1977, the



Even the state-controlled Daily News was constrained (in the editorial of 1st November) to refer to "those who derive some jackal satisfaction from her tragic end"!

The question that remains is whether the two Sikh body-

in fact, during her first tenure as Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi had spoken of a "foreign hand" interfering in India's internal affairs.

She did not identify the "foreign hand" but students

bringing forth of an abortion called the Janata Government out of a conglomeration of opposition parties whose only common denominator was antipathy to Mrs. Gandhi, the proposal to "Balkanise" India by supporting fissiparous

tendencies in various States, particularly in Assam and the Punjab, and now the final fateful blow could all be traced to one source.

Was it not a reputed American journalist himself who said that there was an American Central Intelligence Agency agent in one of Mrs. Gandhi's earlier Cabinets?

There are some people who accuse the C.I.A. at every turn but can they be faulted when so many progressive Third World leaders have been bumped off by forces which finally have been linked with the American spy organisation?

Remember Patrice Lumumba, Salvador Allende and our own Solomon Bandaranaike?

No less than a New York Times commentary in 1975 said that Mr. Bandaranaike was one of the victims of the CIA's sinister machinations!

The investigation on Mrs. Gandhi's assassination by the Indian authorities so far has revealed that a Sikh General in the Indian Army had masterminded it. Was he motivated by a sense of patriotic Sikh pride and pique? Or was he a paid agent of some local or foreign source?

While we await the outcome of the investigations, let us remember that the truth about foreign plots has generally surfaced long after the foul deeds were done.

By Indira's death, the world lost a peerless stateswoman who was an adornment to the entire human race, the Non-Alignment Movement one of its greatest proponents and the Tamil people of Sri Lanka their best friend.

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EDITOR
GAMINI NAVARATNE

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INDIRA ON THE NATIONAL QUESTION

Mrs. Indira Gandhi made the following statement on the Sri Lanka situation in the Rajya Sabha on 16th August 1983.

"The day after my last statement in Parliament, Mr. A. Amirthalingam, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Sri Lanka Parliament and is also Secretary-General of the main party representing the Sri Lankan Tamils, left Jaffna to come to Delhi. He has met me twice. He has also talked with the Minister of External Affairs, other Ministers and several Members of Parliament, representing different parties.

Mr. Amirthalingam has given harrowing accounts of the brutalities to which the Sri Lankan minority has been subjected. I personally, my Government and my party, are just as deeply distressed as any who have spoken here. We have and we do condemn genocide and the harassment of an injustice to Tamils of Sri Lanka. However, I am sure Hon'ble Members will understand that however strong our feelings, the Government has to show greater restraint, not because we are hesitant or reluctant but because at every step we have to consider whether our words and actions will help

or harm the Sri Lankan Tamils. I should like here to express my admiration for the statesmanship which Mr. Amirthalingam has shown in his discussions with me, and with others, despite his anguish and the bitterness that has been caused.

On behalf of his party Mr. Amirthalingam also has welcomed our offer of good offices. He said on arrival in Delhi that this had changed the picture so far as negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka are concerned the Tamil people, including his party, had lost confidence in negotiations and could not in any case have entered into them on the basis of a mere reiteration of earlier promises which were inadequate. But with India's good offices, a basic change had been brought about. In his subsequent talks with us, Mr. Amirthalingam has pointed out that his party had for many years worked for a satisfaction of the Tamil demand for their rights within a united Sri Lanka but the neglect and increasing hostility of the Sinhala majority had brought them to the end of their tether and forced them to the conclusion that negotiations on this basis were no longer useful. However, India's ap-

proach had opened fresh possibilities which they could consider.

As I have said before, a solution of this problem has to be sought at the conference table. It is for the Sri Lankan Government to decide how and when a conference with the Tamil leaders is to be brought about. The immediate need is to restore a sense of security among the people, it is no less urgent to begin the search for a permanent solution. Because of our

discussions with his party in Jaffna.

This is the fourth successive week that the sorrow and concern felt in our country over the tragic development in Sri Lanka have found expression in Parliament. The agony of our brothers and sisters in Tamil Nadu is the agony of the entire nation. The debate in this House today shows that it is not in any one part of the country or of the political spectrum, that deep feelings have been aroused, but in our entire nation beyond party differences. I am again grateful to Hon'ble Members for appreciating the delicacy and difficulty of the situation facing us. They have been good enough to note, and largely support, the restraint which was unavoidable in the circumstances. However, this was coupled with firmness. We are also closely watching the situation and hope that with the continuing support of Parliament and the Indian people we shall be able to bring about an atmosphere more conducive to negotiations. This will be a first step to eliminate communal tension and lead to concrete measures which can ensure a political settlement.

IN THE RAJYA SABHA

deep concern we should like to assist in any way we can. If a settlement is to be reached both sides have to talk to each other. I am prepared to send an emissary to Sri Lanka to facilitate this process. Now we shall again get in touch with President Jayewardene. In the meantime Mr. Amirthalingam is returning after a few days in Madras, for

(Excerpted from Mrs. Gandhi's First Statement in the Lok Sabha, in August 1983 following the ethnic pogrom in Sri Lanka.)

The Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi made the following statement in the Lok Sabha in August 1983:

"Last week announced that the President of Sri Lanka was sending a personal representative to New Delhi to discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with me. Mr. H. W. Jayewardene, the special emissary is now in Delhi. He has had discussions with me and also with our Minister for External Affairs.

I conveyed to Mr. Jayewardene the deep concern of our Parliament and of the people of India at the recent happenings in Sri Lanka and our distress at the human suffering resulting therefrom. We have always condemned such violence killings and discrimination, especially when the victims are defenceless.

I took the opportunity to reassure Mr. Jayewardene that India stands for the independence, unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. India

does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. However because of the historical cultural and such other close ties between the peoples of the two countries, particularly between the Tamil community of Sri Lanka and us. India cannot remain unaffected by such events there.

I conveyed to Mr. Jayewardene that while measures were being taken to meet

IN THE LOK SABHA

the immediate situation the process to find a permanent solution to satisfy the legitimate aspirations and ensure the security of the Tamil minority will have to be urgently initiated.

Mr. Jayewardene has conveyed the following information to me. The President had intended to place before the round-table conference which could not be held certain proposals which in-

clude (a) full implementation of the laws relating to the District Development Councils (b) The use of Tamil as provided for in the constitution as a national language (c) To initiate a dialogue on amnesty on condition that violence will be given up (d) Discontinuance of the active role of the Armed Forces in Jaffna on the cessation of terrorist violence and (e) The repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. In addition if the idea of a separate state is abandoned the President is willing to discuss the release of those detained in prison not already convicted or awaiting trial and to implement any other assurance contained in the 1977 manifesto of the UNP.

I expressed my view that these proposals may not meet the aspirations of the Tamil minority. Mr. Jayewardene told me that the Sri Lankan Government are willing to consider any other proposals which would give the Tamil minority their due share in the affairs of their country within the framework of a United Sri Lanka. I gave my view that discussion between the Government and the

(Continued on page 5)

IN MEMORY

OF

Mrs. INDIRA GANDHI

Revered Prime Minister of India

KARUMARI MOTOR COMPANY

281/A, Stanley Road, Jaffna

T'Phone : 23183

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Indira-Symbol of India's Unity and Pride

— by Amali

There were as many people, groups and forces who wished to see her defeated at the forthcoming Indian elections, as there were those who had stakes in her victory—in India, in the neighbouring countries and in the world at large.

Her untimely death and the manner in which it sprang has stunned them all.

Indira Priyadharshani Gandhi is no more. Those who gave media coverage to the extremist Sikh cry that the former Indian Prime Minister was Number One on their hit list would hang their heads in shame even as some extremists on the lunatic fringe would claim responsibility for the killing.

She was the first woman head of State to be assassinated—gunned down by her own bodyguards. Several bullets riddled her abdomen and chest and brought down the proud and fearless Indian leader who gave the strongest expression to Indian assertion in the post-independence era, and struck a perfect match between the objective interests of the Indian economy and polity and her own pursuit of power.

Vortex of Politics

From beginning to end, Indira Gandhi had been in the vortex of politics. Her's was a life of supreme political successes, bitter setbacks and personal tragedies. She was born on 19th November 1917, the only child of Jawaharlal and Kamala Nehru. She had a lonely childhood with both her parents serving sentences of imprisonment in the cause

of India's freedom. She lost her mother when she was young and herself served a term of imprisonment soon after her marriage in 1942, to Feroze Gandhi, who predeceased her in 1960.

Her rise in politics in post independence India was meteoric. She was the personal aide and confidant to her father, India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1954 she became a member of the All India Congress Committee and five years later she was elected the President of the Party. She first joined the Cabinet in 1964 as Minister of Broadcasting and Information under Lal Bahadur Shastri who succeeded Jawaharlal Nehru. Two years later, in 1966, she became Prime Minister following the death

of Mr. Shastri in Tashkent. From January 1966 until her death, except for a brief interregnum of three years from 1977-1980, Mrs. Gandhi was at the helm, guiding India's destiny.

Critical Stage

Mrs. Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India when the country was at a critical stage of its development since independence. Nehru's perspective of peaceful co-existence had suffered bloody setbacks with Sino-Indian border disputes and continuing skirmishes with Pakistan. 1965 was an year of war with Pakistan and Shastri himself suffered a fatal heart attack while negotiating peace with Ayub Khan in Tashkent in the Soviet Union. India was embattled on all fronts and

isolated in so far as its defence was concerned.

Economically, the slumbering giant was still struggling to be on its feet: industrial advances were being initiated; but no breakthrough had been made in agricultural production while poverty and recurrent famines ravaged rural India.

Politically it was the beginning of the end for the Congress Party's stranglehold on State Power both at the Centre and in the States. The integration of the minorities and the oppressed castes into the Indian political and social fabric was far from complete. There was also the alarming possibility of the Indian Union being subjected to severe strains by the ever present fissiparous tendencies.

(Continued on page 4)

**WE SALUTE
THE MEMORY
OF**

MRS. INDIRA GANDHI

S. V. MURUGESU

GENERAL MERCHANTS

**154, HOSPITAL ROAD,
JAFFNA.**

Telephone : **22564**

Symbol of India's Unity and Pride

(Continued from page 3)

Mrs. Gandhi's election as Prime Minister was not unanimous. The Congress Old Guard led by Morarji Desai would not tolerate a young woman usurping Prime Ministerial power. But very soon Indira Gandhi was to prove herself to be "the only man among the old women of the Congress". In 1967 she went to the hustings leading the Congress Party at its weakest moment since its founding. She barely managed to survive the electoral debacle in which the majority of the Congress Party in the

Lok Sabha was slashed from 228 to 46 and the party lost control over 8 of the 17 State Assemblies. But the young woman usurper was undaunted. She took firm, sometimes even authoritarian, control of the Party and the state machinery and with vision and purpose guided India to a distinct but wholly appropriate shift in its foreign policy and to making stupendous advances in the fields of industrial development, agricultural production, science and technology and oil exploration and made India self-reliant in its capacity to defend itself. To many she

became the symbol of India's unity and pride.

Bold Foreign Policy

She stood out among the other Indian leaders, who competed with her for power, in her understanding of the direction in which India's foreign relationships should be developed. It is to her credit that men like Morarji Desai and Vajpayee could only attribute subjective considerations to Indira Gandhi's co-operation with the Soviet Union and her discordance with America. When Indira Gandhi was defeated at the

1977 elections there was euphoria in sections of the American Press and dismay and despondence in Moscow. But as it turned out the Janata Government could not reverse India's foreign policy which had become firmly established under Indira Gandhi. The truth of the matter is that Indira's foreign policy was determined by objective economic, geopolitical and strategic factors. It may not be that U.S. wanted to be hostile towards India, or wished to weaken India vis-a-vis Pakistan, but its own interests in West Asia demanded the arming of Pakistan. So it was with China, given the hostile relationship between China and the Soviet Union. The defence agreement between India and the Soviet Union was therefore inevitable. The interests of Indian capitalism militated against the path of dependent development under the auspices of American aid and further contributed to India's strengthening of ties with the Soviet Union. There is no gainsaying the fact that under the bold leadership of Indira Gandhi, the Indian nation proudly refused to accept the role of a backward client state of Western Imperialism, and is today the most industrialised of all developing countries.

Naturally, Indira Gandhi came to be accepted as the foremost figure in the Non-Aligned Movement and the voice of the Third World countries in the deliberations for a new world economic order.

It is a sad commentary on her counterparts in neighbouring countries that they were incapable of sharing her vision and joining her in serving the historic interests of the people of South Asia.

The Domestic Front

On the domestic front, however, she could not escape the charges of authoritarianism and dictatorial tendencies. She was no doubt a strong personality. She gave a taste of future developments, way back in 1959, when as Congress President she insisted on and brought about the dismissal of the first ever non-Congress Communist Government in Kerala much to the displeasure of her father and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. After her crowning moment in the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971 came the blackest period—the emergency rule of 1975-1977, for which she paid the penalty of a humiliating defeat in the 1977 general elections. The new Janata government through its ineptitude and misdeeds

proved her worth to the Indian voters and she made her dramatic comeback in 1980 with a resounding victory at the polls.

The 1980-84 period saw the sharpening and violent manifestations of the Indian National Question in different parts of India, particularly in Assam and Punjab. Of late she had been the target of wild allegations that she was becoming a willing instrument of Hindu chauvinism and expansionism. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Indira Gandhi had always enjoyed the support of the national minorities and the oppressed castes. She could be blamed for the mishandling of the Assam and Punjab questions at specific instances. But one would look in vain for another leader of her stature with a genuine secular and all India perspective. Her regime was not unknown for instances of repression. But never did she unleash repression on the grounds of ethnic or religious differences.

It has been said that her style of politics did not permit her to pay heed to the well meaning suggestions for establishing the framework for Centre-State relationships taking into account the collapse of the Congress as a pan-Indian party and the emergence of regional sources of political power. It has further been stated that the Congress Party itself has been made to be centered around and dependent on one person—Mrs. Gandhi.

But whatever that may be, Indira Gandhi never failed in her fundamental obligation as a democratic Prime Minister to provide the country's voters with the opportunity to change governments through periodic elections (nothing more, nothing less) as stipulated in the Constitution. It was from this standpoint, perhaps, that she justified herself in making that celebrated remark about India's disquiet over the perishing of democracies in neighbouring countries.

The succession of Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister has been swift with the unanimous support of the party. His election will undoubtedly have nationwide approval. The charge that the Nehru dynasty is being continued will be made sooner or later by cynical or foreign observers. There is no underestimating the tasks which await the new Indian Prime Minister. At the same time there can be no doubt either of India's resilience and capacity to recover from this terrible loss.

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An Indian Perception of Ethnic Problem

What I am presenting to you is an Indian perception; it is not the Indian perception. I cannot speak on behalf of either the Government on India or the large teeming millions of India on how they perceive a particular problem. I am trying to present a conspectus of views obtained from a study of the events both from New Delhi's angle and from what has been happening here and I shall present as briefly as possible some of the issues to be identified. I would solicit your reactions and responses, by way of which I should like to learn how you perceive the Indian perception. I shall try to identify a few major issues because we cannot go into the details of all of them.

The first point I wish to make about the Indian perception of the present problem in Sri Lanka is that India is not in favour of any secession, least in India, least in the neighbourhood or anywhere else. That is one of our major concerns and it is not born of any idealism or moral posture but out of sheer necessity and one's own pragmatic interest, because secession anywhere around India, in South Asia, would

(Excerpts from an edited transcript of a talk delivered at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on 6th July at the Marga Institute, Colombo.)

create very serious consequences for Indian democracy, for Indian citizens and Indian politics. Therefore, I don't see any reason why it should be in India's interest—which it is not—and it has been made simply clear through the leaders on this side of the Palk Strait.

The second aspect of the Indian perception of the present problem is that the whole issue is seen more in an historical context, not simply as an outburst at a certain point of time. The views being expressed in India in the press, among the academic community and other intellectuals is that there has been a gradual process of alienation of the minority community for one reason or the other and that one individual or group or one party alone is not responsible for it, but that perhaps all have some share in it. Somehow this perception had got mixed up or tainted, initially at least, say up to the fifties and sixties, with the question of the stateless

Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka. There was a problem in bifurcating the two. Therefore, the actual perception of the Ceylon Tamils and their treatment, or their grievances, or their perceived grievances, not the real grievances, are in an historical evolution in Indian minds, vitiated or influenced by the treatment accorded to stateless Indian Tamils in the matter of rights, privileges or advantages. The present intensification, particularly since July 1983 is seen as a kind of outburst of the process of gradual alienation. There is very strong opinion in India, and I wish it is totally wrong, which seen an involvement of a responsible section in Sri Lanka in what happened in July. That involvement had intensified the kind of problem which was existing there, and that to some extent clouds the whole perception of perspective on that.

Now, if that is how it had evolved, the solution (again viewed from New Delhi) may lie in some sort of accommodation of the Tamils on the part of the majority community. We are really not interested in the nuts and bolts of the whole problem. Whether you should have a District Development Council system of a particular type, or regional autonomy of a particular type, or a federal frame-work, are, in fact, unnecessary details into which we have been dragged for one reason or the other. Whatever the parameters and details at a solution of accommodation its thrust would depend on whether it can be sold to the Tamils and to the Sinhalese, in short, whether there is a national consensus on it. There is absolutely no question of India being interested in a particular aspect of it. If the Tamil majority groups, whether they are TULF, Tigers or X, Y, Z. find it acceptable well and good. What is of prime importance and interest to India is a stable policy in Sri Lanka.

Here there are many aspects. I do not wish to touch on them except for one or two. One is the question of deportation or extradition of the so-called extremist groups on Indian soil. Probably Sri Lanka's perception the extradition issue is one of its first experiences of the kind, or one of the most serious first experiences. But in India's perception this is a problem which we have been living with since the 1950s at least with the Tibetans coming to India for the first time.

The question of political exiles or refugees seeking some sort of shelter in India and voicing their views in newspapers, and at times even organising themselves, having meetings, conferences, passing resolutions and so on has been there for quite some time. There have been refugees from Tibet and Nepal when something happened in these countries. was so in respect of events Pakistan and Bangladesh.

by Prof.
S. D. Muni

That was an experience which India had been living with for the past 30 years. In such a situation it is extremely difficult to isolate a particular event and treat it as special because then we in India would be (again I am speaking of the New Delhi perspective) setting a precedent which would be applicable to all other nations in any such situation which might arise. Therefore, if we take a country like Nepal, we have an extra disadvantage. This question of criminality is being dealt with under the framework of that extra disadvantage but when it comes to political refugees, say B.P. Koirala, it is different.

If you go to Benares or Bihar today you would find thousands there passing resolutions, crossing the border, coming back, going out. It is almost a tamasha along the border, waning and waxing in various intensities and at various times, depending upon the situation within Nepal. I am just trying to

explain the Indian dilemma. It is not simply a question which can be thought of in a bilateral framework.

(Continued on next issue)

SR Employee butted by Army

Twentyfour year old Mr. S. Selvakumar, an employee of the New Era Publications Ltd. is the latest victim of Army harassment.

He had cycled to Mirusivil to meet a friend. There he was stopped by some soldiers who had arrived in a truck and was given a blow on the upper arm with a gun but even before his identity was checked.

He was allowed to go when the soldiers realised that he was not a Tiger but somebody connected with the SATURDAY REVIEW and a Red Cross volunteer as well.

Why should soldiers vent whatever frustrations they suffer from on innocent civilians in the North like Mr. Selvakumar—and the breeding process of the Tigers.

Hope the good Brigadier will take some action.

Lok Sabha..

(Continued from Page 2)

Tamil community on this broader basis would be useful and that a solution has to be sought at the conference table.

I offered our good offices in whatever manner they may be needed. Mr. Jayewardene expressed his appreciation of this offer made in the contest of the traditional friendly ties between our countries. He later informed me that his President welcomes the offer.

The need of the hour is to reduce tensions and establish confidence. I hope that all concerned will feel able to meet at the conference table in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual trust to settle their problems.

WE REVERE
THE MEMORY
OF

Mrs. INDIRA GANDHI

M. T. PONNAMPALAM

36, (48) K. K. S. ROAD,
JAFFNA.

Telephone: 23493

Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

OUR APOLOGIES

A newspaper is best conducted when it has its own printing press. From the inception of the SATURDAY REVIEW, the Directors of the New Era Publications Ltd.

have been working towards the achievement of this ideal situation. Some progress has been made in the past three years but it requires much more money than is immediately

available to set up a fully-fledged printing establishment.

In the meantime, we have been forced to rely on outside printers to publish the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Let it be recorded that we have had wonderful co-operation from all these printers but for one sad exception.

The printer we relied on to bring out a special issue to pay tribute to Srimathi Indira Gandhi let us down very badly, which explains why the SATURDAY REVIEW was not out on schedule last Saturday.

We have now come out with a truncated stop-gap issue printed at a different establishment.

We are not sure whether the next issue will be out in time—or at all.

We appeal to our Readers to bear with us until we arrive at an arrangement under which the paper—the only one in Sri Lanka to speak out for the Tamil people, while taking up other vital issues affecting the entire nation—becomes available again on a regular basis.

— Editor

STUDENTS ATTACKED

The hostel master and hostel boys of Vasavilan Madhya Maha Vidyalaya were reportedly attacked by men in khaki uniform in their study room on the night of 30th October. Several of the boys were injured. The students of Vasavilan M. M. V. have started a boycott.

CENSORED

On 12th October, the Government announced that the Censorship has been revoked in respect of all media.

But we at the SATURDAY REVIEW are still required to submit to the local Censor (the Government Agent of Jaffna) all material intended for publication.

Why this "special treatment" for us?

Bailas and Bombs

A "Baila" session triggered off several incidents in Jaffna on Thursday, 1st November.

Eye-witnesses say that some persons had danced a "Baila" shouting out "Amma Enge" ('Where is the Amma?—a reference to the late Indira Gandhi.)

Some youths had, reportedly, responded by throwing bombs. Those other persons had then fired back wounding four people and

killing one. Some uniformed personnel too were allegedly injured, according to reports in various newspaper.

The previous night (31st October)—following the announcement of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's death—there were several bomb explosions in Jaffna Town. Shops were closed and the streets were deserted.

In an ambush at Atchuvely on 1st November, some army

personnel were reportedly injured. Following this, several houses were looted and burnt.

At Urelu, near Urumpirai the army defused a bomb and had thereafter reportedly gone on a rampage killing 4 persons, including a demonstrator of the Jaffna University, his younger brother and his father. Several houses were burnt and valuables looted.

There was a shoot-out for nearly 2 hours at the Jaffna Railway Station on Thursday, with bombs being hurled followed by the rattle of machine-gun fire. The guerillas withdrew when army reinforcements arrived on the scene.

As the Yarldevi was on its way back that afternoon to Colombo, security forces inside the train opened fire at the Nedunkulam Road level crossing killing a youth standing near the crossing.

The Jaffna Kachcheri too was bombed the same afternoon while a conference on

security was going on. A police jeep driver is reported to have been injured.

On Friday, round about 2.30 p.m., when an army convoy was about 2 miles away from the Thondaimanaru Field Work Centre there was a tremendous bomb blast. Following this, several stone-built houses half a mile away were shelled. Some were completely burnt. In one of these houses rescue workers found a skeleton.

When the people of the area attempted to put out the fires, the army is reported to have returned to the scene and started shooting again. Till about midnight these houses were on fire.

Over 500 people have lost their houses and have taken refuge in temples and schools in neighbouring villages.

The Tamil United Liberation Front is planning to send a memorandum to President Jayewardene about the incidents, according to its Administrative Secretary Mr. M. Alalasunderam.

JAFFNA MOURNS

Jaffna was one vast funeral house on the day of the funeral of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

While most of the people remained indoors, mourning what has been an unfathomable loss to them, black flags were hoisted on houses and along the roads while plantain tree and

tender coconut leaf decorations were much in evidence.

Perhaps in no other place outside India was there such deep mourning than in the North: the three-day Hartal from 1st to 3rd November, called as an expression of grief over the assassination, was the most effective seen in Jaffna.

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