

# Saturday Review

## SRI LANKA

BOMBER SUPPLEMENT—29TH APRIL 1987

# DAMN SHAME, OFF TARGET AGAIN!



The Government has often claimed in recent times through its Media Centre in Colombo that the intelligence service has intercepted radio messages between 'terrorist groups' about their planned military operations, thereby succeeding in aborting them. Well and good, if it were true.

The SATURDAY REVIEW also wants to be equally well-informed about the operations of the Government's Security Forces — because of the threat such operations pose to the life of the people in the North. So it has set up its own Intelligence Unit.

During the bombing of Jaffna on 23rd April, this Unit intercepted radio communication on the F.M. band between the crews of the helicopters (who acted as tourist guides) and the bombers (which rained death).

Excerpts :  
*You missed your target, Try again, Roger.*  
*It's cloudy. I can't see. Target. Target. Roger.*  
*"Dala balammu"!(Bomb and see!) "Mata gahannawa,*  
*Mata gahannawa "Come quick, Roger"*

Nearly 25 persons were killed in the three days of bombings since 23rd April. Among them were several wo-

men and children and a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Just one!

This was all contrary to the propaganda put out by the Media Centre which claimed that hundreds of persons had been killed and injured. The first day's tally was given as 80 killed; the second day's as 100. How the count was taken was not mentioned. Must have been most probably from the air with the help of binoculars!

## 25 Killed; 100 Injured

22nd APRIL  
Point Pedro and Puloly were bombed between 8.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. two helicopters gave cover and guidance. Six bombs were released.

Four died at Maruthady, Point Pedro. Ten houses were damaged. At Puloly three died and a school was extensively damaged. In the afternoon the bombers returned to the same areas to complete the destruction. At Chavakachcheri bombers dropped 13 bombs. A woman and two young girls lost their lives.

23rd APRIL  
Two bombers and two helicopters took part in the raid. The adjoining room which housed the chariot at the Veeramakali Amman Temple at Nallur was hit by bombs. The priest his family and 15 others who had taken refuge suffered serious bomb injuries and many houses sustained heavy damages. One militant was killed.

24th APRIL  
Jaffna was bombed again. Four bombers with helicopter guidance swooped down. Martyn Road, Fifth Cross Street, Chapel Street and  
(Continued on page 4)

## SR Press Shaken But Not Silenced

The New Era Publications Ltd., publishers of the SATURDAY REVIEW, has suffered a loss of nearly One Lakh Rupees as a result of the aerial bombing on 23rd April of the area in which its press is situated.

The press escaped a direct hit. The bomb which fell in the back compound of the premises REFUSED TO EXPLODE, thanks to Allah. It was taken away by some militants and defused.

But the vibrations caused by bomb blasts nearby resulted in the caving of a section of the roof. Pieces of timber and tiles fell all over, damaging newsprint stocks, furniture and type cases. Cracks have appeared in some of the walls, which may have to be re-built.

The staff members had a miraculous escape. They bolted and took refuge in an air raid shelter in the compound of a house opposite.

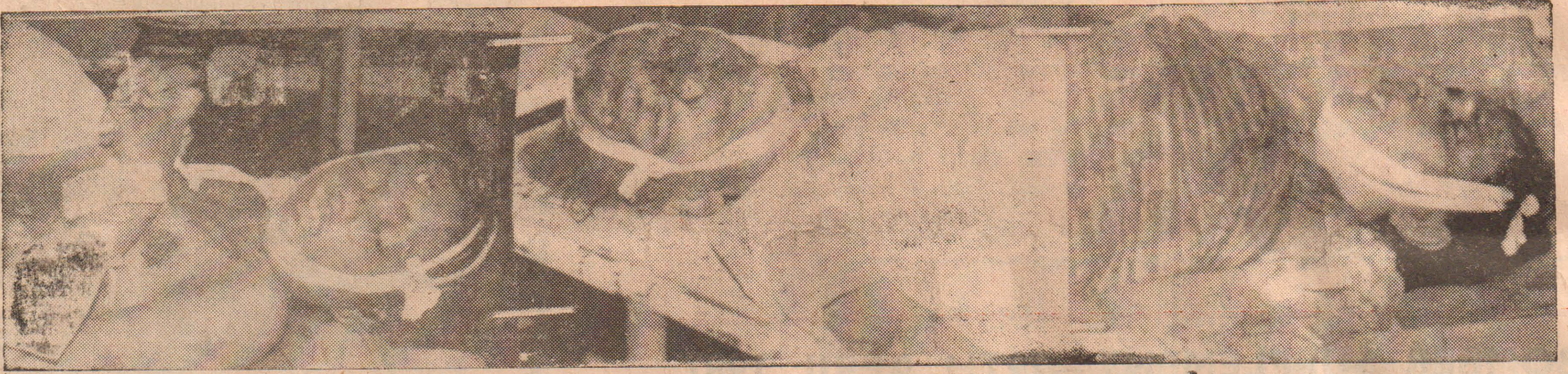
The printing of the issue of the SR of 25th April was delayed. The last four pages had to be printed in an outside press.

The roof was repaired quickly to save the machinery and other equipment.

The NEP Ltd. Press is back in business, but who will pay for the damages?



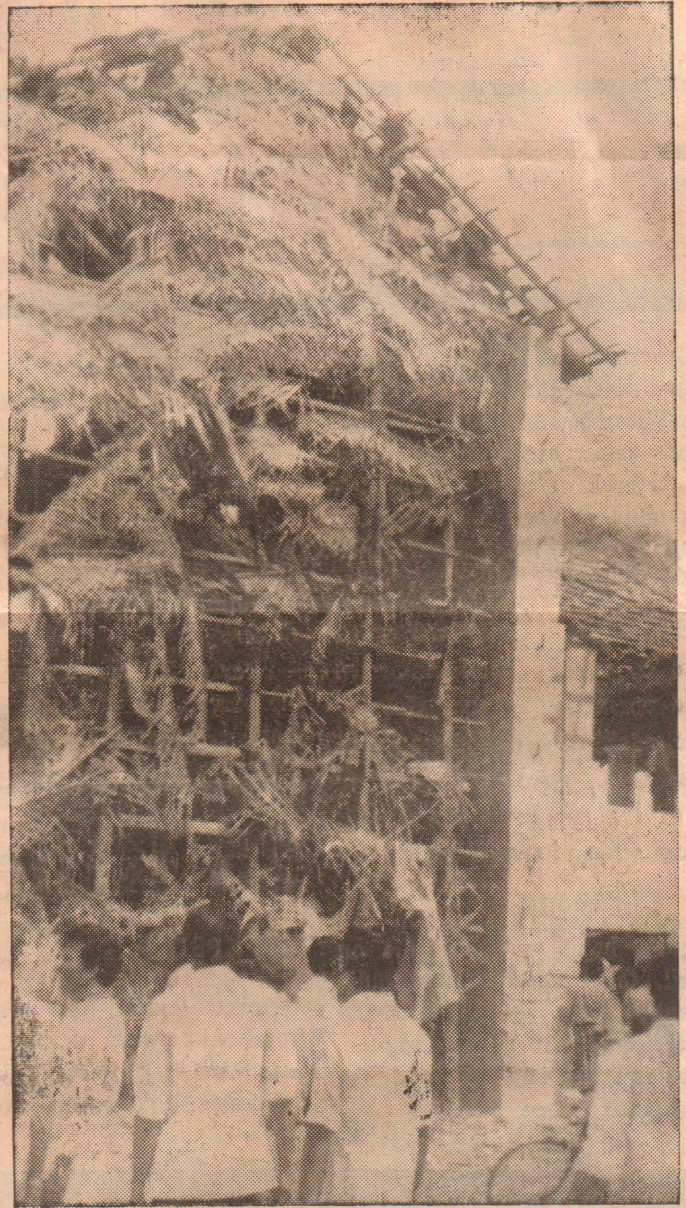
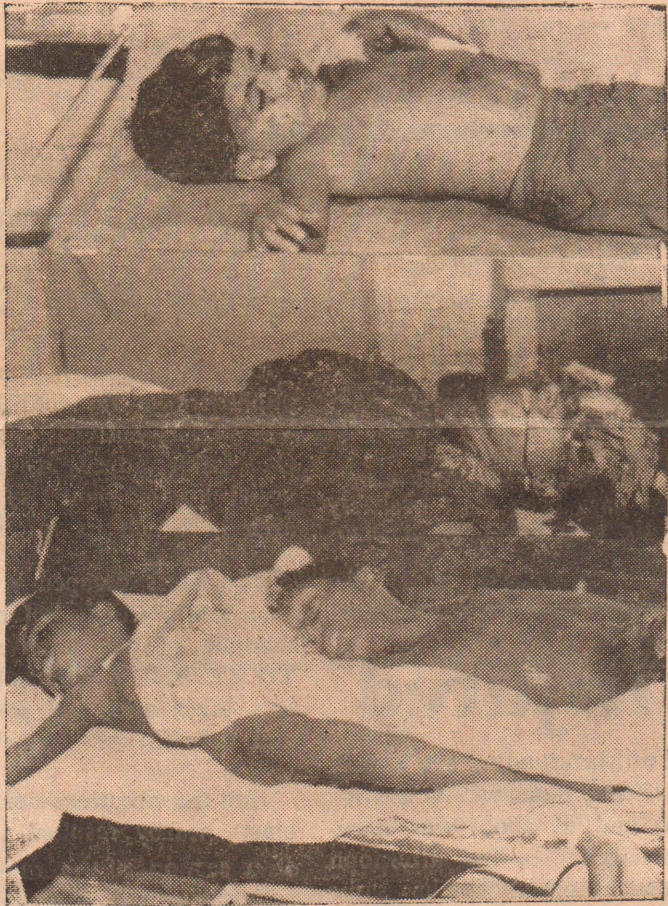
The devastation caused by the Bomb explosion outside the Pettah bus stand Colombo, on 23rd April. (see also page 3)



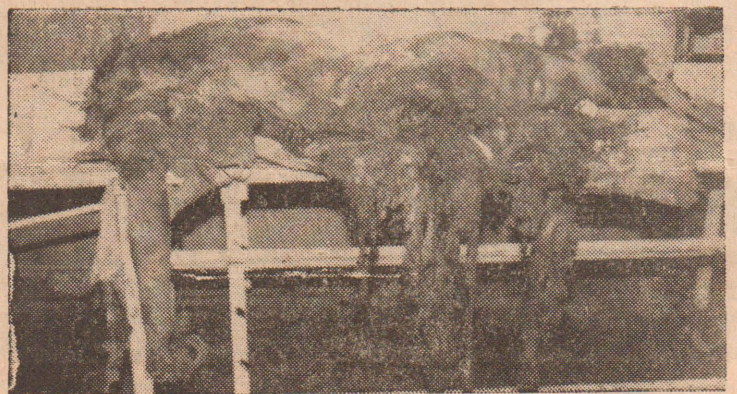
Those who were killed near the SATURDAY REVIEW Printing Department, on 24th April.  
Nalin Ruba (12), Mrs. Patrick Mary Margaret (81) and Mrs. Manikkam [Saramma (51).

## COFFINS FOR A FAMILY

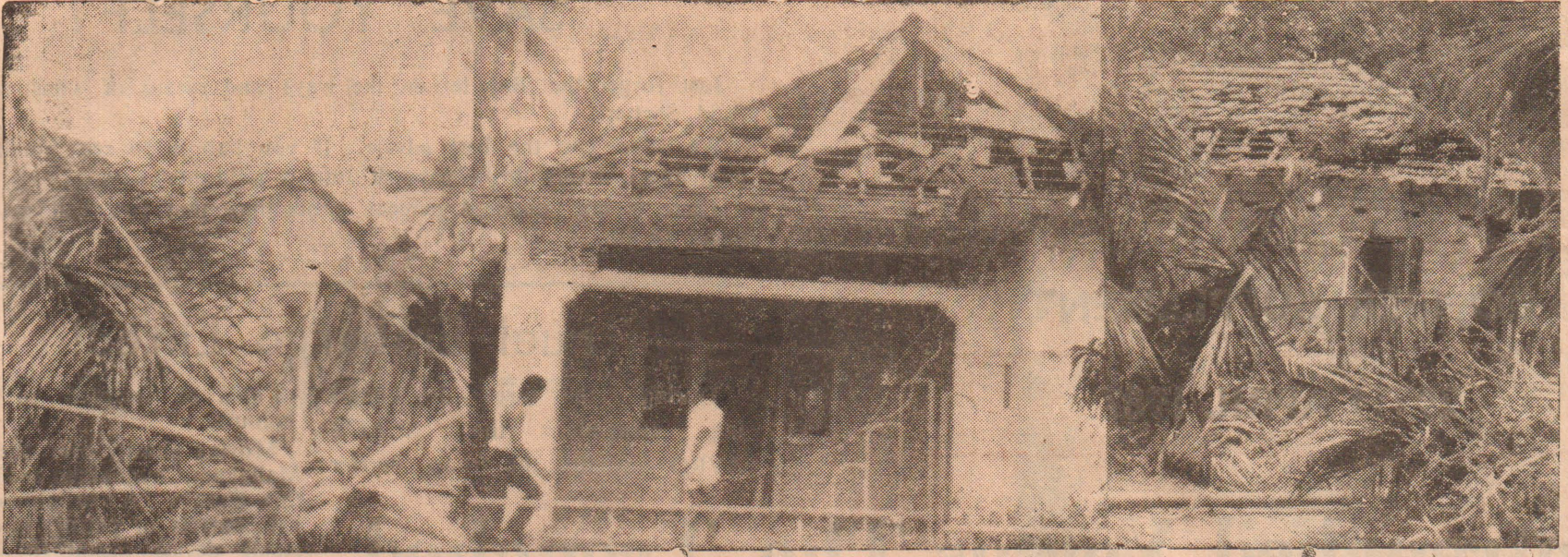
Nayanma rkaddu, 22nd April.



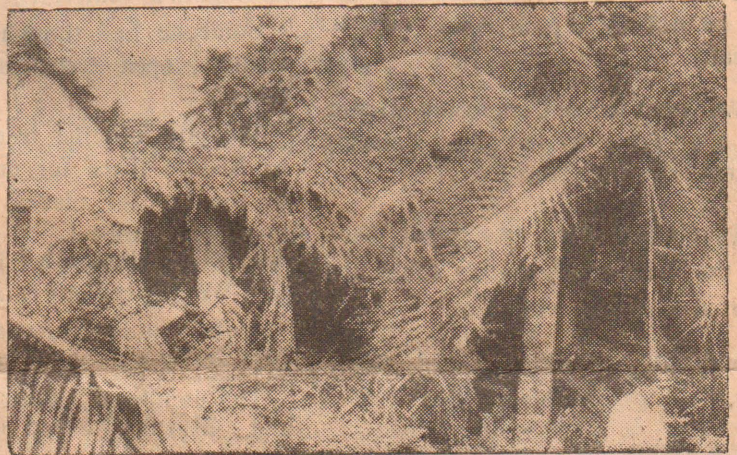
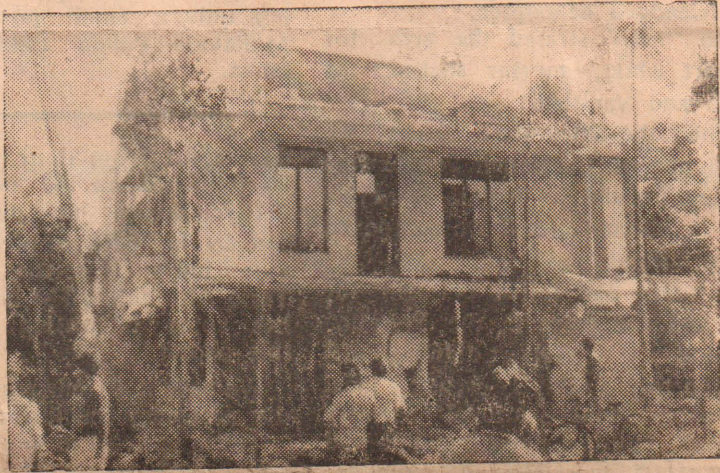
The Chariot [house of the Veeramakali] Amman Kovil, Nallur, bombed on 23rd April.



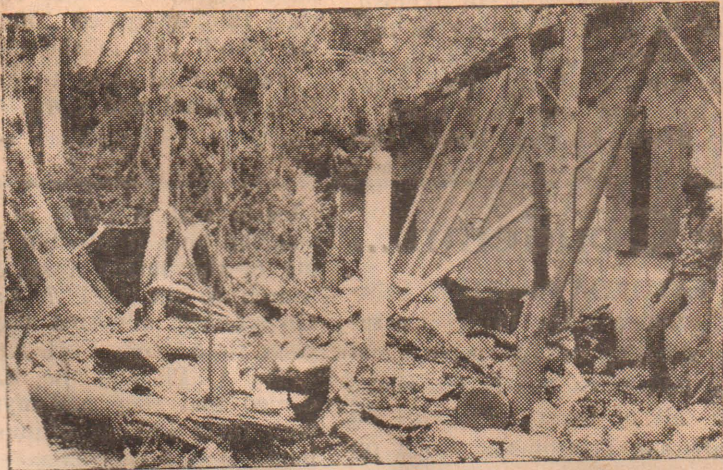
Mrs. Theresamma (84), victim at Martyn Road.



International year of Shelter and Housing! Jaffna, 23rd April.



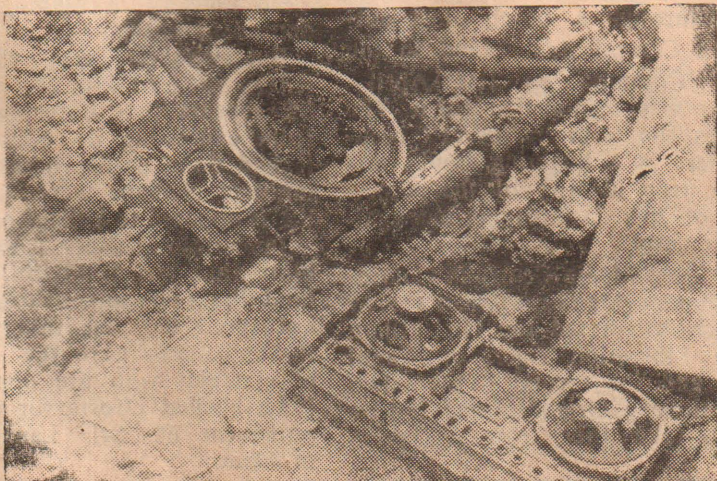
A "Terrorist" base!




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PICTURES BY COURTESY OF THE JAFFNA  
TAMIL DAILIES "EELAMURASU" AND  
"EELANADU".

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The fate of a Radio which broadcast 'Lankapuwath' News.



Colombo: A Scene of devastation on 21st April.

# Saturday Review

SRI LANKA

## BOMBER SUPPLEMENT

29TH APRIL 1987

### Entrenched Versus The Trenched

Around 10o' clock on Friday (24th April) my colleagues and I got out of our office to go to our Press, a few streets away.

The SATURDAY REVIEW had to be out by 2 p.m. that day, as usual.

We went to the Composing Section in the Press to put the finishing touches to Page one.

That chore over, we went back to the Printing Manager's table and started chatting with him.

Suddenly someone screamed 'Bomber.'

We didn't have time even to get up from our chairs. There was a deafening blast just behind the Press. Everyone ran. (Except the

Editor, who was in Colombo). And we stood not upon the order of our running.

We ran across the road — Main Street — and jumped into Dr. Tharmalingam's Maternity Hospital.

Someone had thoughtfully dug a shallow, open trench in the compound.

We got into the trench and had to huddle there for nearly an hour as the bomber planes screamed and swooped overhead.

Every few minutes they laid their "eggs". We plugged our ears and ducked.

"Jesu" and "Muruga" screamed some of those in the trench.

The combined efforts of "Jesu" and "Muruga" saved us that day.

At one point, we were able to count three bombs being dropped in quick succession. At least 10 bombs were dropped that day.

### 25 Killed...

(Continued from page 1)

Main Street areas were hit. Four houses down Fifth Cross Street were razed to the ground. Three women and a child died. An unexploded bomb was retrieved in the premises of the SATURDAY REVIEW Printing Department.

#### R & R

After a brief respite (it is understood that the pilots had to rest after their daring raids on unarmed civilians) Neerveli in the Kopay district was bombed by three bombers on 27th April for more than one and a half hours.

The Kandasamy Temple and the Co-operative Society building were extensively amaged. Apparently, there were casualties as many people had t their homes and taken to the trench.

Here are the details of deaths.  
MEN

S.Ponniah(50),S.Shanmugarasa (60), Ramachandran (40), an Ayurvedic doctor, K.Manoharan (36), K.Thiyagarajah (70), Das Jeyakumar (20), students, S.Ganeshamoorthy, Muthukumar Thirunavukkarasu (65).

#### WOMEN

Rajeswari (55), Jamuna (20), P. Elangeswari, Mary Margaret (81), Manikkam Saramma (51), Therasamma (84) Rajeswari Thurairajah (38), Sathiadevi (21) student, Mrs.Sugunathas.

#### CHILDREN

Vahini (13), Nalin Ruba (12), Manjula (14), Yasmila (4), Selladurai Yesudas (12), Premadas Sulakshen (3)

#### COMBATANTS

Anton Scot (LTTE).

### SAVE YOURSELF!

Just forget the Booklet on the ways and means of constructing Air Raid Shelters.

We offer you the best advice. If you happen to see bomber swooping down, simply throw yourself into a militants' camp.

There is one hundred percent probability that you will never, never, never be hit.

### Fuel Embargo Lifted!

During the three day bombing escapade the SLAF'S AVRO —usually the troop carrier

— also at tempted to show its colours.

Moving ghastly over the areas of Mallakam, Chunnakam and Tellippalai this Shabby Avro threw out several barrels of petrol filled with a small device meant to ignite the barrel.

A Sri Lankan brand Napalm, of course. And it went off — course! The 'appropriate' Technology used so ineffectively by the Air Force, left only a small portion of the Mallakam Palam Pillaiyar Temple burnt.

The bombers disappeared as swiftly as they came, then came our old friend—a helicopter.

The "heli" strafed the area for a short while, mortar shelled the place and vanished.

When the skies were clear, we came out of the trench. People were moving around as usual. The Press was in shambles and we postponed the printing.

A bomb had fallen between the well and the fence in the Press compound. Fortunately it didn't go off.

Reporting Friday's events, local newspapers said National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali and Major-General Cyril Ranatunge—Chief of the Joint Operations Command (JOC) — over flew Jaffna that day while the bombers attacked.

Their reactions are not known. But one thing we do know is that the Sri Lankan pilots manning the bombers are completely cock-eyed. That's how and why they killed 4 women down Martyn Road that

day, apart from destroying houses. They missed all the deserted lairs.

Psychologists have pin-pointed the connection between plying and an authoritarian, fascistic personality. Tariq Ali in his. The Nehru Dynasty has some interesting material on this aspect.

We have it to our readers to draw the necessary conclusions.

Those entrenched in power—a motley crowd of aging aristocrats, the new rich and lumpers—think they can bomb the Tamils out of existence.

The entrenched the Sinhala elite have chosen to take on the trenched (the oppressed Tamils). Let's see who'll win in the end.

Sweet nightmares to you all—Lalith, Srimani and Cyril.

—J.Raj

### We Condemn....

The SATURDAY REVIEW vehemently condemns the brutal massacre by shooting of 126 persons and causing injury to nearly 60 others (almost all of them Sinhalese) on the Habarana-Trincomalee Road on Good Friday, 17th April and the equally brutal massacre of nearly 150 and causing injury to about 200 others (the majority of them Sinhalese) through a bomb blast outside the Central Bus Stand in the Pettah, Colombo on 21st April — whoever was responsible for it. The SR uses the term "whoever" because there is a lingering doubt about the true identity of the perpetrators of this dastardly crime against humanity.

The State Media Centre in Colombo echoing the Government's view promptly attributed the first killing to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the second to the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation. But we tend to take the Centre's press

releases with a pinch of salt. Remember how it attributed the shelling of the Jaffna Hospital on 30th March to the LTTE? Later, the Government admitted the shells had been fired from Fort Army Camp!

The LTTE and the EROS have denied that they had anything to do with these killings of innocent civilians.

The SR does not know. With Jaffna cut off telecommunically from the rest of Sri Lanka by the Government since January, there has been no way of making an independent check.

But whoever was responsible—EROS or LTTE or any other — the SR repeats that it cannot refrain from expressing its abhorrence, as it had done earlier occasions when innocent civilians were killed. The SR is opposed to killings of any kind.

In certain quarters there have been hints that Israeli MOSSAD was behind the two operations, the SR is not sure. But one thing is clear: the massacres were the handiwork of elements who are opposed to the India-backed efforts for a negotiated settlement of Sri Lanka's ethnic problem.