

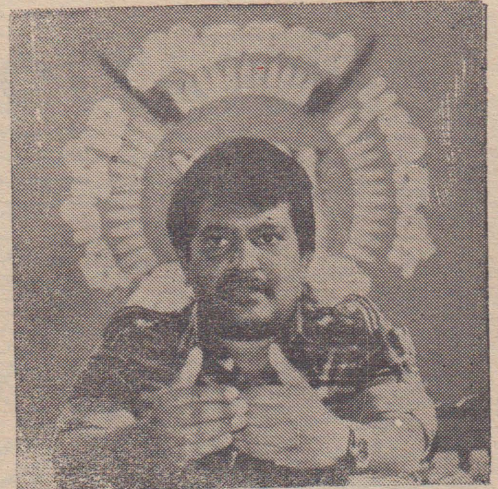
InsideReport

Tamil Eelam News Round-up

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Leader Prabakaran Attacks Sri Lanka's Hardline Attitude



***"If Military Approach Continues
The Doors For Peace will be Closed"***

Mr. Velupillai Prabakaran, the leader of the liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, in his message on Heroes Day, denounced the Sri Lanka Government's hardline attitude towards the Tamil ethnic issue as racist and irrational. "If the Government continues to adopt its military approach and engages in acts of terrorism against our people, we have no option but to close the doors for peace and continue to struggle for an independent state" he declared.

Mr. Prabakaran observed that the successive Sri Lankan regimes have adopted a rigid, chauvinistic policy towards the problems of the Tamils and have failed to put forward any substantial set of proposals that would satisfy the national aspirations of the Tamil people. Instead, the Sinhalese ruling elites have always adopted a policy of military repression aimed at the subjugation of the Tamil nation. The present Government, Mr. Prabakaran said, has taken a very hard line position characterising the freedom struggle of the Tamil people as a phenomenon of 'terrorism'. By publicly declaring that there is no ethnic problem, the Government has firmly closed the doors for peace, he said.

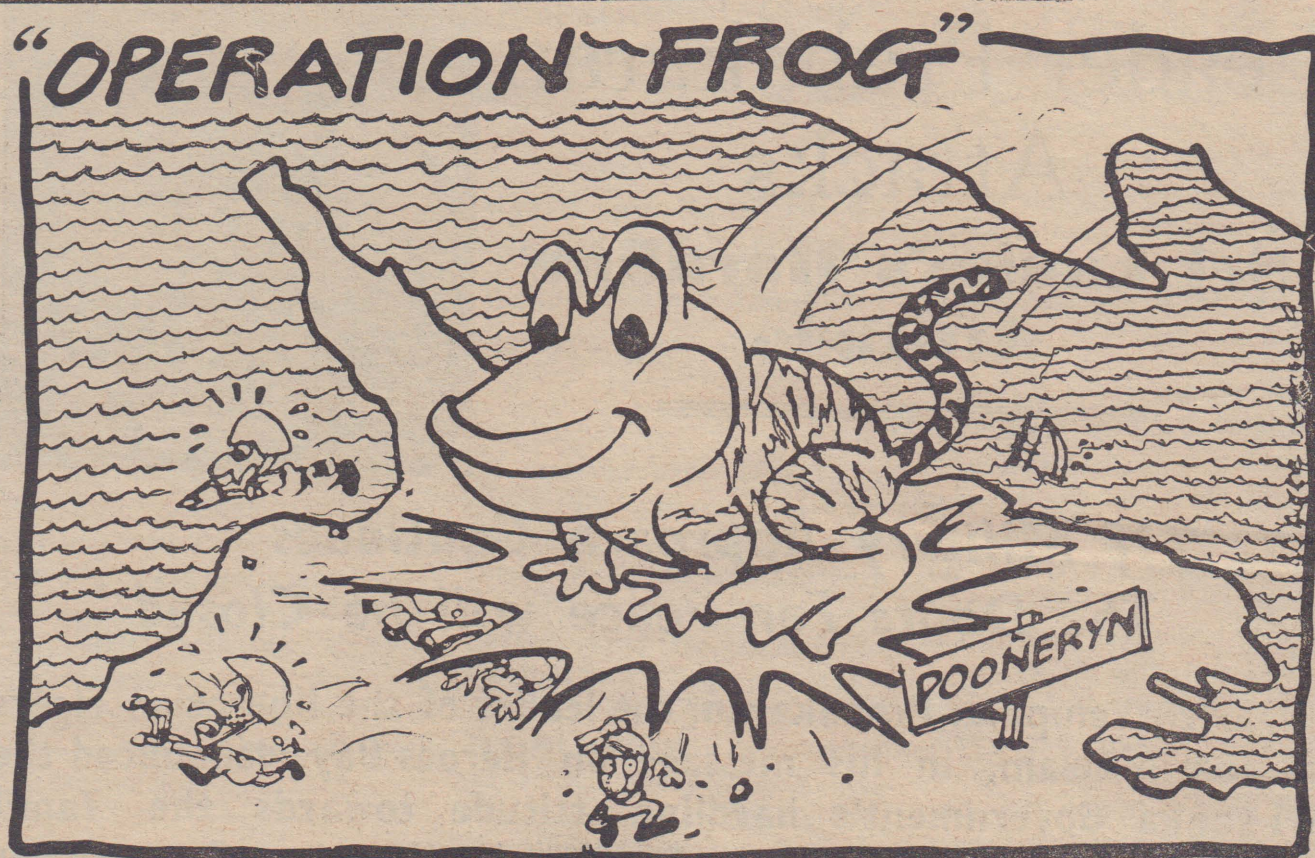
"Our successful military operations at Mankindimalai, Pulopalai and recently at Poone ryn, in which over a thousand soldiers got killed have demonstrated that military path will lead to disaster. The LTTE is militarily strong and highly proficient in the art of modern warfare and has the capacity even to destroy well fortified military complexes. It is foolish

on the part of those who run the administration in Colombo to assume that they could destroy the LTTE and win the war militarily," Mr. Prabakaran said.

Mr. Prabakaran further said that ever since the outbreak of hostilities in June 1990, the LTTE has been insisting on a ceasefire

followed by negotiations. But the Government has systematically rejected the LTTE's gesture for peace and negotiated political settlement. "Whenever LTTE called for peace the Sri Lankan regime adopted a belligerent attitude and intensified military offensive operations. If the Govern

ment continues to adopt this militaristic approach, and involves in its acts, of terrorism against our people, we have no alternative other than to close the doors for peace and continue our struggle for self-determination and statehood" declared Mr. Prabakaran.



Arms And Ammunitions Captured By LTTE At Pooneryn Military Complex

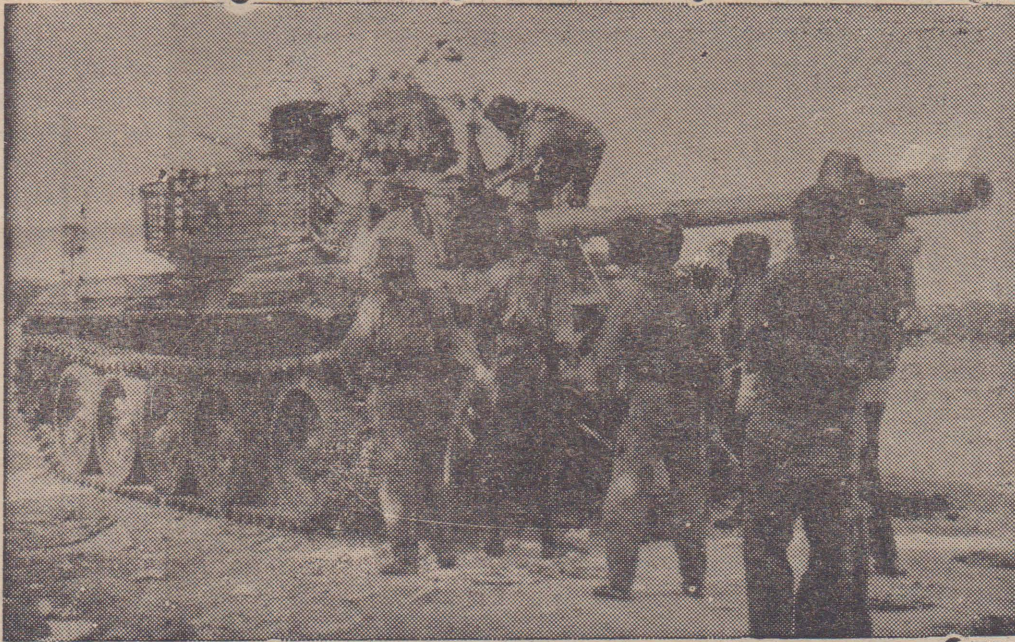
★ Water Jet Boats	05	★ Mini MI LMG	09
★ Tanks (T-55)	02	★ 303 LMG	03
★ 120 mm Long Range Motars	04	★ L 3 LMG	04
★ R C L	01	★ T 81 LMG	01
★ 81 mm Motars	02	★ A K LMG	16
★ 82 mm "	01	★ M 203 Launchers	03
★ 60 mm "	19	★ 40 mm Pistols	04
★ Radars		★ A K Family Rifles	420
★ R P G	20	★ M 16 - A 2 Rifles	11
★ 50 Calibre HMG	13	★ Tank Motar Shell	185
★ P K GPMG	08	★ Im Rounds	300,000
★ GPMG	05		

LTTE Destroys Poonegarin Base

ARMY FACE WORST DISASTER

The destruction of the Navy cum army Complex at Poonegarin by the LTTE guerrillas, inflicting massive casualties on the Government troops, has dealt a severe blow to Colombo's strategy of military occupation and domination of Tamil homeland and triggered off a crisis within the Government.

armoured vehicles, small artillery and many varieties of heavy weapons including several 50 Calibre guns. On the 3rd day, the LTTE withdrew from the area. The LTTE lost over 400 fighters in this battle.



The unprecedented casualty rate, around 800 killed and 500 injured, has shocked the Government and military leadership who are making desperate attempts to suppress the facts fearing a backlash in the South.

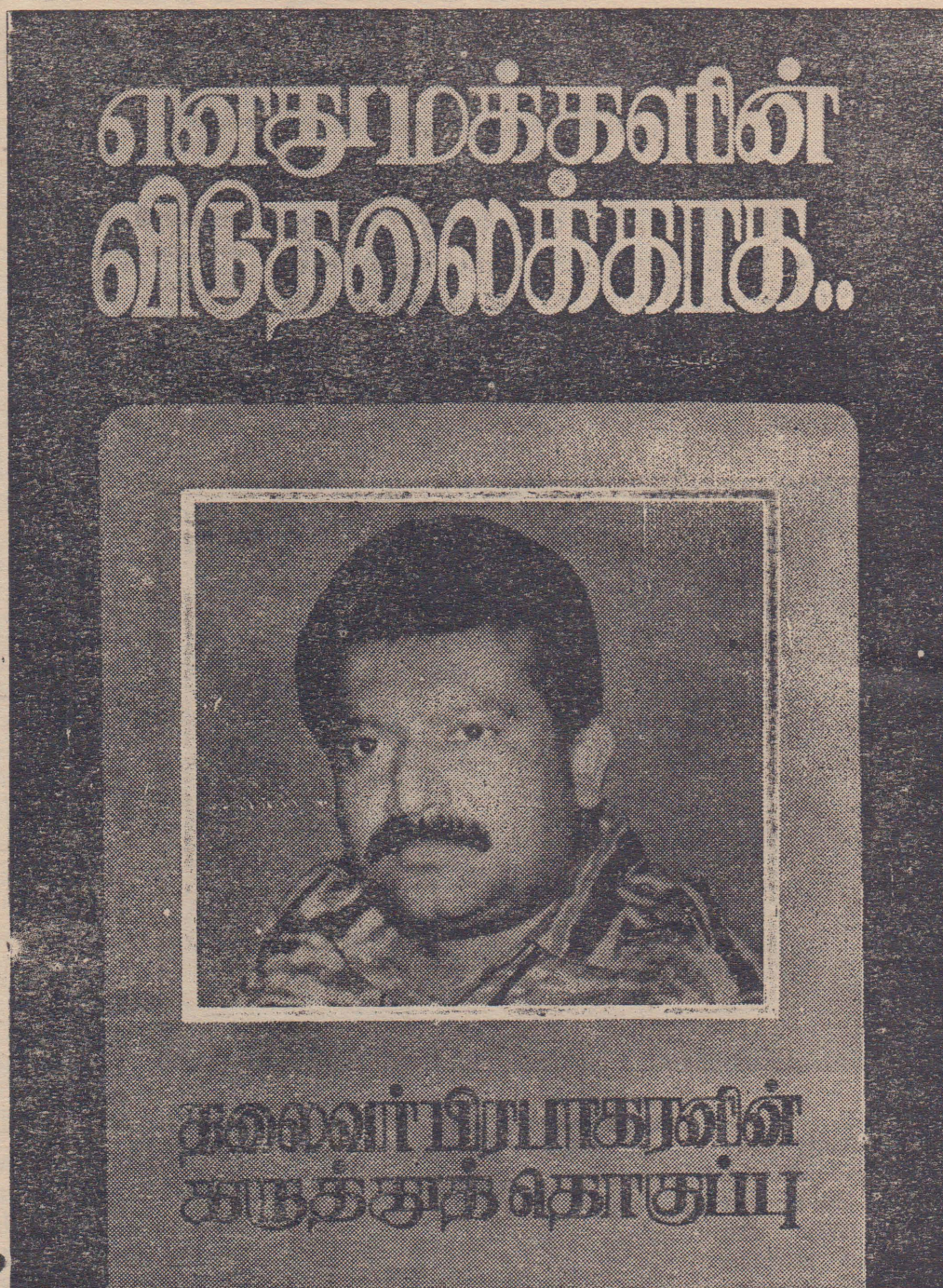
The LTTE armed units launched a sudden attack on the Poonegarin base in the early hours of the morning of 11th November, over-running the entire complex within 24 hours. Nagathevanthurai, the naval base

attached to the main camp, from where the naval forces operated to effect a blockade on the Lagoon, was taken over by the Tigers within the first few hours of the battle. Five water-jet speed boats were captured intact by the LTTE fighters. In this meticulously planned operation, the LTTE guerrillas smashed the resistance of the Government troops and captured a huge quantity of arms and ammunitions including tanks,

The total annihilation of Poonegarin military complex, one of the biggest and well-fortified army base in the North, has raised serious questions over strategy of the present the government to find a military solution to the Tamil ethnic question. The Government, which relied on the armed forces to crush the Tamil freedom struggle, is facing serious embarrassment and humiliation as the army has suffered heavy setbacks in recent battles with intolerable casualties. These disastrous

military defeats have also triggered off a serious crisis within the Government as vast sections of the Sinhalese people are disillusioned with the state's policy of dealing with the ethnic issue. On the other hand, the chauvinistic forces in the south are planning to stage a communal holocaust to kill and plunder the Tamils in Colombo and suburbs.

Leader Prabakaran's Thoughts: MATCHLESS REPOSITORY OF HISTORY



We take great pride in publishing this collection of the thoughts of our National Leader Mr. V. Prabakaran who has been acclaimed by the world as a great leader and liberation fighter.

Mr. Prabakaran has the enviable distinction of having inaugurated the movement styled the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam,

introduced revolutionary armed struggle as its principal strategy, widened this armed struggle into a National Liberation struggle,

guided this National Liberation struggle in an excellent and planned manner so as to achieve in credible feats which have attrac

ted international attention and placed the struggle for the right of self-determination of the people of Tamil Eelam at the top of the international agenda.

This history of a decade of struggle by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam lies embedded within these pages. This collection contains the statements issued and the critical analyses made by the leader about the historic events, the turning points, political crises, the military operations, and the atrocities committed by state terrorism during this period. In the interviews he granted to the international media, the leader has very lucidly explained his vision of the world, the ideals he has made his own, the background of his life and his personal experiences in the long and heroic freedom struggle. This book contains not only the leader's statements on the prevailing political and military situations but also his theoretical views on a diversity of issues like education, the economy, literature and the arts, women's freedom, justice and administration. This book will provide a rare intellectual feast to all those who want to have a deep insight into the leader's political thought and his vision of society.

The Leader who, while living underground in Tamil Eelam, guided the armed struggle, accepted the invitation of the Indian Central Government and went to Tamil Nadu towards the end of 1983. It was while he was in Tamil Nadu that he had the opportunity of meeting the international press. It was a reporter from the prestigious English weekly "SUNDAY", published from India, he first met and interviewed the leader in March 1984. The leader's first interview not only caused a stir in the Indian political world but also helped the Tamil Tigers to gain international prominence. This book contains the interviews of the leader given to Indian

news-papers, magazines and the world press while he was in Tamil Nadu. The interview that appeared on 4th and 5th September 1985 in the 'HINDU' is particularly noteworthy. In this wide ranging interview the leader expounded the military strategy and tactics of the Liberation Tigers, their political philosophy, referred to the background of his life, the evolution of his thought and also touched on various other interesting topics. This interview was republished in several Indian news papers and international political journals. It helped greatly in gaining international prestige and fame for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Right from the start, the leader prophetically declared that Sinhala chauvinism would never mete out justice to the people of Tamil Eelam, that it would never offer a reasonable solution to the Tamil national question through peaceful means or negotiations and that the Sinhala ruling class would strive with all its might and main to crush the Tamil's struggle for their rights through military repression and genocidal measures. One can easily perceive that these views which had been emphatically reiterated by the leader, are directly relevant even today and reflect the prevailing political and military realities. Right from the beginning the leader has clearly and

repeatedly stressed that only a separate state of Tamil Eelam can provide a permanent and lasting solution to the Tamil national question. This is borne out by interviews and policy statements.

Those who peruse this volume will become aware of the ideology that pervades the leader's personality; clarity of vision, a resolute and unwavering commitment to his ideals, the foresight that characterises a prophet and his progressive social outlook and deep humanism.

This book can also be considered a historic document. This history is related by the leader who has guided the Tamil Eelam liberation struggle. This history is the introspective narrations of a man of destiny, who is propelling forward the freedom movement of the Tamils as the centre of the storm. All those who are interested in and support the Tamil Eelam liberation struggle will find this work a matchless repository of history and a treasure-trove.

* From the foreward- to the book '**FOR THE FREEDOM OF MY PEOPLE**'
Chief Secretariat,
Liberation Tigers of
Tamil Eelam.

Sunday Night Bombing and Shelling

Heavy rains in Jaffna are punctuated with aerial bombing and intermittent shelling. On Sunday night, 28th November Sri Lanka bombers made frequent sorties over the Jaffna peninsula bombing at random Army Camps kept up the shelling.

Bombs were dropped on Vidath Althivu and Manipay at 9.p.m and 12.30 a.m respectively. Houses

and useful trees were destroyed. The injured were removed to the nearest hospital.

The Palla'y army shelled the residential areas of Thenmaradchy and Valigamam west. The army stationed in the Islands attacked the coastal areas with their shells. Fishermen on the coastal seas were driven inland by firing from helicopter.

EDITORIAL ROUND UP

The Tamil National Problem And Sinhala Chauvinism

In the wake of his Presidential appointment Mr. D. B. Wijetunge expressed a fervent desire to solve the ethnic problem by holding direct talks with the Tigers. He also welcomed intermediaries who could help him to contact the Tamil Eelam Leader, Prabhakaran.

But now he has officially announced that there is no ethnic problem here, what is prevalent is a terrorist problem, and further continues to reiterate it from platform to platform.

The Tamil problem has a forty year old history, with periodic talks, accords and ceasefires. How has it suddenly become a "terrorist problem"?

The military ascendancy of the Tigers after the Mankindimalai debacle coincided with the proposals offered by the four Nobel prize winners. The suggestions made by them the entailed direct talks with the Tigers under the aegis of the UN and the establishment of a Federal set-up in this country.

This was turned down by the Wijetunge government for two reasons. If talks were held with the Tigers when they were militarily strong it would be disadvantageous as more concessions have to be granted. Further it was feared that UN intervention would be favourable to the Tamils.

By declaring that "there is no ethnic problem here" the Wijetunge government hoped that talks with the Tigers and UN

mediation could be avoided at one stroke. In his reply to the Nobel prize winners Mr. Wijetunge further said "there is only a terrorist problem here. It can be handled by the Sri Lanka government and that the UN intervention is not necessary".

The President's declaration has given neither shock nor sorrow to the people of Tamil Eelam. The Tamil National problem is fully internationalised and the Tamil Freedom struggle is the foremost of its kind in the world. By his ridiculous declaration Mr. Wijetunge has only proved the hollowness of his leadership and his lack of political foresight.

However Mr. Wijetunge's stand has a selfish motive. He is bent on winning the next presidential election. He has no personal attractions, neither has he any dazzling political or economic programmes that could draw the Sinhala people to his side. Even so the government does not have the means to put through such a programme.

In this context he is compelled to indulge in verbal gymnastics to attract the Sinhala crowds. He has openly assumed the leadership of Sinhala chauvinism and has vigorously sought to inspire anti-Tamil feelings.

The series of LTTE victories at Mankindimalai, Kilaly and Pt. Pedro has inflamed Sinhala chauvinists to an unprecedented extent. The media and the so-called intellectuals are united in kindling Sinhala hysteria. For

them the genocidal destruction of the Tamils is the only welcome solution to the ethnic problem.

Due to his inability to launch any worthwhile political reforms or solutions to the ethnic crisis the President is merely a puppet echoing the voice of Sinhala bigotry. His calculations are that this is the road to victory in the next elections.

After the fall of Mankindimalai Mrs. Bandaranaike, hoping to make political capital out of the defeat issued a statement saying that "The absence of a single ministry of defence is the cause of the military defeat". The Sinhala media and the intellectuals unanimously supported her proposal. Mr. Wijetunge fell in line and made a structural change with the same faces. Similarly when the Sinhala majority opinion, the Press and the bigots opposed the proposals of the Nobel prize winners Mr. Wijetunge had only to agree.

Due to his narrow, immature, time-serving politics, he has become an object of ridicule in the international arena. This has not deterred him. He must win the next election at any cost.

The Tamils must draw an immutable lesson from Mr. Wijetunge's stand on the ethnic crisis. The rights of the Tamils will never be delivered by the Sinhala chauvinistic leadership. In this tragic circumstance armed struggle is the only course of action available to the Tamils to defend themselves and win their political independence.

"VIDUTHALAI PULIKAL"
September-October 1993

During his recent visit to London Minister Thondaman gave an explosive interview to the 'Tamil Nation'. Amongst others he said, "All Sinhala Governments are alike. I see no difference between Jayawardene, Bandaranaike, Premadasa or any body else. They always say that they want to settle the ethnic issue but they will never do any thing towards it". This has enraged his cabinet colleagues and other Sinhala politicians alike.

Mr. Thondaman spoke from experience. He further said, that no Sinhala head of state had ever attempted a just solution to the Tamil problem. When the Tamils asked President Jayawardene for a reasonable settle-

Minister Thondaman Can't Be Wrong

ment he answered thus. "If you want peace, you will have peace. If you want war, you will have war." He declared war on the Tamil people and gave the stamp of legality to state terrorism. He called in the Indian Army when his forces felt inadequate to the task of annihilating the Tamils.

In spite of the admonition that "two languages constitute one country, one language creates two countries" Prime Minister Bandaranaike pushed through the Sinhala only Bill. His wife

Prime Minister Srimavo Bandaranaike changed the constitution and swept away the constitutional safe guards reserved for the minorities.

Under President Premadasa's regime loss of innocent Tamil lives reached new heights. But the present incumbent has beaten them all by his often repeated line that 'there is no ethnic problem here, only a terrorist problem exists'.

Thondaman stressed that it is groundless to hold that the Sinhalese people are against the grant of Tamil rights. He pointed out that it is the Sinhala politician who is the offender.

Eelantham 30-10-93

Before the next Parliamentary and Presidential Elections President D. B. Wijetunge is going all out to prove himself best qualified to lead Sinhala racism. He had put the seal on talks and has chosen the military method to solve the ethnic problem. Plans are afoot to divide the Tamil Homeland and to swamp the Eastern Province with Sinhala settlements.

D. B. 's Inflexibility

Thanks to the Army and the Colonists. The Tamilman is already a minority in the East. Except for Batticaloa he is scarce in Trincomallee and Amparai. He has either fled the country or shut himself in a camp for refugees.

Under the circumstances, with the guiding hand of the Army winning the Local Government elections or holding a successful referendum is not an impossibility for the government.

For these exploits the President has to pay a big price. He will only drive the conditions for a just peace to an unreachable distance.

Eelantham 31-10-93

In 1990 when the Sinhalese, Muslims and Tamils of the Eastern province took shelter in refugee camps, the government readily distributed subsistence relief to the Sinhalese and the Muslims and left the Tamils to fend for themselves. Up to date some Tamil villages remain untouched by even a modicum of relief.

Today a new twist is being given to the policy of racial partiality. Under the guise of "resettlement", Tamils living in refugee camps located in Colombo, Madu and Thatchanamadu are being compelled to get settled in areas under army control.

The Cut in the Refugee Relief - A Well Planned Conspiracy

The government hopes to make a propaganda ploy that normalcy has returned and the Tamils are back in their old habitats. The strategy stretches further ahead. Local government elections and a referendum to divide the North and East will follow with a forced participation of the Tamils.

The relief hitherto given to the Tamils of Vavuniya and Chettikulam now living in the Madu and Thatchanamadu camps had been stopped by the government. They had been asked to get back to their home areas which are now under army control. It is inconceivable how an army that has massacred more than 30,000 Tamils can give protection to the returning people. That agencies like the UNHCR are covertly lending their support to the government's plans is a tragic feature of the present impasse.

Eelantham 2.11.93

The Tigers rejected the Provincial Councils created by the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord of 1987 on the following grounds. It did not provide for the rights of the Tamils, neither did it recognise the integrity of the Tamil homeland. Moreover it had no inherent powers of its own.

At that time this rejection was characterised as an act of political immaturity. But recent events in the South have vindicated the correctness of the Tiger's stand.

Provincial Councils Only A Deception

The opposition controlled Provincial Councils are discovering that they do not have any political power or adequate financial allocation.

Leading the agitation for more power and more money is the Sri Lanka Freedom Party which condemned the Accord as a sell-out to the Tamils.

On the other hand President Wijetunge in his speech at Hewahetta had pointed out that "it is the duty of the Provincial Councils to enforce the policy of the central government. Even the Provincial Council that are not government party controlled should toe the government line. Conflict with the government legal or otherwise should not be the pre-occupation of the Provincial Council".

Eelanatham 7-11-93

Airforce Retaliates on Civilians Hospital, Churches Bombed

The Sri Lankan armed forces are unique in that they run true to form. Whenever the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam inflict calamitous defeats on them they take it out on the unarmed Tamil civilians; that's the only way they know to give vent to their fury.

The latest incident of this berserk behaviour occurred after the Liberation Tigers overran the Pooneryn Naval cum Army complex.

The Sri Lankan armed forces lost about 800 men and about Rs. 250 million of military equipment in that calamitous defeat at Pooneryn.

In their desperation the Sri Lankan armed forces could only vent their fury on the civilians of the Jaffna Peninsula through aerial bombardment.

Below we recount the details of their coward attacks on Tamil civilians.

On 11th November, SLAF bombers attacked the New market at Chavakachcheri, killing 2 persons including a 64 year old woman and injuring eight people.

The same day, two persons were killed and severely injured by shelling of the coastal areas in Jaffna.

The next day (12/11/93), Supersonic Jets bombed the Jaffna Secretariat. In this bombings which took place around about 8.15 a.m. 25 people were injured, including the Govt. Agent of Jaffna.

On 13th November, the most heinous offence occurred; SLAF Supersonic Jets bombed and destroyed the 132 years old St. James Church at Main Street Jaffna, killing 10 devotees (where bodies were mutilated beyond recognition) and severely injuring 25 people.

On the 14th two Supersonic Jets carried out aerial bombard

ment in Thenmaratchy; 7 civilians were injured and several houses damaged.

On 15th November two Supersonic Jets bombed the Kilinochchi Government Hospital twice. A young mother - to - be was killed and several severely injured.

The same day, those Jets bombed the Government Hospital at Mulliyavalai in the Mullaitivu District; the hospital was damaged and several injured.

On 16th November, there was a concerted attack on Vadammaratchy. Several boats and houses were damaged.

SLAF helicopters strafed passenger vans at Neerveli, injuring two, and damaging the Neerveli MPC building and temple.

All there are not isolated incidents but elements of a co-ordinated Sri Lankan Govt. attack on Tamil civilians as a part of their strategy of decimating the Tamils in retaliation for the defeat at Pooneryn.

Cut-off Marks To University Affected Students Protest

Thousands of Tamil Students participated in a massive demonstration in Jaffna on the 28th October against the discrimination practised in the University admission. We publish below, the letter addressed to the President by the affected students

His Excellency the President of the
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,
Colombo.

Your Excellency,

University Admission 1992/93

We are thoroughly disappointed and frustrated by the cut-off marks announced recently for the District of Jaffna to gain admission to different courses in the Universities of Sri Lanka during the academic year 1992/93. Some of us who aspired to follow Medicine are only able to gain admission to some other course. Similarly, some of us who aspired to do Engineering are only able to gain admission to some other course. On the other hand, students who aspired to do Bio Science or Physical Science or Arts or Commerce or Management Studies and Law are not able to go to University for any higher education and thus they will be thrown on the street.

The number of Tamil students gaining admission to University education during the academic year 1992/93 is thus very much reduced. The total number is very much less the number of Tamil students who gained admission to University education during the past five years. This seems to be very abnormal.

The reason for this abnormality is the condition that prevailed in Jaffna during 1991/92.

There were lots of hardships for the students. There was no electricity. Kerosine oil was not freely available and its price was not affordable to burn lamps in nights. There was acute shortage of food and hence proper health could not be maintained to work hard. Often schools remained closed due to aerial bombing. Schools were overcrowded. Students found it difficult to travel to schools due to lack of transport facilities. Students were displaced from their homes and villages. Above all, students were nervous about aerial bombing and shelling. Our life as students was thus miserable. Apart from this most students felt the question papers set for Tamil students were hard or rather peculiar. We even wonder if the correction of scripts was perhaps purposely made stricter for some unknown reason. All these would have led to our poor performance in the Examination.

We beg of you to consider our district as a war-torn area and provide us special concession by reducing the cut-off marks for admission to various courses.

If an effort is made to maintain the average number of intakes that took place during the past five years for this year too, we are sure, more Tamil students will gain admission.

In 1985 the cut-off marks announced for admission were subsequently reduced islandwide because of poor performance. Please be gracious to consider it as a precedent and reduce the cut-off marks for the war-torn areas as a special concession.

We understand that the University of Jaffna is in a position to admit more number of students to Medicine, Agriculture, Bio Science, Physical Science, Arts, Commerce and Management Studies, but unfortunately the stipulated cut-off marks block the admission of many students.

Finally, we appeal to you, Your Excellency, to be very sympathetic and take prompt action to admit more number of Tamil students to University education in various Faculties as a special concession during the academic year 1992/93.

And also we would like to appeal to you not to have special examinations for us henceforth. If an examination cannot be held in the North and East, Please postpone the examination islandwide as done once earlier in 1989 when there was trouble in the South.

வெகுஜன அமைப்புக்களின் ஒன்றியம்

Confederation of People's Organisations

His Excellency The President,
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
Through-Govt. Agent, Jaffna District.
Your Excellency,

291, Stanley Road,
JAFFNA.
16-11-1993

Aerial Bombardment And Shelling

The Jaffna District Public Organisation Federation wishes to lodge its Vehement protest against the bombing of the Jaffna Kachcheri, St. James Church, Jaffna and the vicinity of the General Hospital, Jaffna which had been declared a Security Zone by the I. C. R. C.

On 12.11.93, round about 8.45 a.m., the Jaffna Secretariat was bombed, causing extensive damage to office equipment, official records and files. The Govt. Agent himself was injured. Over 25 people were injured.

On 13.11.93 at about 7.20 a.m., the 136-year old St. James Church was bombed; killing 11

people. Over 25 innocent civilians were seriously injured and hospitalised. On the same day at about 2.25 p.m., the General Hospital, Jaffna, which is within the Security Zone, was bombed, causing extensive damage to the hospital buildings and injuring the inmates. On the same day, there was aerial bombing in the vicinity of the Nandavil Temple in which more than 10 innocent devotees were injured.

People in the Jaffna Peninsula are living in constant fear and danger. The schools places of worship and other public institutions are unable to function due to indiscriminate bombing. It clearly shows that the Govt., is not for a political solution

by its action of destroying the innocent public purporting to take anti-terrorists activities.

On behalf of the public of Jaffna, we urge your Excellency to order the Security Forces to stop immediately the indiscriminate bombing and shelling of Jaffna. We would also like to appeal to you to lift the ban on the movement of traffic during curfew hours as this hampers voluntary organisations from providing medical relief and aid to the injured and the supply of food.

If your Excellency fails to take the appropriate steps, we fear there will be very unfavourable mass reactions.

His Excellency,
The President of the Republic of Sri Lanka,
Colombo.
Your Excellency,

Bishop's House
P. O. Box 2,
Jaffna - Sri Lanka

17 November, 1993

Aerial Bomb-Attack on St. James' R. C. Church Jaffna

We have already informed Your Excellency, by a message sent through the I. C. R. C. on Saturday 13.11.93 about the death and destruction caused by the aerial bomb-attack on St. James Church, Gurnagar, Jaffna Town on that morning at about 7.20 a.m.

Of the two supersonic jets flying over the Town one dived suddenly above the Church and

released two heavy bombs which directly hit the main body of this big Church. Poor and helpless people filled with fear of aerial and shell attacks usually take refuge in the Church trusting that the forces will respect the sacred places of worship. The massive explosion of two heavy bombs at its centre was too much and in a split of second this big and ancient Church,

not smaller than any catholic church that you see in Colombo or Negombo, was heap of rubble burying underneath several mutilated bodies and injuring seriously several who were inside the Church and in the adjoining house of the Priest.

It was not only this big Church but also the big mission house, the Parish Hall and the Nursery which were completely damaged.

Limbs of the dead were strown all over the area. When I rushed to the scene along with some priests, I was shocked to see that beautiful and ancient Church reduced to a huge mass of rubble. On seeing a cloud of smoke rising above the Town, a large crowd of parishioners and people of the Town had gathered around that place. They stood dazed, shocked and grieved as to what had become of their dear ones and their dear Church.

The Victims

In pouring rain and without proper utensils or machines people struggled hard to dig the heaps in search of the dead bodies. It took several hours of very hard labour to recover the mutilated persons and the dead bodies. Ten are already confirmed dead and among those 30 persons seriously injured, there are elderly women, girls and children who are still in hospital.

How was it possible?

The Church stood so majestically with three huge domes, any pilot with normal sight would have easily seen this sacred place from miles away. Besides there were neither Tiger camps nor any suspicious activity anywhere near this Church. Hence all of us are convinced beyond doubt that the attack could not have been a miss of some target. It was a direct and clear hit at the Church and all that was around it. We can only conclude that it was probably a retaliation to what had happened 20 miles away at Poonegarin.

The Responsibility

Your Defence Secretary, Mr. Hamilton Wanasinghe has tried to explain it away as an unfortunate miss of target. But it is unacceptable to any sane citizen of Jaffna who has known how it happened and where it happened. It is our sincere and humble opinion that the Government should accept full responsibility for this dastardly act of the Air Forces which has caused much loss of life, destruction of a huge place of worship and other buildings of public services to poor children.

Remuneration for the Victims:

All those dead and seriously wounded are very poor people who had not even the means to bury their dead. We have tried to meet a part of those expenses. We vouch that those victims are innocent and very poor civilians and we request Your Excellency that the families of the victims be given a reasonable compensation to survive in their handicapped situation.

Reconstruction of the Church

The 132 year old Church comparable to any of the biggest churches in Colombo is irreparable. A Church of that beauty and size cannot be built by us even for Rs. 50 million today. But for the thousands of believers around this destroyed Church, we need to put up immediately at least a fairly large hall of prayer, a small house for

the priest, a shed for the school etc. Nothing, not even a window was spared in this destruction.

Hence we need at least ten million rupees to do this work. Here too we appeal to Your Excellency for the maximum possible compensation.

Our fervent appeal to the Air Forces of the Government

Though the Armed Forces have expressed their intentions only to hit at Tiger targets, more than often the hit has been on innocent civilians and refugees. Our main Cathedral, many other churches and people inside them have often been the victims in the past. As I write this letter, I get the sad news that another Church - St. Theresas at Kilinochchi and its adjoining Priest's house has been heavily damaged by aerial bombing.

Hence our appeal to the Air Forces, through the good offices of Your Excellency, to stop these aerial bombings which have gone on in spite of our protests. Please instruct your Forces to abide by International Laws which respect areas of civilian population and especially sacred places of worship.

Assuring Your Excellency our prayers and loyalty,

I remain,
Yours respectfully,

(Sgd)

R. C. BISHOP OF JAFFNA

Calculated Act of State Terrorism

Religious Heads Condemn Bombings

Religious leaders belonging to Hindu, Christian and Catholic religions, in a joint statement to the press, vehemently condemned the indiscriminate aerial bombings on civilian targets as calculated act of state terrorism.

The joint statement is signed by Nallai Thiru Gnana Sampandar Atheenam, Bishop D. J. Ambalavanar (Church of South India) and Bishop Thomas Saundranayagam (Catholic Bishop of Jaffna) The statement reads as follows:-

We, Religious Leaders from the North, belonging to Hindu, Christian and Catholic religions are grieved and disappointed that the ethnic conflict which took a very violent turn from the 1983 pogrom against the Tamils has not shown any change of direction towards a permanent settlement of the problem.

We however, would like to strongly protest against the actions of the Sri Lankan Air Force which seems to be guided by the sole motive of revenge and striking terror among the Tamil People. Following on the recent Poonakari operations, the Air Force has used its supersonic bombers to bomb the Jaffna Secretariat killing and injuring several. The Government Agent of Jaffna- Mr. K. Manickavasagar- being one of those injured. It has bombed a place of worship - the St. James Catholic Church on the Main Street, Jaffna - destroying that large

and venerated house of God and killing and injuring several innocent citizens. It has dropped its bombs within the protected zone around the Jaffna General Hospital damaging the hospital and striking panic among the patients and the public. We have reports that the Government Hospitals in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu have also been bombed. The Market block in Chavakachcheri has also been bombed and destroyed.

All these buildings, used exclusively for sacred worship and public services, are such large and prominent structures that no Air Force can pretend innocence about the targets being struck. When a Government permits its own Secretariat to be bombed we cannot but conclude that it has agreed to abdicate its responsibility for the administration of the region and for the safety and security of the people. The Hospitals which are there for the sole purpose of caring

for the sick have always been protected and safeguarded even among countries at war. It is therefore all the more shocking when the Sri Lankan Government permits hospitals to be bombed. We wonder how a Government, which claims to respect all religions and describes itself as a "Dharmista State", can permit the bombing of places of worship.

These events are not just sporadic occurrences but have been repeated so often in the recent past that we cannot but conclude it is part of state policy against the Tamils. A close statistical study of the air raids carried out by the Sri Lankan Air Force in the North will show that the victims of the raids have almost always, and without exception, been innocent helpless civilians and civil property. When this is the case how could anyone avoid concluding that this is organised "State Terrorism"?

We wonder whether massacring innocent civilians can bring any honour or credit to an Air force. We would therefore appeal to the Government to control its Air Force and not permit it to be an instrument of "State Terrorism."

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