

Inside Report

TAMIL EELAM NEWS REVIEW

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Shelling From Palaly on the Security Zone of Jaffna

Four civilians were seriously injured on 16-01-94 due to artillery shelling, from Palaly army base by midnight, also few shops were badly damaged due to this shelling. The above damages and injuries were occurred in the old bus stand within the security zone. The following injured civilians were admitted in the General Hospital, Jaffna- P. Jeyarj (28yrs), Rasalingam (32yrs) Ramiah (55yrs) and Thiyagarajah (57yrs.).

Aerial Attacks on Innocent Civilians State Terrorism in Jaffna Peninsula

Following the humiliating defeat at Pooneryn, the Sri Lankan Air Force and the Navy have launched a campaign of terror in the Jaffna Peninsula killing innocent civilians and destroying civilian targets; the aerial attacks, which were primarily targeted on places of public assembly, have taken a heavy toll of civilian casualties since the battle of Pooneryn, which took place on 11.11.1993. 44 Tamil civilians have been killed and more than 200 injured by aerial bombardment.

It has been an invariable policy of the Sri Lankan armed forces to launch retaliatory attacks on innocent Tamil civilians whenever the forces suffered casualties or military setbacks at the hands of the LTTE. The humiliating defeat at Pooneryn has also instigated the State's forces to embark on this customary practice of taking revenge on the innocent civilians. Soon after the Pooneryn debacle, the Sri Lankan Air Force, which enjoys a relative dominance over the air, has launched a systematic campaign of terror and murder in the Jaffna Peninsula,

In this campaign of terror, the Air Force has targeted market places public meetings, places of worship, hospitals, schools with the sole objective of killing Tamil civilians. To give a few instances.

On 12.11.93 Jaffna Secretariat was bombed. 22 persons including the Government Agent were injured

On 13.11.93, St. James, Church, one of the oldest catholic shrines in Jaffna was bombed. 9 civilians were killed inside the holy place.

On 15.11.93, Government hospitals at Killinochchi and Mulliyvalai were blasted seriously injuring several patients.

On 5.12.93, market places at Kurunagar and Pasaiyoor were bombed, killing 19 civilians and injuring more than 70.



Four bodies of civilians killed by the bombing of Sri Lankan Air Force Puccara plane on 30.12.93 at the new market, Chavakachcheri.



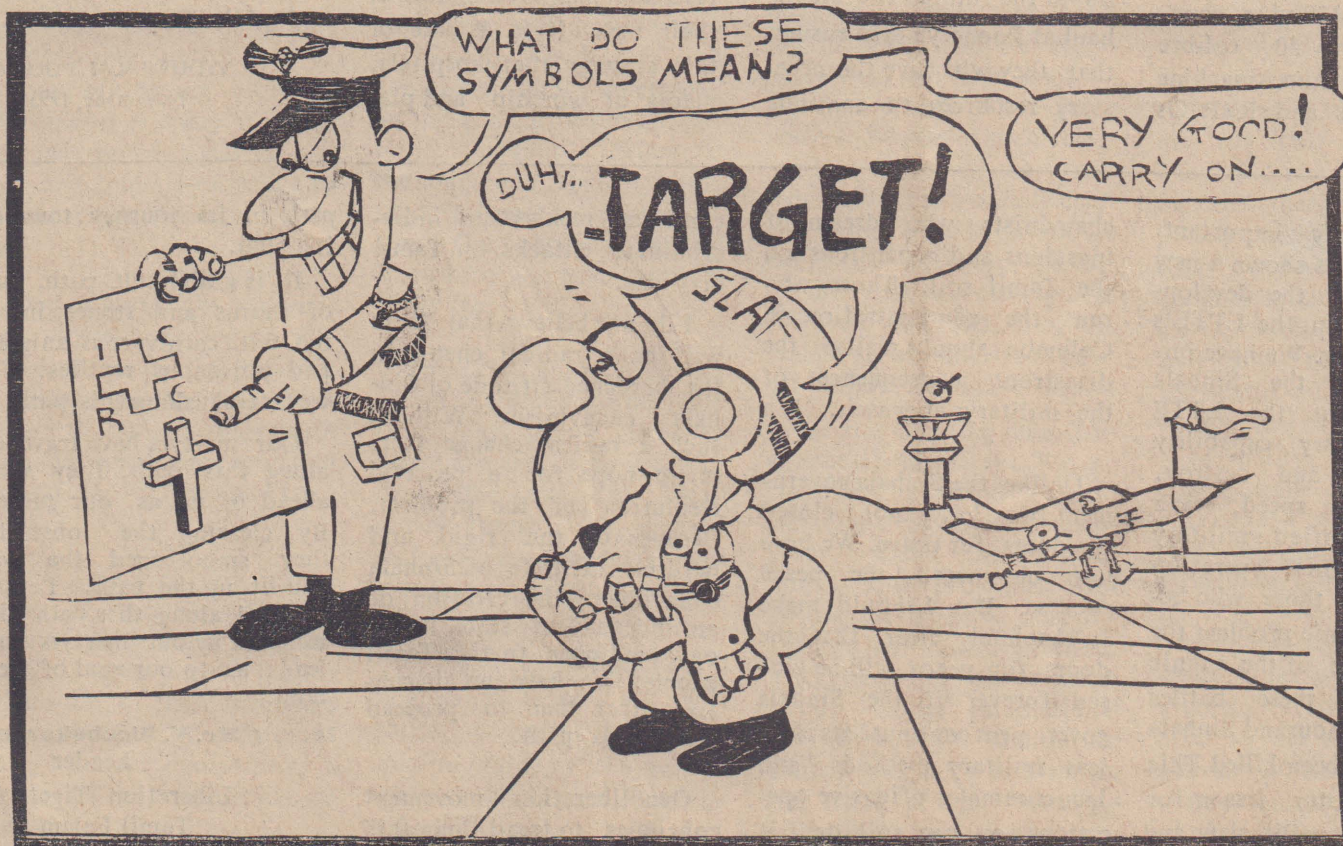
The body of a civilian who was killed by the bombing of Sri Lankan Air Force Puccara plane at Thavady village.

On 30.12.93, Air Force bombers attacked a public meeting at Chavakachcheri. 9 persons were killed and more than 50 injured.

While the Air Force systematically bombed civilian targets particularly places of public assembly the Navy indiscriminately shelled coastal villages and attacked fishermen.

On 4.1.94, a fishing boat was destroyed and 9 fishermen were killed by the Navy on the Pt. Pedro seas.

Though several organisations have registered vehement protests over these senseless killings of innocent Tamil civilians, the Sri Lanka Government is maintaining a studied silence. This has given rise to suspicions that the Government has given licence to the Air Force to kill Tamil civilians at random and to terrorise the Jaffna population.



EDITORIAL
ROUND UPINSTRUMENTS
NOT PILLARS...!

The Government Agent Jaffna made a strong request to the Sri Lankan government to stop bombing settlements and public places. Within 2 days of his appeal, the Sri Lankan Airforce planes bombarded public places again, killing 25 and seriously injuring more than 70.

Following the Sri Lankan Airforce bombing of St. James Church in Jaffna and other public places last month, in a protest against the bombing raids the people of the area led by Clergy silently protested in public demonstrations against these barbaric acts and submitted

a memorandum to the President. Two days after these non-violent protests the Airforce planes bombed the same area again.

The Government Agent's request was made to the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, the next in command to the President. Although the Prime Minister listened to what the G.A. told him bombing resumed in crowded dwelling places: these brutal acts make one to ponder whether the Prime Minister's hearing was genuine. It is worthy to note that Ranil Wickremasinghe the Prime Minister functions as the minister of State for Defence and it becomes obvious that this bombing

could not have taken place without his knowledge.

The President too has acted in the same manner. The Prime Minister forgot what he heard and the President for his part forgot what he saw. This barbaric attack took place only a few hours after the President came to know of the first attack on St. James Church and the subsequent non-violent protest march. It is apparent that the President must have thrown the memorandum away.

Submission of real facts to the President and Prime Minister have fallen on deaf ears. The attack only indicates that it is the policy

of the Sri Lankan regime to attack crowded settlements. Perhaps they feel that their Airforce is the only apparatus of their armed forces that can continue the process of annihilation of the Tamil people without being vulnerable to retaliation.

The question arises as to whether the Sri Lankan Government has the moral right to call the Tamils its subjects and the Tamil area its territory. A Government cannot claim to have sovereignty over a people whose legitimate requests are wantonly ignored. Can a government administer an area while ignoring the advice of its officers?

To the state officers, Tamil people and other institutions accustomed to Sinhala chauvinism, the attitude of the Sri Lankan

government is no surprise. These deceptions too are not going to affect them. But for those government officers serving in the North and East, who imagine they are an integral part of the governmental machinery, these barbaric acts should be a good lesson.

They should realise that the Tamil government servants irrespective of their rank are utilised as instruments of administration and not as an integral part of the government. It is high time such Tamil officers realise this bitter truth. Ignoring this and continuing to lick the boots of the government for promotions and other benefits, they are not on their path to success but contributing to the destruction of the Tamil community and themselves also.

Eelanaatham

“Operation Leap - Frog”

A New Phase in the Struggle

One chapter in the military history of the SINHALA DESA will remain gory for ever

The lightning strike of the Tigers which took place at midnight on 10th November not only destroyed this naval-army complex at Pooneryn it has also dealt a devastating blow to the fond hope of the Sinhala chauvinists that the Tamil people could be brought to their knees through military pressure.

The naval-army base at Pooneryn had struck terror in the hearts of the people of the Peninsula, made them apprehensive about the military blockade of the Peninsula and fuelled the megalomaniac ambitions of the

top brass of the Sri Lankan forces.

In one swoop, the Tigers “OPERATION LEAP-FROG” killed over 800 servicemen, seized more than 1000 weapons and an incredible quantity of ammunition and explosives. The world stands amazed at this stupendous military achievement of the Tigers which has given a new dimension, both militarily and politically, to the Tamil Eelam Liberation struggle.

In this historic victory, the Tigers captured a tank, five (5) water-jet speed boats, four 120 mm cannons, thirteen 50 calibre guns, apart from machine guns, mortars and R. P. Gs

totting up to hundreds and hundreds of heavy weapons.

Overnight, the seized weapons, ammunition and explosives have increased the Tigers strength a hundred-fold and boosted their military capacity and their combat skills. Specifically, the high speed water-jet boats, the radar and other equipment captured at the Nagathevanthurai- Gnanimadam naval base have tremendously increased the strength of the Sea Tigers. Hence, it may not be wrong to forecast that there may be unexpected twists and turns in sea battles in the future. The Tigers' haul at Pooneryn also ensures that they will have the necessary resources to continue

fighting for several years without a let-up.

Moreover, the calamitous defeat at Pooneryn has thoroughly shaken up the Sinhala military machine. Grievous loss of life, on the one hand, on the other, the fear roused by the fact that several crores worth of new weaponry has fallen into the hands of the formidable Tigers.

Sinhala chauvinism is stupefied and does not know how to handle the war in the future. Today the Sinhala top brass are forced to concentrate on how best to restore the shattered morale of their men. It is as part of this strategy that hospitals, places of worship and pla-

ces where civilians congregate are being subjected to indiscriminate aerial bombardment. Through this they hope to whip up the fighting spirit of their men. However, these barbaric acts will only serve to strengthen world-wide the rationale for the Tamils' struggle and prod the international community to give their full backing to the Tamil Eelam people's demand for self-determination.

All in all, the Tigers' victory at Pooneryn has accelerated the pace of the liberation struggle and implanted in the minds of the people of Tamil Eelam, the unshakable conviction that through armed struggle the Sinhala forces can be defeated and destroyed, the territory of Tamil Eelam recaptured and a separate state set up.

VIDUTHALAI PULIGAL
November, 1993.

The Struggle

(Contd from page 3)

jugating the Tamil people. With this belligerent militaristic approach, the Sri Lankan government has devised plans to launch major military operations in the Jaffna Peninsula. Faced with this critical situation, we decided to launch counter-offensive operations to inflict a severe blow on the enemy.

Our successful operations at Mankindimalai, Pulopallai and finally at Pooneryn effected a severe blow to Sinhala militarism. In these operations, the Pooneryn battle

was historically important. This battle has shown a new dimension of the developmental stage in the LTTE's military power. We have impressed upon the Sinhala chauvinists that the LTTE has the military capability to penetrate and destroy, with lightning speed, even the well-fortified military complexes. This operation has shown to those who belittle the ethnic problem the colossal nature of the ethnic conflict. In these battles more than a thousand Sinhala soldiers have been killed. This will be a bitter lesson for those Sinhala militarists and

chauvinists who dream of invasions and expansions on the Tamil soil. Those who run the administration in Colombo should realise the disastrous consequences of the military approach.

Unlike the Sinhala government we have not closed the doors for peace. We have not obstructed the peace process. But I should make it absolutely clear that the doors for peace will be closed forever if the Sinhala government continues its ruthless military methods and launches major offensive operations on our soil or if it

continues reckless and indiscriminate attacks on Tamil civilians.

I do not believe that there will be a radical change in the hardened attitude of Sinhala chauvinism. Without such a radical change there is no hope for a peaceful resolution of the problem. Because of the rigid and hardline attitude of Sinhala chauvinism, the creation of an independent state is the only path open to the Tamil people. We have no alternative other than to proceed along that path.

Our liberation movement continues to tread along this

path in its journey towards its goal.

It is a difficult path, full of thorns and stones, infested with carnivorous animals and poisonous reptiles. Yet we travel along this path.

Our martyrs have travelled along this path. They went ahead of us as our guides. By clearing the obstacles they smoothened the way and lit up the path. Let us proceed along this path illuminated by our martyrs that leads us to our goal of freedom.

(Mr. V. Pirabakaran)
Leader

Liberation Tigers of
Tamil Eelam

The Struggle for Self - Determination Is the Only Option Left to Tamils

LTTE Leader Pirabakaran Blames Government for Hardline Policy

The LTTE Leader Mr. V. Pirabakaran in his Heroes' Day message to the Tamil Nation has blamed the Government for adopting a hardline attitude towards the ethnic issue and declared that the struggle for self-determination and political independence is the only option left for the Tamil people.

(The following is the translated text of the message delivered by Mr. Velupillai Pirabakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, marking Heroes' Day on 27-11-1993.)

My Dear Beloved People of Tamil Eelam,

Today is Heroes' Day, the day in which we remember our martyred heroes who were the historical architects of our national freedom movement.

Today, we cherish in our hearts the memories of our heroes who have transformed our nation from the conditions of bondage and servitude into a realm of liberty where a fierce struggle for liberation is being fought. It is our martyrs who have internationalised our inalienable right to a homeland with the dictum that 'our land belongs to us'.

Heroes' Day is not a day of mourning, nor a day of sorrow, of weeping and lamentations. It is a day of national resurgence, a day we pledge and commit ourselves to the emancipation of our nation.

Our heroes have sacrificed their lives for a just cause. Their demise does not constitute an ordinary event of death. Rather, their death signifies a profound spiritual aspiration for national freedom.

Our martyrs die in the arena of struggle with the intense passion for the freedom of their people, for the liberation of their homeland and therefore the death of every martyr constitutes a brave act of enunciation of freedom.

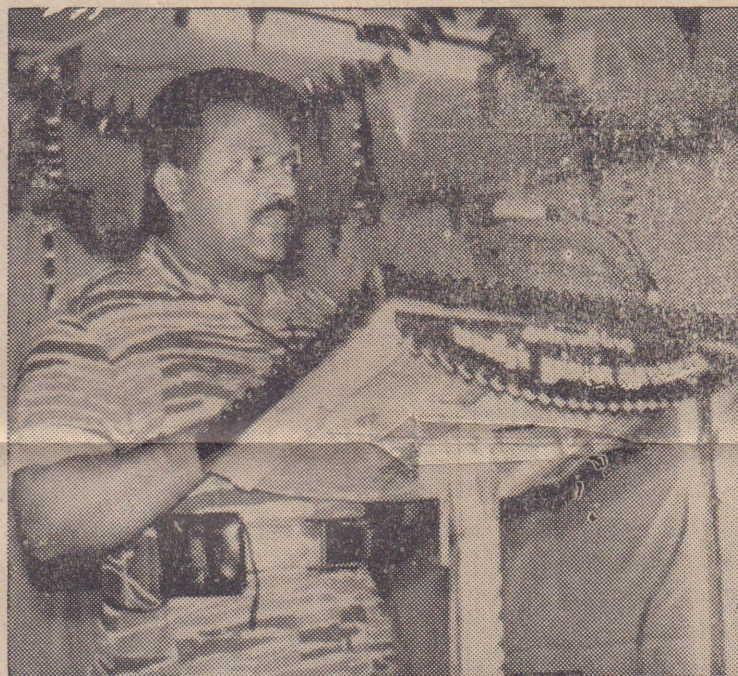
From the tombs of the dead martyrs who lie at rest in the womb of our soil rises the cry for freedom. This cry for freedom is the articulation of the will and determination of more than six thousand martyrs, which underlie the motive force behind our liberation struggle.

The history of our liberation war continues as blood-spilling politics. From the birth of our movement until now, within the space of this lengthy struggle though we have encountered innumerable problems, trials and tribulations, we have not deviated from our basic political ideal. We are firmly convinced that the creation of an independent sovereign state of Tamil Eelam is the only and final solution to the Tamil national question. Our position is well known to our enemy as well as to the world.

The Tamil political parties which obtained the mandate from our people for the establishment of an independent state, and the Tamil armed groups who pledged to fight an armed struggle for political independence have already given up their cause and betrayed the Tamil people. It is only our liberation movement that continues to abide by the principles to which it is committed.

on our side. Only when people are firmly and resolutely committed to their cause can they win their freedom.

We are fully aware of the fact that the world is not rotating on the axis of human justice. Every country in this world advances its own national interests. It is



We are fully aware of the Himalayan impediments that we have to face in achieving the objective of an independent Tamil state. We are also aware of the forces that are opposed to our objective and how they would respond. We are also conscious of the modes of intervention that might arise from the hegemonic designs of the regional power, and from the strategic objectives of the Super powers. Whenever such interventions occurred we courageously faced those challenges. We stood by our principles even when we were pushed to the brink of destruction. We were not shaken by the violent storms unleashed against us by dominant forces.

We are standing on a strong moral foundation. We are fighting for a just cause. Our political objectives conform with international norms and principles. Our people are eligible for the right to self-determination. They have the right to statehood. Under international law this right cannot be denied. We must be firm in the cause of our struggle since truth and justice are

the economic and trade interests that determine the order of the present world, not the moral law of justice nor the rights of people. International relations and diplomacy between countries are determined by such interests. Therefore we cannot expect an immediate recognition of the moral legitimacy of our cause by the international community. But at the same time we must continue to agitate for that recognition. The world is constantly changing and there will be unexpected changes. At a particular conjuncture the international situation might change favourably to us. At that time the conscience of the world will be conducive to the call of our just cause.

In reality, the success of our struggle depends on us, not on the world. Our success depends on our own efforts, on our own strength, on our own determination. The moral legitimacy of the cause alone will not lead to victory. We must be strong, firm in our convictions and skilled in the art of war.

Our enemy, the Sinhala chauvinistic regime, is not

prepared to resolve the problems of our people on the basis of justice and fair play. The Sinhala government wants to resolve the problem through the means of violence. Because of the ruthless militaristic approach of the Sinhala racist regime the Tamil ethnic problem continues unresolved for the last forty years. During this lengthy duration of time our people fervently hoped for justice but what they encountered were death, destruction and intolerable suffering. Our people have begun to realise more profoundly the political truth enunciated by us, time and again, that the Sinhalese ruling elites are not prepared to offer a fair solution to the Tamil problem through peaceful means.

Our movement has never been an impediment to the peace process. We offered many opportunities to the Sri Lankan State. We participated at various peace talks from Thimpu to Colombo. But the Sri Lankan State refused to put forward any substantial set of proposals to the Tamil question. Instead of seeking a peaceful means it is determined to resolve the problem in the battlefield.

Since the outbreak of hostilities in June 1990, our liberation organisation has kept the doors open for peace. Whenever we announced our readiness for peace talks and extended our hands of friendship, the Sri Lankan government refused to respond positively. It also rejected our persistent call for the creation of a congenial condition of normality by effecting a cessation of hostilities and lifting the economic embargo. Instead of creating a condition of peace the chauvinistic regime intensified the war and brought havoc and destruction to our people. Finally, it attempted to portray our freedom struggle as a phenomenon of 'terrorism'. Furthermore, it made public pronouncements that there is no ethnic problem.

Thus, the Sinhala chauvinistic ruling elite has firmly closed the doors for peace with the arrogant attitude that they could crush our freedom movement with the might of the military power. This militarism is now stiffened with the aim of aggressing Tamil lands and sub-

(Contdpage 2)

POONERYN

Tigers knock out Wijetunga's Base and Policy

The stunning defeat the Liberation Tigers inflicted on the Naval-army base at Pooneryn, has reduced to a shambles the Wijetunga Government's policy vis-a-vis the Tamils. It has also dealt a knock-out punch to the military arrogance of the Sinhala chauvinists. President Wijetunga's declaration that "there is no ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, there is only a problem of terrorism" and his Government's decision to pursue the military option against the Tamils have back-fired,

The Sinhala chauvinists who refuse to face reality and the power-hungry political and military bosses may not admit that they have learnt a bitter lesson at Pooneryn. But anyone who objectively looks at the facts, and the facts are that the Tigers over-ran the Naval-army complex manned by 2000 servicemen, will have no difficulty in recognising the truth that the Tigers cannot be defeated militarily; rather it is the Sinhala forces who are rolling down the slope of defeat and disaster.

The Sinhala chauvinist leadership failed to realise the strength of the Tigers and the intensity of the Tamil people's thirst for freedom. This led to the miscalculation that before

the end of 1994 the Tamils' Liberation struggle would be crushed and they drew up schemes to achieve this dastardly objective.

"What will happen to us after the rainy season is over and the armed forces mount massive military operations against us?". This was the fear and anxiety that haunted the Tamil people. The victory at Pooneryn has dispelled that fear. Instead it has induced fear among the Sinhalese.

The arms the Tigers captured at Pooneryn in the course of 'Operation Leap-frog', the heavy loss of life they inflicted on the armed forces, the combat skills they displayed there have made Sinhalese who are conversant with military strategy sit up and take notice of the Tigers' awesome military capability. Not only is the Sinhala public terror-stricken; fear and dismay have spread among the Sinhala armed forces and their belief that they could win the war has been badly shaken. This loss of morale is bound to affect the entire Sinhala military machine. One should recall here that a similar demoralisation set in among the Indian Army after its 'Operation Checkmate' was foiled by the Tigers in the latter part of 1985.

However the Tamils should not be complacent after this victory. The top brass of the Armed forces will strive with all its might to recover lost ground by whipping up the enthusiasm of the demoralised Sinhala forces and try to satisfy the Sinhala public.

The High Command's strategy will be to launch strikes against certain areas controlled by the Tigers, kill as many civilians and damage as much property as they can and then withdraw to their camps. At the same time there will be indiscriminate aerial bombardment of residential areas as well as shelling from naval boats. The Tigers call upon the Tamil people to protect themselves by constructing bunkers. They also call upon Tamil youth, both boys and girls, to take up arms to smash this murderous plan.

Meanwhile, the obituary notices of the servicemen who were killed at Pooneryn would certainly have opened the eyes of the ordinary Sinhalese people who are kept in ignorance about what is really happening in the North-East. Consequently, the Government's continued attempt to recruit rural Sinhalese youth through false

propaganda and by dangling the carrot of fat salaries before them is bound to be stalled.

Above all, President D.B. Wijetunga and Army Boss Cecil Waidyaratne both of whom vied with each other to woo the Sinhalese people by injecting anti-Tamil militarism into their veins, stand exposed before the Sinhala people as liars and utterly unreliable leaders. The hopes of both Wijetunga and Waidyaratne - the former who wants to be an elected President and the latter who wanted to be a latter-day Dutugemunu - lie buried in Pooneryn, one of the ancient settlement sites of the Eelam Tamils.

On the other hand, Sirimavo Bandaranaike sheds crocodile tears and says "There is an ethnic problem and it should be settled". She hopes through this statement to exploit the folly of Wijetunga who has antagonised the Tamils living in Sri Lanka and the hill-country and capture their votes at the next Presidential election. She has however shown her true face by telling the Sinhalese that "Sinhalese should concentrate fully on the war" thus hoping to convince the Sinhalese that she has not really changed.

As long as the Sinhalese people continue to be dupes and the Sinhala political leaders continue to be buffoons, the Tamil people will never be convinced that the Tamil national question can be solved amicably.

Several people thought that the Sinhala state would have learnt the bitter lesson taught at Pooneryn, that is that the military option will never solve the ethnic problem, and abandon its obstinate policy. But the Sinhala chauvinists have united together and vociferously urged that the war should be intensified. These chauvinists who refuse to see reality have banged the door shut on peaceful methods and instead continue to circle round and round the battlefield.

It is an undeniable truth that the Tigers' victory at Pooneryn has instilled fresh hope and confidence, not only in the people of Tamil Eelam, but also in our Tamils living world-wide. Those sceptical of the final victory of our liberation struggle would doubtless regain confidence and fresh hope after this great victory. We can, therefore, look forward to the voice of our Liberation struggle resounding with even greater force than before in the international community.

Taking all these factors into consideration it is certain that the Tigers' great victory at Pooneryn will occupy a very important place in the history of our liberation struggle.

-VIDUTHALAI PULIGAL
November, 1993.

The battle the Tigers waged at Pooneryn is the mother of all battles waged in Tamil Eelam so far.

Co-ordination, deployment and organisation of the forces in all three spheres, the Pooneryn battle opened a new chapter and gave a fresh perspective.

The great credit for this victory should go to National Leader Velupillai Pirabakaran who, without a wink of sleep or rest planned and concentrated on this task for one whole year.

The result was that the Tigers breached and blasted

the enemy's Iron Fortress. Sea Tigers, Black Tigers, Tigers, Women Tigers, Tigers of all stripes and hues fought the enemy on all fronts.

The Naval-military complex at Pooneryn turned into a gory battlefield. On every front, there was severe fighting. On every front there was a general commanding the Tigers whose advance

was irresistible. The Tiger militants who fought heroically on every front have created an epic which will be commemorated for ever.

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There was panic and the enemy forces ran helter-skelter for their lives. The

enemy's fortress became its grave-yard.

The Pooneryn war has thoroughly shaken the enemy, sending reverberations through the entire Armed Forces hierarchy and completely embarrassed those chauvinist elements who are buttressing the military.

It has also proved beyond doubt one thing; that no one can defeat the Tigers militarily. The Tigers who endured the ordeal by fire at Pooneryn have gat-

hered new strength. Water-jet speed boats, tanks, cannons and heavy weapons as never before, all these have fallen into the hands of the Tigers.

The enemy's strangle-hold on the Jaffna Peninsula has been loosened and the backbone of the barbed wire blockade has been broken.

Four hundred and fifty eight of our heroes died at Pooneryn, sacrificing their lives to make this great victory possible. These martyrs who died so that we could live as a free people with dignity and security, should always be worshipped in our hearts. Tamil Eelam bows its head in homage to these immortals.