

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

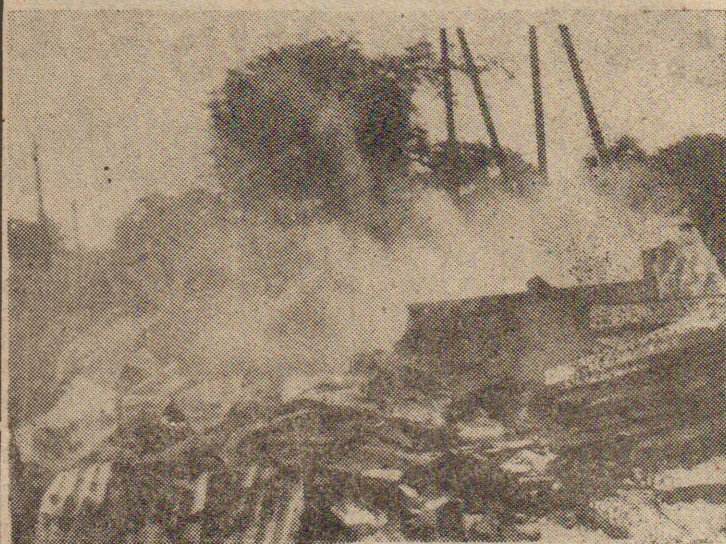
The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

No 5.

Saturday September 16, 1978

Re. 1

**JAFFNA: NIGHT OF
26th AUGUST 1977**



26 bus stand shops were set on fire during curfew time on the night of the 26th-27th. Apart from the damage to the stock in trade it cost the Municipality Rs. 125,000 to reconstruct the shops.

Arson

during
➔ curfew time

SEE PAGE 4

'Policemen pushed me into the pond and pressed me down by the neck'

SAVARIMUTTU JESUDASAN: Sworn 43 years: Conductor, C.T.B. residing at Gurunagar.

Q: You live in Gurunagar?
A: Yes.

Q: You remember 15.8.77?
A: Yes.

Q: You have to report for work quite early in the morning?
A: Yes.

Q: At what time do you go for work?

A: I have to report at the main bus stand at 4.30 in the morning.

Q: You came walking from your home to the Jaffna Bus Stand?
A: Yes.

Q: You came along and turned towards the Munneswaran temple junction?
A: Yes.

Q: You noticed five police officers standing with batons?
A: Yes.

Q: You did not take any notice but proceeded walking?
A: Yes.

Q: Then suddenly were you assaulted by these five police officers?
A: Yes.

Q: Did you appeal to them and tell them you were a C.T.B. Conductor and you were going for work?
A: Yes.

'I spoke to them in English'

Q: In what language did you speak?
A: In English.

Q: Can you speak English?
A: Yes.

Q: What did you say?

A: I said, "I am a conductor. I am going for duty, don't assault me Sir".

Q: Did they pay any heed to that?

A: They continued to assault me. I could not bear the assault and I started running. I ran towards the bus stand. I could not take four strides when I fell.

Q: You fell as a result of the assault?
A: Yes.

Q: On what parts of your body did the blows alight?

A: On my back and left shoulder.

Q: Were you pushed into the pond?
A: Yes.

'They pressed me down in the pond'

Q: What did they do to you when you were pushed into the pond?

A: Whilst I attempted to get up - to raise my head from the water, a police officer held me by my neck and back and pressed me down.

(Continued on back page)

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to relive it"

- Santayana - American philosopher 1863-1952

Central Bank officer testifies: (14th February 1978)

'MY HOUSE IN NUGEGODA WAS LOOTED DURING CURFEW HOURS'

MANIKAWASAGAR KANA-GASABAPATHY KANA-GENDRAN: Affirmed. 45 years. Staff Assistant, Central Bank, Colombo.

To Mr. de Silva, Deputy S/G.

Q: In August last year were you residing in Colombo?

A: I was residing in Nugegoda.

Q: In pursuance of a notice published in the newspapers calling for representations, you sent a letter to the secretary of this commission dated 28-12-77?

A: Yes.

Q: (Shown A2.) This is the letter you sent? A: Yes

Q: What does A2 state?

A: A2 has the date 19th August. It states:

I was one of the persons affected during the riots of August/ Sept. 1977. I was residing at Nugegoda with my wife and two children and servant,

'My Sinhalese neighbour helped'

"On the 19th of August at 9.10 p. m. when I entered my compound I was attacked by about 10 thugs. When I shouted, my neighbours Mr. & Mrs. Wickramasinghe came to my rescue and the thugs ran away. My wife and children, including myself took refuge in my neighbour's house from that day till 20th August 11 a. m.

"Then I took my wife and children and put them in Mr. K.C. Thangarajah's house at Bambalapitiya and I went to the Hindu College Refugee Camp.

"On the 20th and 21st I was informed by Mr. Wickramasinghe that thugs were trying to put my house on fire and it was averted. I lost all my books. On the 20th and 21st during the curfew hours my valuable books were burnt. Electrical Fittings, Jewellery and furniture were lost. The loss is approximately estimated at Rs. 30,000/-"

Mr. Wickramasinghe prevented arson

"I also mentioned in my letter that I would like to give the details of my loss and would give evidence in Jaffna. I lost a major portion of my belongings. Attempts were made to burn my house but it was averted, by Mr. Wickramasinghe and others.

"I lost all my books which I had collected during the last over 30 years. Some of those books are out of print and they cannot be valued. On the 20th and 21st August during the curfew hours my house was attacked and looted. That information was conveyed to me on the 22nd.

I was asked not to come towards my house as it was not safe and I went there only 1½ months later. When I went there 1 1/2 months later my house was like a battle ground. The whole house was damaged and ransacked.

To Commissioner: I am temporarily residing at Kollupitiya. My wife and children are at Jaffna.

140 out of 1900 are Tamil officers

To Mr. Bartlett: I am a public servant. I work in the Central Bank. There are about 140 Tamil officers in the Central Bank from a total number of about 1900 officers. I have been in service roughly for about 25 years.

Q: Is there any hostility in your department towards Tamil officers.

A: Hatred prevails in my department and in other departments towards Tamils.

Q: You abandoned this house and you presently reside in Kollupitiya while your family is in Jaffna?

A: Yes

Q: You made this decision as a result of the disturbances? A: Yes.

'The second time it happened to me'

Q: It is not possible for you to live in Colombo with your family?

A: Yes, I love my life more. This is the second time such a thing has happened to me. The first was in 1958.

Q: Would you not like to get a transfer from Colombo to Jaffna?



MR. M. K. KANAGENDRAN

'MY CAR WAS SET ON FIRE: ARMED POLICEMEN LOOKED ON UNCONCERNED'

Mr. G. P. S. Silva, Deputy Solicitor General calls:

JOHN THAMBIRAJAH, Sworn, 54 years, Chief Station Master, Jaffna, Residing at the Railway bungalow, Jaffna.

Q: In August, 1977 you were the Chief Station Master at Anuradhapura?

A: Yes.

Q: How long have you been at Anuradhapura?

A: For 8 months.

Q: In pursuance of a notice that was published in the papers by this Commission, you sent a letter dated 29th December, 1977 to the Secretary of this Commission?

A: Yes.

Q: Mr. Thambirajah, you have set out in this letter matters that you would like to tell His Honour?

A: Yes.

Commissioner: About how many policemen were at the Anuradhapura railway station when this incident took place?

Witness: About three policemen. They were there from 7 a. m. Sir.

Commissioner: That was on the 17th? A: Yes.

Commissioner: What were they doing?

A: They were just looking. They had their rifles and they were looking on.

Commissioner: When your house was attacked, was there anybody in the house?

A: My next door neighbour is a Sinhalese gentleman and he is working in the railway. He saw my bungalow being looted and people taking all my things.

ANURADHAPURA: AUG. 17

Commissioner: Will the insurance pay compensation to your car?

A: No, it is a third party insurance and the company is not liable. I normally don't go for work in my car. On this day thinking that I might be assaulted if I walk on the road, I went in my car.

Commissioner: What is the value you put on your car?

A: Rs. 10,000/- Sir.

Q: Your furniture?

A: In all, I have claimed Rs. 50,000/- including my car.

Questioned by Mr. Bartlett.

Q: There were other railway officers on duty on that day? A: Yes.

Q: What happened to these officers on that day? Did they suffer as much as you did on that day?

A: No one was assaulted as such. My assistants, most of them were staying alone; their families were at Jaffna. Subsequently, after I left, their things were looted. They did not suffer as much as I did financially.

Commissioner: Q. They were Sinhalese or Tamil officers?

A: Tamil officers.

Q: How many Tamil officers were working under you. : Of the 28, 24 are Tamil officers, Sir.

Questioning by Mr. Bartlett, ctd.

Q: You also stated that while your car was on fire, the police officers who were there did nothing?

A: Yes, they were just looking uninterested and they did not mind the car being burnt. Even if people were murdered, the police officers would have been unconcerned.

A: They were at Nugegoda.

Q: Where are they now?

A: At Chundikuli.

Q: As an alternative you reside in Colombo whilst your family resides in Jaffna?

A: Yes.

I have no other sources of income. It costs me Rs. 400/- to maintain myself in Colombo. I get Rs. 1020/- p. m. as salary and I have to run two establishments with this salary.

Remarks cast in office

Q: Was there any kind of hostility when you returned to the office after the disturbances?

Q: From the remarks cast at me I felt that I was not welcome in office. That treatment continues. That is why I prefer a transfer or retirement. If 10 years is added to my service I would retire. It is possible to add 10 years if the Government decides so.

Questions by other Counsel: Nil.

Jaffna Electrical Engineer's evidence

SIVAPRAGASAM ANANDA MOORTHY: Affirmed 47 years: Municipal Electrical Engineer: Jaffna residing at Kondavil.

Q: You are in the Local Govt. Service? A: Yes.

Q: How long have you been in the L. G.S.? A: About 23 years. I have been the Electrical Engineer, Jaffna, for the last 2 years.

Q: Prior to that? A: At Matara. From Matara I came to Jaffna.

Q: At Matara also you were the Electrical Engineer? A: Yes.

Q: You remember 17. 8. 78? A: Yes.

(Continued on page 3)

DR. DASANAYAKE, S. H. S., ASKED G. A. : IS IT CORRECT THAT THE POLICE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BURNINGS?

Municipal Commissioner Mr. K. Sivagnanam's Evidence:

(Continued from last issue)

Q. Amongst them was the maintenance of supplies to the Jaffna town? A. Yes.

Q. You were anxious to see that the supplies position does not break down and perhaps responsibility for the maintenance of supplies was yours?

A. Yes.

Q. Having done that, I think, you attended the conference at the G. A.'s office?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it a conference convened by the G. A.? A. Yes.

Q. And you were asked to attend? A. Yes.

Q. Who else was present at that conference?

A. DIG, Mr. Ana Seneviratne, S. P. Jaffna, Mr. A. S. Seneviratne Mr. Liynage, SP Aunardhapura, Additional G.A. and some local heads of departments were also present.

S. H. S. was later transferred out

Q. The Health Department?

A. Dr. Dasanayake, Superintendent of Health Services, was present.

Q. The object of this conference was what? That all these officers in charge of various functions and duties Jaffna had met for what?

A. The object was to maintain the services and to prevent a break down.

Q. As a result of the incidents that took place on?

A. On the 16th.

Q. Now, you know Dr. Dasanayake? A. Yes.

Q. Did he ask the G. A. any question as to whether it is correct that police were responsible for the burning?

A. He did ask for a clarification from the G. A. saying that he had learnt that morning that the police was behind it. He wanted some enlightenment on that.

Q. Dr. Dasanayake is not in Jaffna now?

A. No, he is transferred out.

Q. You don't know where he is transferred to? A. No.

Q. What happened thereafter? Were any minutes of that conference sent to you? No, I did not receive.

Q. What did the G. A. say in reply to the question of Dr. Dasanayake?

A. If I am correct, I think, Dr. Dasanayake was not replied.

Q. What happened thereafter on the 17th.

A. After the conference, I came back to office and as usual I wanted to maintain the services, I was there till about 2 o'clock. Then I went to Tinnevely where we have the water supply pump house. Tinnevely is about 3 miles away from office. It is a little outside the Municipal

limits. I went there through Palaly road. On my way back, I think I must have taken about half an hour, I was stopped at Ariyakulam junction. I went in my own car.

Q. How were you stopped?

A. The road was blocked with some seats or benches; they were placed across the road.

Q. Is that anywhere near Naga Vihara?

A. That was on the eastern side of Naga Vihara.

Q. Then what happened?

'One P. C. hit the bonnet of my car

A. There were about 8 or 10 police constables. All of them came towards my car and I saw one P. C. hitting the bonnet of my car with the butt end of his gun. I told them that I am the Special Municipal Commissioner, Jaffna Municipal Council. In fact, my car had a board also. Actually I feared that I may be attacked. I got down from the car. Thinking that it may not be safe to speak in English-I can speak a little Sinhala - I spoke to them in Sinhala.

Q. Now tell what transpired - what you told them in Sinhala and what they told you?

'He wanted to look into my dicky'

A. In Sinhala I told them that I am the Special Municipal Commissioner, Jaffna. (witness says in Sinhala) Then one P. C. asked me "Where are you going". I replied "I am going to office". Then he said "I want to look into your dicky". Then I opened the dicky and showed him. Then I locked up and came to the door. When I got into the car, one P. C. told me "Last time ma patha endappa", meaning last time; don't come this side. When I got inside the car and started the engine, another P. C. standing to my right side asked for my name. I told him my name as Sivagnanam. When I came to office, my Electrical Engineer, Mr. Anandamoorthy said that he was stopped by the police at 11 a. m. on that day and assaulted. His motor cycle too was damaged.

'I kept my Ministry informed of events

Q. Coming back to these policemen who stopped you were they in uniform? A. Yes Commissioner: They were in uniform and armed? Witness: Yes, Sir.

Examination: ctd.

Q: What were their regiment or enlistment number?

A: I cannot remember. I saw one person with numbers. The rest did not have their



metal numbers. I was not sure because I was really excited.

Q: You came back to your office. Did anything take place as far as you are concerned on the 17th? A: No.

Q: I believe, you have from time to time submitted reports to Colombo, that is to your Ministry? A: Yes.

Q: In regard to the incidents and events from the 16th August onwards?

A: Yes.

Q: That is in order to keep your Ministry informed?

A: Yes.

Q: You have copies in your file? A: Yes.

Q: Then, I believe, correct me if I am wrong, that Mr. Rudra Rajasingham, Co-ordinating officer, arrived in Jaffna and held a conference on the 20th August, 1977 to which you were invited with other officers? A: Yes.

Q: Minutes of that conference were kept by Mr. Rudra Rajasingham and his staff and a copy was sent to you? A: Yes.

Q: What happened after that, A: G.A., told the D.I.G., that there appeared to be sporadic instances of assault, and then the D. I. G., in my presence rang up the S.P. and told him to restrict the movement of Police at least by fifty percent or more.

Q: To confine fifty percent means what?

A: To confine 50 percent of the Police and restrict the movement of the Police outside the station.

Q: You referred there in your report for the 20th that you attended a conference called by the co-ordinating officer Mr. Rudra Rajasingham? A: Yes.

Q: He is a D. I. G. police? A: Yes.

Q: Several heads of departments were summoned for that conference? A: Yes.

Q: You have a copy of those minutes sent by Mr. Rudra Rajasingham? A: Yes.

Q: When did Mr. Rudra Rajasingham arrive at Jaffna?

Mr. Sivagnanam: If I am correct, I think Dr. Dasanayake was not replied. (Pictured below is the G. A. Mr. Lal Wijepala)



A: On the night of the 19th.

Q: You may not know the exact date - when did he leave Jaffna?

A: Between the 7th and 10th of October.

Q: Among those persons there were 23 persons present from the specialised services-Army, TAAFI, Commander Andrado was present among the others there were Mr. A. S. Seneviratne the S. P. Jaffna?

A: Yes.

Q: This was on the 20th - the conference was held on the 20th? A: Yes.

Q: Mr. Rudra Rajasingham presided? A: Yes.

Q: The D.I.G., rang up in your presence? A: Yes.

Q: Who were present there? A: At that time the G. A., and I were present.

Q: A sense of fear was reported to you? A: Yes.

Q: Fear of whom or what? A: Fear of police assault.

D. I. G. ORDERED : RESTRICT POLICE MOVEMENTS BY 50%

Sittings resumed after interval, 12-20 p. m.

KANDIAH SIVAGNANAM: On same affirmation.

Mr. Kadirgamar: Q: On 18th August, 1977 you had addressed a letter to the G. A.?

A: Yes.

Q: You produce this letter marked "X28" dated 18.8.77?

A: Yes.

Q: Read that letter?

(Witness reads "X28".)

Q: Having written that letter how did you deliver it?

A: I went personally to the G. A., and handed it over to him.

Q: In that letter you expressed fear about the assault on conservancy labourers?

A: Yes.

Q: When you gave this letter to the G. A., what did he do? A: He endorsed to D. I. G., Northern Range, Mr. Ana Seneviratne.

Q: You were asking the Service Heads to do whatever is necessary to ensure protection for the Municipal employees? A: Yes.

Q: Anything else in connection with "X28"? A: No.

Q: You had submitted reports to the Ministry in Colombo of events as they came to your notice or with which you had to deal during the period 16th August up to 31st August - you have there with you in your file the daily reports appearing from 16th August to 20th August 1977? A: Yes.

Q: In your report X. 29 you have recorded the sense of fear of several sections of the Jaffna Municipal Council - fear in respect of their persons and obstruction of movement? A: Yes.

Q: You have referred to every section of employees from the conservancy labourer upwards? A: Yes.

Q: Approximately what is the total strength of all the ranks in the Municipal Council Jaffna? A: About 1100.

Q: On those persons' work depended the maintenance of the essential services? A: Yes.

(The minutes of the conference is marked X32) (Minutes are read out to the commission.)

Q: By the 20th of August 1977 violence had erupted

(Continued on page 4)

'JAFFNA LOST BY FIRE AND

(Continued from Page 3)

in several other parts of the country? A. Yes.

Q. As you said, the curfew was introduced in Jaffna, according to you, at 5 P. m. on 20th August? A. Yes. (Witness reads from X.32)

Q. Were you aware that by the 18th and 19th of August violence had erupted in many places elsewhere in the island? A. Yes. From the radio.

Q. Are you aware that violence on the 19th was more than that on the 18th it was escalating? A. Yes.

Q. After Mr. Rudra Rajasingham was appointed co-ordinating officer, Jaffna, other co-ordinating officers were appointed elsewhere? A. Yes.

Q. On 21st August the conditions in Jaffna were serious in every aspect? A. Yes.

Q. There is a reference to Unions and opinions expressed by unions?

A. Most of the clerical unions and almost all the trade unions expressed their opinion.

Q. Are you aware of what the Unions wanted?

A. According to a newspaper item, among others, they wanted the A.S.P. and G.A. transferred out of Jaffna.

Q. What is the reason for the unions wanting these two officers transferred out of Jaffna.

A. I am not sure. The talk may be that they were responsible for the unrest in Jaffna District.

Refugee camps in Jaffna

Q. The report, X30 refers to refugee camps? A. Yes.

Q. Some refugee camps had been established in the Jaffna district? A. Yes.

Q. These refugee camps were to receive those displaced from other parts of the country and who wanted to return to Jaffna? A. Yes.

Q. Was there a large number of people transiting to these camps? A. Yes. Every camp had an average of 100 persons coming in and going out. These people were coming into Jaffna district from various parts of the country.

Q. They were coming by train? A. Yes, and by bus.

Q. You have in your file a report from you to the Medical Officer of Health dated 25th August, 1977 which you mark X33? A. Yes. (Witness reads X33)

Q. You are aware that curfew continued from the 24th 25th, 26th and 27th? A. Yes.

Q. And what were the curfew hours on the 25th and 26th?

A. On the 25th it was from 7 p. m. to 5 a. m.

Q. On the 26th and 27th of August, there was a fire? A. Yes.

Q. You have some documents with you dealing with this fire? A. Yes.

Q. I think the first one was a letter dated 28.8.77 from you to the Co-ordinating Officer? A. Yes.

Q. The next one, your letter dated 29th August to the Ministry in Colombo - you mark that as X35? A. Yes.

Q. The next one, the letter dated 29th August to you from the Electrical Superintendent - you mark that as X36? A. Yes.

Q. On the 29th August, was there a letter to you from the Co-ordinating Officer, Mr Rudra Rajasingham? A. Yes.

Q. Is that also about the fire? A. Yes.

Q. You mark that X37? A. Yes.

'Rs. 125,000 to reconstruct shops'

Q. These are in regard to the fire which broke out during the night of the 27th morning? A. Yes.

Q. Where? A. At the bus stand.

Q. That fire involved the destruction of 26 shops belonging to the Jaffna Municipal Council? A. Yes.

Q. Which shops had been rented out to the traders? A. Yes. And it is rather valuable asset of the Municipality? A. Yes.

Q. You have estimated it as...?

A. The 26 stores cost us about Rs. 125,000 to reconstruct them.

Q. These 26 bus stand shops cost the council Rs. 125,000 to reconstruct and they have been reconstructed? A. Yes.

Q. And the other shops in the old market, that will cost the Council how much to reconstruct?

Rs. 4½ lakhs to reconstruct market

A. About 4½ lakhs to reconstruct, but the damages must be very much more.

Q. The destruction of those shops was during curfew hours? A. Yes.

Q. Now kindly read your letter marked X34 dated 28th August to the Co-ordinating officer?

A. Yes. (Witness read)

Q. You addressed that letter to the Co-ordinating Officer because, as things stood then, you had to address to the Co-ordinating Officer? A. Yes.

Q. You are also bringing to his notice the fact of this fire? A. Yes.

Q. Then you reported to the ministry in Colombo by X35 on 29/8? A. Yes.

Q. Before that, you received the formal report, X36 of 29/8 from the Electrical Superintendent? A. Yes.

Fire: Phone call came at 2-30 a. m.

Q. You read that please? (witness reads)

Q. The outbreak of this fire was also reported to you?

A. He telephoned me at about 2-30 a. m. on the 27th.

Q. You were not to come immediately out there because of the curfew? A. Yes.

Q. You yourself in the small hours of the morning was utterly helpless; nobody could do anything because travelling about during the curfew would have been at the risk of your life; there is the chance of being legitimately shot by the police? A. Yes.

Q. So, you could not do anything? A. Yes.

Q. You reported the matter to the Ministry on 29th August? A. Yes.

NO FIRE IN JAFFNA AFTER THE CURFEW WAS LIFTED

Q. Then I believe you had a letter from the Co-ordinating Officer in which he confirms the fact that on the 16th August and the 17th August the shops were burnt, dated 29th August and marked X37?

A. Yes. (witness reads it)

Q. In that letter X37 the Co-ordinating Officer is expressing his anxiety to restore those shops which were burnt on the 16th and 27th?

A. Yes.

Q. Because this speaks of the shops being essential to the life of the community?

A. Yes.

Q. Those were the views adopted by the M. Ps?

A. Yes.

Q. These shops were very essential for the community life of Jaffna? A. Yes.

Q. When was the curfew imposed and lifted?

A. Curfew imposed on the 20th and lifted on the 29th.

Q. Had there been any fire like this after the curfew was lifted?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. The fact is that there was no fire? A. No.

Q. Your letter dated 3-9-77 to the Ministry in Colombo is marked X37?

A. Yes.

Q. Look at the document dated 5th September from Mr. Rajasingham and is that also a report? A. Yes.

Q. You had problems as to the restoration of those burnt shops? A. Yes.

Q. For this you had no provision in the Municipal budget? A. No.

Q. You had obtained a grant? A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Rajasingham the Co-ordinating Officer realised the urgency of assisting you to get a transfer of the grant for you for which you had applied? A. Yes.

Q. Read the letters X38 and X39? A. Witness reads.

Q. You called for approval? A. Yes.

Q. Reconstruction estimate was required?

A. The estimate was for Rs. 410,106. Tenders were received for more than Rs. 575,000 in all for both sites of shops.

Q. That is an indication of damage to public property?

A. Yes.

Q. Apart from that all the shop keepers lost their stock in trade. Can you estimate? A. No. It costs very much more than the cost of the buildings.

Q. The letter dated 24-1-78 which you have written to this Commission was after having first written to your Commissioner of Local Government? A. Yes.

Q. You have written saying that you wish to give evidence here and also to tender on behalf of the Council your position in regard to claim for compensation?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you aware whether anybody received any compensation for the damage sustained to the stock in trade? A. I am not aware.

Q. The Municipal Council has not provided for any claim for compensation?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Kadirgamar: Might the witness be directed that copies be provided. I understand photo copies can be got.

Mr. Sivagnanam: I can get that done.

Commissioner: Can you submit your copies? A. Yes. Provide copies of those letters and all documents.

Mr. Underwood: Q At the conference on the 17th morning, was the Superintendent Mr. Thiyagarajah present?

Asst. Collector was present

A. Yes.

Q. Was the Asst. Collector of Customs present?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you employ security guards in Jaffna? A. No.

Q. Are you aware of any firms employing security guards? A. Yes.

Q. Any armed guards?

A. No. In Jaffna there are no armed security guards?

Commissioner: I hope the recovery from your operation will be quick and you will come quite well. We will adjourn till 9-30 a. m. tomorrow.

14th February, 1978, (sixth day) same appearance as before.

Mr. Sam Kadirgamar: Your Honour will recall yesterday when Mr. Sivagnanam gave evidence, he referred to an Electrical Engineer who was assaulted and I told Your Honour that I will call him. I am told that he is in Office and on receipt of summons, he will attend this Commission. His name is Anandamoorthy.

Commissioner: Do you want summons?

Mr. Sam Kadirgamar: A telephone call will do because he will have to log it that he is leaving office.

Commissioner: You want to call him today?

Mr. Sam Kadirgamar: Yes, Sir.

(Mr. Anandamoorthy's evidence appears on Page 2 and 8)

SEVERAL LAKHS DESTRUCTION'



'About 4½ lakhs to reconstruct the old market shops, but damages very much more.....'

**11 days in the
life of a
teacher,
his pregnant
wife, and
3yr old child**

**ATTACKED AND ROBBED AT POTUHERA,
WENT INTO HIDING AT DELTOTA,
ENTERED REFUGEE CAMP IN KANDY,
HOME IN JAFFNA BY REFUGEE BUS**

ANANDA PAJ son of NADA RAJA: Affirmed: Teacher Deltota Maha Vidyalaya, residing at Jaffna Road, Valvetithurai

Q. You sent a letter to this Commission dated 30. 12 77? A: Yes.

Q. (Shown A3) You mark that letter A.3? A: yes.

Q. This is the letter you addressed to this Commission, (shown A.3. ? A: Yes.

Q. What does A3 state? A: (Reads A3).

Q. In your letter you referred to an incident on 17. 8. 77? A: Yes

Q. Could you say what it was?

A: On 17. 8. 77 I travelled in the train from Colombo to Kandy with my wife who was pregnant at that time, and my 3 year old child. I was travelling from Colombo to Jaffna. We entrained at Colombo to come to Jaffna. It was the Yal Devi train. At Potuhera station we were attacked by about 50 thugs.

'Robbed of 'Thali' and chain'

(To Mr. de Silva Deputy S/G:

Q. What was the time then? A. The time then was about 7. 30 or 7. 45 in the morning.

Q. The 50 thugs were at the station when you went there?

A. The crowd was about 2 miles away from the station. To Commissioner:

Q. Were they trying to attack the train? A: Yes.

To Mr. de Silva, D/S.G:

I was one of those who were attacked. My wife was also attacked and she was relieved of her Thali and the gold chain.

Q. That was before you reached Potuhera station? A: Yes.

Q. What did you do? A. Then we were chased out.

Q. You were chased out of the train?

A. We were driven out and we got into a different compartment.

'I got head injury caused by club'

(To Commissioner:

Q. That was after the thugs left? A: Yes.

To Mr. de Silva, D/S.G:

Q. Did the train proceed?

A. Yes. it went to Kurunegala,

Q. Did you observe several others like you being attacked? A: Yes.

Q. A large number was attacked? A: Yes.

Q. Were the thugs armed?

A. They were armed with harvesting knives and broken bottles.

To Commissioner:

Q. That was near Puthuhera? A: Yes.

To Mr. de Silva, D/S.G.:

Q. Were you injured?

A. I had a head injury caused with a club.

Mr. G. P. S. de Silva:

Q: Finally the train reached Kurunegala? A: Yes.

Q: You got down with your family at Kurunegala?

A: Yes, and then we went to Kandy from there to Deltota. On the same day we proceeded to Deltota from Kurunegala.

Took shelter in a Muslim house

Q: Once you reached your home at Deltota were you attacked?

A: No; We had information to say that people were searching for us at Deltota and so we took shelter in a Muslim house.

Q. Who had threatened you? A: Some unknown persons had threatened us.

Q: You took shelter in a Muslim friend's house?

A: Yes.

Q: That was 17th August?

A: Yes

Q: Thereafter what happened?



MR. LESLIE BARTLETT

A: On the 24th morning I was taken to Trinity College Camp at Kandy in a car by a Muslim Doctor.

Q: You and your family went to the Trinity College Camp on the 24th? A: Yes

'We were 4 days in refugee camp

Q: How long were you there?

A: For four days; After that we were sent by special buses from Kandy to Jaffna

Q: Was it a Government School in which you were teaching? A: Yes

Q: How long were you teaching there?

A: From January 1976; We were teaching there for two years; I was living in a rented house and after that I have not gone back to my house; I am afraid to go there.

Q: You came to Jaffna with only the clothes that you were wearing? A: Yes.

Q: Where are you teaching now?

A: I was given a temporary transfer to a school at Thondamannar which is close to Valvettiturai during November and December. Thereafter I appealed to the Department for a permanent transfer to Jaffna but I have not received a reply.

Q: Have you got your salary? A: From January I have not heard from the Department about my salary.

Loss sustained was Rs. 9,000/-

Q: Is there anything else that you wish to say?

A: I have lost a thali-kody, chain and the contents of my suit case. I have valued the loss that I sustained to amount Rs. 9000/-

Mr. Bartlett: Q: How long have you been a teacher?

A: Six years

Q: How long have you been in the Kandy District?

A: For two years; From 1971 I was at Haputale and then I was at the Training College at Palaly.

Q: Have you any private income? A: No; Now I am depending on my father's income.

(Continued on page 7)

COMMISSION SHOWN GUIDE

MAPS OF RIOT INCIDENTS

Mr. Sam Kadirgamar: Sir, I am intending at this stage to call the gentleman who prepared the two maps, the map of Jaffna and also the map of the Island.

Commissioner: Yes

Devarajah Agastyan, affirmed, 50 years, Farmer, residing at Kulavadi, Anaikottai.

Q: What were you before you became a farmer?

A: I was a Surveyor. I am not a licensed Surveyor, I was trained by the Gal-oya Development Board in surveying.

Q: Was that by the Hardy Institute?

A: No, before that. I was trained in the year 1951 After my training, I was working in the Gal-oya Development Board. Thereafter, I was a junior executive in the firm Mahadevans Limited.

Q: You prepared a map of the Municipal area of Jaffna which you produce marked X-41? A: Yes

Roads, railways

water areas shown

Q: You are competent in the matter of preparation of maps of this nature? A: Yes

Q: Can you make extra copies of this map? A: Yes

Q: You have shown the Municipal limits in broken lines; you have shown the surface water areas which are found within the Municipal limits, you have the main roads, the other roads and the railway lines? A: Yes.

Q: The scale is 16 chains to an inch? A: Yes

Q: You have depicted on this map by use of these colours the incidents that took place on the 12th and 13th August, 15th, 16th and 17th August and 26th of August? A: Yes

Q: So by reference to the map, one can see where these incidents took place? A: Yes

Q: Will you explain to the Commission the data or information you had in order to depict on the map by a particular colour a particular incident - for example, you have a dark red depiction which, I think, is according to the map the incidents of the 16th of August? A: Yes

Widespread attacks on the 14th

Q: Could you go up and explain to His Honour?

A: Yes. 12th and 13th St. Patrick's College grounds, 14th widespread assault by police and it was so widespread that I could not possibly depict them.

Q: According to your colour chart, there is no reference to the 14th because for this reason that it was widespread? A: Yes

"15th August was the day on which the bus conductors opposite the bus stand and near the Regal theatre were attacked.

"16th was the trouble spots in Jaffna town area, that is Stanley Road, market, Hospital road and Munneswaram road. The fire on the 16th is also shown here.

"On the 17th there was a shooting incident opposite the Naga Vihara. That is shown in black colour. The next incident I have shown relates to the burning of the shops opposite the bus stand on the 26th and 27th.

From the 16th to the 26th

I am in a position to give 3 or 4 copies of this plan without the colouring.

Q: You have made a map of Sri Lanka showing the places where the incidents occurred along with dates as indicated by specific colours on a coloured chart which you have appended and you produce it marked X-42? A: Yes

Q: Now, explain this map to His Honour? A: Yes

Q: There too, you have given a coloured chart? A: Yes

Q: The coloured chart shows all the incidents starting from the 16th of August upto the 26th of August? A: Yes

Q: In fact for the 16th August, you have selected one spot in the peninsula which you have marked in dark blue? A: Yes

Erupted on 17th from Anuradhapura

Q: When one looks at the map, one finds that the incidents began to erupt on the 17th from the Anuradhapura district, Kurunegala district and one incident at the Mannar Town? A: Yes

On the 18th it erupted at Vavuniya, Puliyanakulam, Manakulam, Vavunikulam and also in the Anuradhapura district. We also had a few incidents on the 18th in the Matale and Kandy districts.

Q: On the 19th? A: The incidents on the 19th were mostly in the Kandy district, Colombo district.

Q: When you say Kandy district, you include Nuwara-Eliya, and Kegalle?

A: Yes, and also Matale, Ratnapura, Kalutara and Colombo.

Q: On the 20th?

A: Mostly in the Colombo district, Kalutara district, Galle, Matara and Badulla Districts.

Q: 21st? A: In Badulla, Hambantota, Galle and also Colombo districts.

Q: 22nd? A: I was able to get only three areas - N'Eliya district, one in Kandy district and one in Moneragala.

Q: 23rd? A: Two incidents at Koslanda in the Moneragala district.

Q: 24th? A: At Amparai.

Q: 25th? A: At Dama-na below Amparai.

Q: 26th? A: At Akkaraipattu.

At Trincomalee it started on the 17th.

19th at Kinniya. 21st at Mutur. 22nd at Umbawella.

17th at Kantalai. 19th at Batticaloa district. 21st Pottuvil. Maho and Galgamuwa on the 17th. Ambanpola on the 18th.

Q: In your plan, you have shown the railway lines in dotted black lines? A: Yes

Q: Madawachchiya?

A: I could not get any information. I think that was on the 17th.

Spread along railway lines

Q: If you look at the railway line - the Anuradhapura Colombo line, it shows incidents of the 19th?

A: Of the 17th. Along the railway line, spreading along the line. Anuradhapura and various other towns had incidents on the 17th.

Q: Were there incidents on the 18th and 19th?

A: This is the first day the incidents occurred.

Q: If incidents had taken place on the 18th, 19th and onwards would there be a repetition? A: No

19th, 20th South of Anuradhapura

Q: Have you been in this hall listening to the previous evidence? A: Not every day

Q: You have been here? A: Yes

Q: You heard the evidence regarding the incidents in Jaffna starting with the carnival incident? A: Yes

Q: It is after the incidents in Jaffna on the 12th and 13th to 16th that there had been an eruption of incidents South of the Peninsula? A: Yes

Q: And the incidents erupted all over the island?

A: Yes

Q: You heard the evidence that curfew was enforced in Jaffna on the 20th? A: Yes

Q: As your colours will show, the position deteriorated very seriously?

A: Yes, From the 19th and 20th south of Anuradhapura was affected.

From data given to the T-R-R-O

Q: Would you tell the commission how you got this material.

A: For the preparation of the incidents in Jaffna, I was in Jaffna. For the rest I relied on the statements supplied to the Tamil Refugees Rehabilitation organization.

Q: These statements have been submitted by people who were witnesses to and victims of violence erupted all over the country?

A: Yes.

Q: The Tamil Refugees Rehabilitation Organisation put notices in the daily papers asking those affected to send in the particulars of incidents to them stating that they were preparing to place these facts before this commission.

A: Yes

Q: A large number of statements came in? A: Yes

Q: The Organisation decided to prepare a map like this to show the origin and spread of the incidents throughout the island throughout these dates? A: Yes

To Mr. Balasubramaniam:

Q: In your map have you depicted the Hindu temples affected? A: No

Q: You said you prepared this map from the information you got? A: Yes

Q: Did you get information from the Hindu temples also?

A: We got information. We did not know whether the incidents were arson etc.

The damage to Hindu temples

Q: Can you say from your map the Hindu Temples that were destroyed in the Kandy District?

A: From the map I cannot.

Q: Do you know what happened to the Teldeniya Temple? A: Yes

Q: To what extent was this damaged?

A: The tower was damaged.

Q: Are you aware of the temple at Trincomalee which was damaged?

A: I heard about it. I heard about the damage to Hindu Temples at Ukkuwela, Trincomalee and at other places.

Q: What happened to the Kathiresan temple at Anuradhapura?

A: I do not know.

Q: Do you know what damage was caused to the Muniappar Temple at Jaffna?

A: I was at Jaffna at that time.

Q: What is the damage caused to Hindu Temples at Badulla?

A: I heard about the damage.

Q: What were the temples - Hindu Temples damaged at Galle or Matara?

The earliest

dates of attack

A: One temple was damaged at Galle or Matara.

Q: At Wennappuwa?

A: I have not heard of any damage to Hindu Temples at Wennappuwa.

(To Mr. de Silva. D/S. G.) Q: To determine the earliest date the incident took

place in a particular district, did you go through all the statements received with regard to each district and did those statements relate to particular incidents?

A: I did not go through all the statements

Q: How did you determine the earliest date?

A: I went through a series of dates and when I was sure that several incidents occurred on a particular date I took that date.

Kathiresan Temple at Mawanella

Q: Is it that you went through the statements and came to some conclusion that they happened on a particular date?

A: Yes

Q: These are only probable dates? A: The earliest dates.

Q: Could it be more correct to say that they were probable dates?

A: Not the probable dates - they were the earliest dates.

Q: You go through the statements of a statements of a particular district and each communication would deal with a particular incident on a particular date - you went through all the statements and you determined the earliest date, having regard to the statements submitted to you? A: Yes.

To Commissioner:

Q: The colour shows the first date of the incident?

A: Yes.

To Mr. Balasubramaniam:

Kathiresan temple at Anuradhapura

Q: In your map you have marked Mawanella as a place of incident?

A: If not, I would not have marked.

Q: Kathiresan temple at Mawanella has been destroyed? A: Yes, That was on the 19th:

(Mr. Kadirgamar states that Counsel wants to show the dates on which Hindu temples were desecrated)

Q: Is it your position that Kathiresan temple at Anuradhapura was desecrated-looking at your map, what would have been the date - earliest date or the range of dates during which the Kathiresan temple was desecrated?

A: 17th would be the earliest date.

Q: Would it be the 17th or soon after? A: Yes

Q: When was Kathiresan Temple at Maho desecrated?

A: That was desecrated on the 17th or after that.

Q: The temple at Koslanda?

A: On the 23rd August or shortly thereafter.

Q: The Kathiresan Temple at Kegalle?

A: On the 18th or thereafter.

Q: The Kathiresan Temple at Mawanella?

A: On the 19th or shortly after that.

'THEY GOT DOWN FROM TRUCKS AND FIRED IN ALL DIRECTIONS'

THAMBU SUBRAMANIAM: affirmed, 46 years, Branch Manager, M. P. C. S. Now attached to Head Office, residing at Columbuthurai.

Examined by Mr. Sam Kadirgamar.

Q: You were the Manager of the Town shop of the Jaffna M. P. C. S.?

A: I was, but now I am the Branch Manager attached to the Head Office.

Q: In August, 1977 you were the Manager of the Town Shop of the Jaffna M. P. C. S.? A: Yes.

What happened on the 16th morning

Q: Did you know that on the 12th some policemen had assaulted Mr. Kulanayagam at the Carnival grounds?

A: Yes, I was present at that time when he was assaulted. I remember the 16th of August, 1977. I was present when some police personnel came to the office of the Jaffna MPCS.

Q: You kindly tell Your Honour in your own words what happened and what you observed?

A: "It happened on my way to the office. Opposite Weerasingham hall, I received information that police were assaulting the people and I was advised not to go any further. Still I went to my office because I wanted to mark my attendance.

"At the CSK junction, I observed some tyres burning. I passed that way and went to my office. After signing the attendance register, I saw two or three truck load of policemen arriving there. I saw them taking these burning tyres and throwing them in all directions-

Potuhara.....

(Continued from Page 5)

Q: You were given this temporary transfer only up to December and now you are asked to report to the Kandy School? A: Yes

Q: You have asked the Commission to recommend a transfer to your Department because you fear going back? A: Yes

Commissioner: Q: Do you want to work in the Northern Province? A: Yes

Mr. Bartlett: Q: Do you know any other teachers who were similarly affected and who want a transfer from the affected area?

A: There are about 288 teachers in the same category.

"At that time there were about 150 employees of the MPCS present and they had come there for their weekly purchase. Being a Monday, a large number of people had come to remove their things. So, I advised them to go inside after seeing the police trucks. The police came in their trucks along the Pannai road, Hospital road and stopped opposite our office.

'They fired in all directions'

"Then I asked these people to get inside the office. It was difficult to admit all people at once. The General Manager was also present. I managed to send them in. At that time we heard an explosion; I cannot say whether it was a gun shot. We heard that opposite Dr. Pararajasingam's house.

"Then the policemen who came in those trucks, got down from the trucks, marched in with arms in hand and fired in all directions. As a result of their shooting, the window of our accounts branch got damaged. There were about 100 or 150 bicycles belonging to our employees parked opposite our office. All our men were inside; I kept one door open and I was guarding at the door so that nobody will get out of the office. Then I saw the policemen hitting the bicycles with the butt end of their guns and boots.

"Then I told them that these bicycles belonged to the employees, one policeman struck the door with the butt end of his gun. He was wearing khaki shorts and a white banian.

Q: When you told them that these bicycles belonged to the employees, that did not prevent them from continuing to damage the bicycles?

A: In fact, thereafter, they took two bicycles that were in the verandah and damaged them with the butt end of their guns. When I told them that, a policeman hit the door with the butt end of his gun and told me in English "shut-up".

'I respect all religions'

Questioned by Mr. Bala-subramaniam:

"I am a Hindu. I live at Columbuthurai. I have to pass Muniappar temple daily to go to my office. On my way to office, one day, I saw

the Chariot of the Muniappar temple in which the deity was taken, overturned.

"I go to Muniappar temple every Friday. I also go to Churches like St. Anthony's and also to Naga Vihara. I am a Hindu, but I have no animosity towards other religions.

Q: When you heard that Hindu temples in Jaffna and Hindu temples in the other parts of the country had been damaged and priests had been attacked, did you feel anything about it? Did you feel that you also must react in that fashion? A: No.

Q: Why? A: I treat all the religions alike.

Q: Have you ever heard Hindus damaging the institutions of other religious denomination?

A: Never in my life.



Gohagoda
Pillayar Temple,
Katugastota
which was allegedly
attacked on the
19th August, 1977 at
10-30 a. m.
Picture shows the
debris in the
temple's inner
courtyard

'With that first blow I fell down'

Emmanuel Pathmarajah:
Sworn.

29 Years, Market Supervisor, Jaffna, residing at Columbuthurai.

Mr. Kadirgamar: Q: You are in the employment of the Jaffna Municipal Council as Market Supervisor?

A: Yes.

Q: How long have you been a Market Supervisor?

A: For six years.

Q: You remember 16th August, 1977? A: Yes

Q: You remember the morning of that day?

A: Yes.

Q: You were instructed by the Caretaker of the Model Market, Sinnathamby, to close all the gates for Security reasons? A: Yes.

Q: Why did he ask you to do that?

A: People were running about as a result of the Police assault and they were coming inside the market and therefore he asked me to close the gates.

Q: Did you close the gate? A: With the help of the labourers we were closing the gates. We were pulling the gates.

"Then a police truck arrived. Five or six policemen came chasing after us. Among them, one person assaulted me on my head with a club. With that first blow, I fell down. When I was lying down two other policemen came and one struck me on my knee with the butt end of his rifle and the other person struck on my left ankle.

"I did not lose consciousness. When I got up and

looked, no one was there. I could not walk properly. I got up limping and came near my office. Then I called for Christie, a fellow worker of mine. Then Christie came. Then he brought me a bottle of soda. I could not drink the soda water. I was bleeding. We could not get out because we heard that the police were assaulting. Then we slowly came to the road.

"We found Mr. Yogeswaran's car on the road and in that car I was taken to hospital. I was in hospital for two weeks and thereafter for three weeks I was an outdoor patient taking treatment for my injuries. The police officers who assaulted people were in their uniform. I did not observe whether they had their numbers on.

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

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"Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right"

— Rudyard Kipling.

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

(Continued from page 1)

Q. With great difficulty you managed to get out of the pond? A. Yes.

Q. Then what did you do - did you attempt to get out of the way of the police officers?

A. After the police left I came out.

Q. Did a cyclist come along?

A. A cyclist came from the direction of the Post Office.

Q. Did the police do anything to that cyclist?

A. Out of these four policemen two of them came back to assault me when I was getting out of the pond. When they saw the cyclist they focussed their attention on him. He was assaulted.

Q. Was there a pedestrian?

A. Yes. And he was also assaulted.

Q. Did you go to the police station? A. Yes.

Q. With whose assistance?

A. With the postman's assistance.

Q. He carried you on his pillion? A. Yes.

Q. You went to the police station? A. Yes.

Q. Did you make complaint to a police officer there? A. Yes.

My statement

was not recorded

Q. You complained that you were assaulted by the police?

A. At first I did not say that. I said they were people in khaki clothes.

Q. What did that police officer ask you to do?

A. My statement was not recorded.

Q. What did he ask you to do?

A. He wanted me to lie down on the verandah. Thereafter I do not know what happened?

Q. Where did you wake up?

A. In the Jaffna Hospital.

Q. You know Mr. Yogeswaran, M. P. for Jaffna?

A. Yes.

Q. You told him what happened? A. Yes.

Q. Was your statement recorded by the Jaffna Hospital authorities? A. Yes.

Q. Did you remain in the hospital for some time?

A. I stayed there for two days.

Q. You left the hospital against medical advice?

A. Yes.

'I was afraid even in hospital

Q. Why did you leave hospital against medical advice?

A. I had a fear that the police might assault me again. They were throwing their weight about in the hospital.

Q. Did you lose any money? A. Yes.

Q. What was that money?

A. The daily collection of the previous day.

Q. About how much was that? A. Rs. 35-90

At this stage Mr. G. P. S. De Silva hands over to Mr. Kadirgamar a copy of the extracts from the Information Book of the Jaffna Police Station as the statement recorded by Mr. N. Senathirajah, Inspector, on 15-8-77 at 7-50 a.m. at the General Hospital, Jaffna. (Counsel reads it).

Mr. Kadirgamar: That is all.

Mr. Balasubramaniam:

Q. You are a Hindu.

A. No. I am a Catholic.

Q. Do you move very cordially with your colleagues?

A. I move very cordially with all the C.T.B. employees

Q. Do you know whether any people in this part of the country quarrel with anybody else in respect of religion? A. No.

Electrical Engineer's evidence :

'I SPOKE TO THEM IN SINHALESE. THEY ASKED ME TO WORSHIP THEM'

(Continued from page 2)

Q. At about 11.30 a.m. you were travelling on your motor bicycle along first Cross Street - Point Pedro Road? A. Yes.

Q. You know the Naga Vihare junction? A. Yes.

They struck the cycle with rifle

"From the Municipal Council Office I was travelling along and passing the railway gate I noticed some police officers standing there. Passing the gate, near the Naga Vihara junction there were some police officers. The police officers at the junction stopped me.

"I told them that I was the Electrical Engineer and that I was going on inspection. After that I proceeded for another about 300 yards. Then again I was stopped by some police officers. I stopped. I was asked to get down. I was asked whether I knew Sinhalese. I said 'Yes' and I answered in Sinhalese.

"Some person from behind made a noise. I looked behind. When I looked behind my bicycle was struck at. Both the front of the bicycle and its rear were damaged. My bicycle was struck with the butt of a rifle by a police

officer. Most of those police officers were carrying rifles.

Q. Were they in uniform? A. Yes

Q. Were they wearing their numerals?

A. They were not wearing there numbers. At the same time I was assaulted. One of the police officers hit me with the butt of the rifle on my right arm.

Attention turned on Manikkam

Q. Having hit you what did they do?

A. They asked me to raise my bicycle and walk. I said I could not do that. They asked me to wheel it. One police officer pushed the bicycle. At that time one Manikkam was coming and they turned their attention on him and I went wheeling my bicycle and informed the Commissioner about this incident.

Q. Did you make any entry?

A. I made an entry at the Kachcheri and made a statement to the A.S.P.

Q. When did you make the entry at the Kachcheri?

A. On the 19th morning

Q. Coming back to this incident, apart from striking you and your bicycle and pushing it and so on, did they inflict any other indignity on you?

'They asked me to worship them'

A. They asked me in Sinhalese whether I could speak in Sinhalese. They asked me to worship them. I said I could speak Sinhalese. They spoke to me in English. I did not worship them. I told them I was the Electrical Engineer; Jaffna, Municipal Council.

Q. Is it possible that if there is a leakage in the wires a fire can be caused. A. Fires occur.

Q. If a fire occurs what facilities does the Municipal Council have to put it off?

A. Except for the water bowsers and the pumps there are no fire fighting facilities in the Jaffna Municipal Council.

A. Is there a fire brigade in Jaffna? A. No.

Q. However, you have been in Jaffna for two years?

A. I have been in other Municipal Councils. But there is no fire brigade in Jaffna. If there was a fire brigade in Jaffna, property worth millions could have been saved.

NEWS FLASHBACKS

Part of a report published in THE HINDU of August 25, 1977

The Tamil Nadu Assembly to-day unanimously adopted an official resolution expressing its "rude shock" at the happenings in Sri Lanka for the past few days and urging the Government of India to impress on the Sri Lanka Government the need to stop immediately "the violence and atrocities to which the Tamils in Sri Lanka are subjected to".

The resolution recommended to the Government of India and the Prime Minister to depute a representative of the status of a Cabinet Minister to Sri Lanka to find out the true state of affairs and have direct talks with that Government "by way of assuaging the feelings of the Tamils" there. This would also help to prevent further deterioration of the situation there, restore peace and afford protection to the Tamils.

The resolution which was moved by the Leader of the House, Mr. K. Manoharan, welcomed the initiative already taken by the Government of India "as the reported incidents in Sri Lanka are so cruel and inhuman"

The resolution said "This House is rudely shocked to note from the reports being received that the Tamils living in Sri Lanka have been killed in hundreds, attacked with savage fury and the Tamil womenfolk subjected to violence for the past few days. The civilised world would not hesitate in the least to condemn the inhuman acts of violence let loose on and grave injustice done to the Tamils in Sri Lanka and citizens of Tamil origin who have given their blood and sweat for the prosperity and development of that country, who are living in the neighbouring Sri Lanka which has very friendly relations and is culturally linked with India for long".

man acts of violence let loose on and grave injustice done to the Tamils in Sri Lanka and citizens of Tamil origin who have given their blood and sweat for the prosperity and development of that country, who are living in the neighbouring Sri Lanka which has very friendly relations and is culturally linked with India for long".

next week

- * The fate of the Kurunegala Planter
- * Telecom. Engineer on Anuradhapura incidents
- * More about S. P. Walter Liyanage...