

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

No 10.

Saturday October 21, 1978

Re. 1.

Additional
G. A., Jaffna
pays high
tribute to



ARMY
CHIEF

GEN. ATTYGALLE

The new market in Jaffna was on fire when he left for Palaly Airport to meet the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence Mr. W. T. Jayasinghe, the I. G. P. and the Army Commander who were arriving from Colombo. When he conveyed this information to the (then) Army Commander Gen. Sepala Attygalle, he immediately ordered 100 soldiers to go out, and put out the fire. This was stated by Mr. A. A. Joseph who was Additional Government Agent, Jaffna in August 1977.

Mr. Joseph said: "I pay tribute to Gen. Attygalle by whose efforts the new market was saved... He told the Navy Commander to send whatever bowsers were available from Kayts and also to send Naval troops to fight the fire..... He told three Kachcheri officials to go along with them to explain to the people on the way that they were going there not with the object of harming them.

This act of his brought order out of chaos. The Police too from their positions of fixed battle came down to their duties....."

Here is the full text of Mr. Joseph's testimony:-

A. A. JOSEPH: Sworn, Additional Government Agent, Jaffna.

Mr. de Silva: Q: You were the Additional Government Agent in August last year?

A. Yes.

Q: You remember the 16th August, 1977. In the morning of the 16th August did you receive a telephone call from Mr. Wijepala, Government Agent?

A. Yes. That was about 6-45 and 7 a.m.

'G. A. asked me to contact S.P.'

Q: Did Mr. Wijepala speak to you about anything in particular?

A. Government Agent informed that he had been informed by the M. P., for Jaffna, that fire had broken out in the old market and that there were incidents between the Police and the public. He requested me to contact the S. P., or the A. S. P., Jaffna as he was unable to contact them as he was going on circuit to Mulan-

gavil which was planned earlier; that he could not stay back and therefore asked me to contact the S. P., or the A. S. P. to see that the situation is brought under control.

Q: According to that information did you yourself do anything?

A. Immediately after the telephone message I tried to contact the S. P., or the A. S. P., or the Headquarters Inspector and I was informed that none of them was in the Police Station. This was at about 7-15 a.m. Thereafter I went through my morning bath, meals and so on and went to the Office.

No sooner I got to the office by about 8 a.m., again I tried to contact the S. P., A. S. P., or the Headquarters Inspector or any one of the officers at the Police Station. At that time the Station simply seemed to be deserted. Now and then I was getting an answer which was not helpful. I could get no information as to where the S. P., or A. S. P., or the Headquarters Inspector was.

'He lived up to a citizen's expectations of a uniformed officer'

Some reserve Police Constable must have answered my calls.

Q. Ultimately did you contact anybody?

No responsible officer available

A. 'I was unable to contact any one of the police Officers except for a Police Officer, not a responsible officer, but one who was a stand-by there. Therefore I sent a message to the G. A., but he had already gone to Mulangawil. I immediately got hold of the O. A., one Mr. Ganeshan, gave him the Kachcheri car, and asked him to proceed to Mulangawil.

There were so many interruptions during this period. I received a number of telephone calls from about 8-30 to 9 a.m. I received a call from the A. C. C. D., Jaffna, Mr. Jayakanthan, from Vee-rasingham Hall stating that there was smoke rising and that he learnt reliably that there was fire in the old market.

'I received a call from the Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, Mr. Aseervatham stating that there was panic in the city and asked me to help maintain order. I received a call from the Ceylon Merchants who stay right

opposite the Hospital to say that there was shooting in the air and that people were running hither and thither.

'I received several telephone calls from the petrol sheds and other people of a responsible nature to say that the situation was getting worse and wanted me to see that something was done.

'I contacted the Ministry'

Now at this moment, that is, between 9 and 9-30 I contacted the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs. The Secretary was not there at the moment. He had gone to the Ministry of Finance. I contacted the officer there and told him that he should immediately go there and see the Secretary and pass on a message. I told him in detail what was happening in Jaffna.

'Thereafter I contacted the Ministry of Defence and I told the officer who was available at that moment about the situation in Jaffna and asked them to take whatever steps necessary and see that the situation was brought under control.

'I was informed that the Secretary of Defence by that time was aware of the situation and that he was coming down to Jaffna along with the I. G. P.

'Soon after as these were happening simultaneously I contacted the Army and Navy Commanders and told them of the urgency to send us bowsers in order to put out the fire which was spreading into the New Market. They said that the bowsers were not in the station and that they had gone to collect water and that no sooner they got them they would help.

'The Special Commissioner Mr. Sivagnanam also informed me that the situation was hopeless and he was unable to rush the labourers from the Municipality or the bowser because the policemen were not helpful, that they were preventing or obstructing their attempts to put out the fire.

Call from the Army Commander

'It was at about this time that I received a call from the Army Commander, it would have been about 9-45 a.m., to say that the Secretary

(Continued overleaf)

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

- Santayana - American philosopher 1863-1952

'15 TO 20 POLICE CONSTABLES POINTED THEIR RIFLES AT US'

(Continued from Page 1)

to the Ministry of Defence, the I. G. P., and the Army Commander were coming in a special plane and he asked me to go to Palaly Army Camp for a conference as the G. A. was not at the station. I had no reliable vehicle at that moment. However the Education Department had their van and it was sent to me. I think it was 10-15 or so when I was able to go out of the Kachcheri. The conference was timed for about 11-30 a. m.

'Then some of the officers who were there told me that it was not safe for me to go alone and they volunteered to come along with me. Mr. Sentilnathan, Mr. Wignaraja Chief Clerk, Planning Division, Mr. Nagaratnam a Class I Officer and Mr. Shanmugam, Personal Assistant to the G. A. accompanied me. They volunteered to come with me because the situation was becoming more and more tense and it was not safe for me to go alone.

'We came along Hospital Road

'We moved in, the place was deserted and we came to the hospital as I was anxious to see what had happened. We came along Hospital Road and we came across a crowd of people opposite the hospital. They were all there and we were unable to get past them.

'Seeing me they told me that they were trying to put out the fire but the police were obstructing. Opposite the bus stand right in the middle of the road there were about 15 to 20 police constables and they pointed their rifles towards the people. As soon as they saw our van those who had kept their rifles on the ground took them up and pointed them at our van.

They pointed the rifles at us

'I stopped the van and four members who were accompanying me got down and we proceeded towards the police officers who were with rifles. They were all policemen. It was a very tense situation and was very fearful because all the police rifles were pointed towards us. Anything could have happened. Two of my officers put their hands up and said,

'Govt. Agent, Govt. Agent'

'When this was done the rifles were lowered. I was at that time very happy to feel that there was recognition for the Govt. Agent even at a situation like that. Some distance away A. S. P. Mr. Noordeen was standing on the road. He was watching the situation and did not worry himself to come to

us and find out on what mission we had come. He was at a distance away from the other policemen and was closer to the bus stand,

Mr. Amirthalingam looking unhappy

I recognised Mr. Amirthalingam who was there with a very unhappy face. Mr. Dharmalingam was also there. I told Mr. Amirthalingam that the I. G. P., Army Commander and the Navy Commander were coming.

We went up to the new market which was ablaze. I did not want to stay there as it looked like a battle field. I thought that sooner we left the place it was safer for us all. We moved towards the crowd and I heard two or three members of the public shouting out asking for help. I told them that I was going to receive the Secretary, Ministry of Defence to place the facts before him and those who were to come with him.

'On our way we could see some tyres burning at some points. We proceeded to Palaly and reached Palaly at about 11 a. m. As I went towards the hanger, I saw the S. P. Jaffna Mr. Seneviratna, The Navy Commander, Jaffna, and Colonel Madawala. The moment I saw them I appealed to them saying, "I appeal to you as Service Chiefs to help us to put out the fire"

Colossal sum spent on market

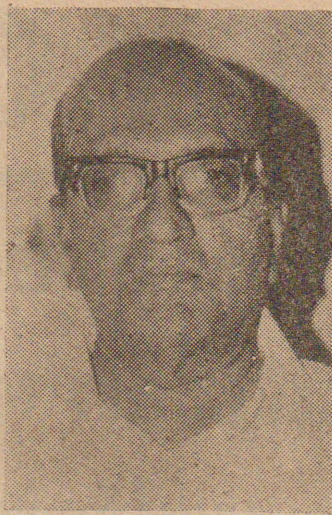
'I did that because I was at one time the Special Commissioner of the Jaffna Municipal Council at one time and knew the colossal sum of money we spent on putting up the market. I told them there was no fire brigade or a fire fighting unit in Jaffna.

'The fire equipment was not available. Thereafter we had to wait till the plane arrived which was at about 12 or 12-15 p. m. When the plane came down I walked up to the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and told him that new market was on fire. I was concerned at that moment about the fire that broke out at the new market. I told the Army Commander. They went straight to the Palaly Camp and we discussed there.

'The moment I told General Attygalle he immediately ordered 100 soldiers to go out because the officials gave lame excuses saying that the bowisers were not sufficient to put out the fire. This order for the 100 soldiers was very effective and very consoling. I pay tribute to the Army Comm-

ander, General Attygalle by whose efforts the new market was saved.

'I appealed to them to come and see the site after the conference. He told the Navy Commander to send whatever bowisers were available from Kayts and also to send Naval troops to fight the fire. He told three Kachcheri Officials to go along with them to explain to the people on the way that they were going there not with the object of harming them. He wanted them to speak in the Tamil language and get their assistance.



A. I think Mr. Noordeen was further away from this detachment of Police Officers. He did not ask them or order them to lower their rifles. We were frightened and I was happy when one man shouted out "G. A.". They were pointing their rifles at us and they had only to press the trigger.

'Noordeen did not say anything'

Q. Noordeen did not tell anything? He did not give the command to lower the rifles? A. No.

Mr. Kadirgamar: Q. When you were walking along and approaching the Policemen who were with their rifles pointing at you a man shouted out that it was the G.A., who was coming?

A. Yes. He said, "Government Agent" and raised his hands.

Mr. A. A. Joseph testifies

Q: It is known that Mr. Lal Wijepala was the Govt. Agent? A. Yes.

Q: He is a Sinhalese gentleman? A. Yes.

Q: It was known that you are a Tamil gentleman?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you care to assess as to what would have happened if the cry was to the effect that it was the Addl. G. A.?

A: Even then I think the rifles would have been lowered.

Q: They did not know who was coming at that time?

A: Yes.

'On the verge of firing

Q: It appeared to you those police officers were on the verge of firing?

A: They looked that.

Q: It appeared that the only thing left was to pull the trigger? A: Yes.

Q: Have you ever been confronted with such a scene? A. No.

Q: You know that several incidents took place in Jaffna town from the 20th August and they continued for several days? A. Yes.

Q: You have heard of the incidents at the St. Patrick's College Carnival?

A. Yes, I heard about it.

Q: You were told about the incidents of the 16th August? A: Yes.

Q: On the 15th was there any tense situation?

A: I am sorry. On the 15th I was on leave. 14th

was a Sunday and 13th was Saturday. During these days I was not well. I was not aware of the situation those days. If I had known the situation I would have prevented the G. A. from going on circuit and prevailed him to stay back.

Q: There were incidents on the 17th? A: Yes.

Q: On the 18th? A: Yes.

Escalation of incidents

Q: And you heard there was escalation of incidents South of Jaffna? A: Yes.

Q: All these followed from the incidents in Jaffna?

A: Yes.

Q: The police were involved in the incidents in Jaffna? A. Yes.

Q: You heard were involved in incidents South of Jaffna? A: Yes.

Q: In incidents South of Elephant Pass? A. Yes.

Q: You spoke of the fire on the 16th? A. Yes.

Q: At all levels in Jaffna amongst Government Servants it was said that it was the police who started the fire?

A. Yes.

The Sinhalese students

Q: There was nothing in the nature of looting by Jaffna folk of Jaffna shops in Jaffna town?

A: I heard there had been some shops looted.

Q: Was there looting of Jaffna shops by Jaffna people? A: No.

Q: Are you aware that the police have been trying to report in Court proceedings that there was widespread looting of Jaffna shops by Jaffna people?

A: I am not aware.

Q: As far as your observation, knowledge and information went, Tamil people in Jaffna town had not created any disturbance which called for violent police action?

A: There has never been such an incident.

(Continued next page)

'ABSOLUTELY FALSE TO SAY THAT SINHALESE STUDENTS WERE HARMED'

(Continued from page 2)

Q: You are aware that the Jaffna campus of the Ceylon University had a fair number of Sinhalese students?

A: Yes.

Q: You are aware that they were taken on convoy out of Jaffna on 17th August? A: Yes.

Q: You are aware that not a single Sinhalese student at the Jaffna campus was touched or harmed in any fashion? A: Yes.

"In fact the Tamil boys were very helpful to them. The staff and the Registrars and the president were also helpful. There was absolute cordiality in the campus. Some Kachcheri officers also helped the Sinhalese students.

Q: It would be false to say or suggest that Tamil people harmed the Sinhalese students?

A: It is absolutely false.

'Naga Vihare was not touched'

Q: You are aware that Naga Vihare in the town was not touched attacked or damaged?

A: It was not touched. There was absolute peace there.

Q: Any rumour to the effect that the Naga Vihare was touched, burnt or attacked is utterly false?

A: Yes.

Q: The Naga Vihare Priest was never touched?

A: Yes.

Q: Any rumour to the contrary would be utterly false? A: Yes.

Q: The fire that you have spoken of, was a very serious blaze? A: Yes.

Q: It was a fire of enormous proportion?

A: Yes.

Q: It was not the kind of fire that could be approached or tackled easily?

A: It could have been tackled if the normal cordiality between the Govt. Agent and the Police prevailed. It could have been put off if there was no obstruction by the police to it being putting out.

'No fire brigade in Jaffna'

Q: Not only did they not go out and co-operate with the public, but they were also obstructing the town folk who were trying to put out the fire?

A: That is the general opinion.

Q: Jaffna town does not have a fire brigade or a fire fighting unit?

A: They do not have.

Q: In a case of fire reliance is placed only on the police? A: Yes.

Q: There is no other uniformed force to fight a fire? A: No.

Q: Before you went there - that morning when the G. A. went on circuit, had you any personal knowledge of any incidents in Jaffna town?

A: I did not have any personal knowledge.

Q: Had you heard of it?

A: No. Except for the incidents at the Carnival. And some incidents in the Gurunagar area where some huts were burnt.

'There were panicky phone calls'

Q: The first time you were alerted of the grave situation was when telephone calls were directed to you after the G. A. left on his circuit?

A: Yes. It was then that I gauged that there was tension in the town.

Q: There must have been a large number of telephone calls? A: Yes.

Q: All these telephone calls were panicky?

A: Panicky and some of them, for instance, Ceylon Merchants said "please try to take us out of this place as we are absolutely unsafe"

Q: A situation such as that in which the citizens are asking for assistance requires active police action to restore law and order and to maintain law and order? A: Yes.

Q: That is a police function? A: That is a very important duty of the police.

Q: And that is a duty to be performed by every officer of the police from the highest right down to the recruit constable? A: Yes.

'G A. & Police no rapport'

Q: When you went to the market, I take it, you were hoping to enlist the services of the police officers?

A: I was not too sure having heard that the police were running beserk in the city.

Q: You heard in the morning that the police were running beserk? A: Yes.

"I would also like to point out that if the relationship between the police and the Government Agent had been more cordial, in the sense, each trying to check with the other, I don't think there would have been any difficulty in bringing about the situation under control. There was practically no rapport between the police and the Government Agent.

Commissioner: You mean for some time?

A: In a situation like that as the first thing, the S. P. must have contacted the G. A. or the G. A. must have contacted the S. P.

Q: You mean the G. A. had no information?

A: Yes, Sir.

Q: The S. P. you referred to is Mr. A. S. Seneviratne? A: Yes.

Q: The G. A. is Mr. Lal Wijepala? A: Yes.

Q: You know that the personal relationship between the S. P. Mr. A. S. Seneviratne and the G. A. Mr. Lal Wijepala had been strained for quite sometime?

A: I will not say 'strained'; I would only say that the previous cordiality that had been prevailing in the early years was not there.

A: Yes.

Q: Did you speak to him?

A: No.

Commissioner:

Q: He must have known who you were? A: I think so.

Q: He did not come to you? A: No, Sir.

Questioning, Ctd.

Q: Were you able to recognise or identify any other policemen above the rank of S. I. at the scene?

A: Not at that moment.

Q: Before you left the place? A: No.

Q: When you said 'not at that moment', what do you mean?

A: We came across a group of policemen who were there with the rifles. I, of course, did not bother to find out whether there was any S. I. I don't think in a situation like that, I

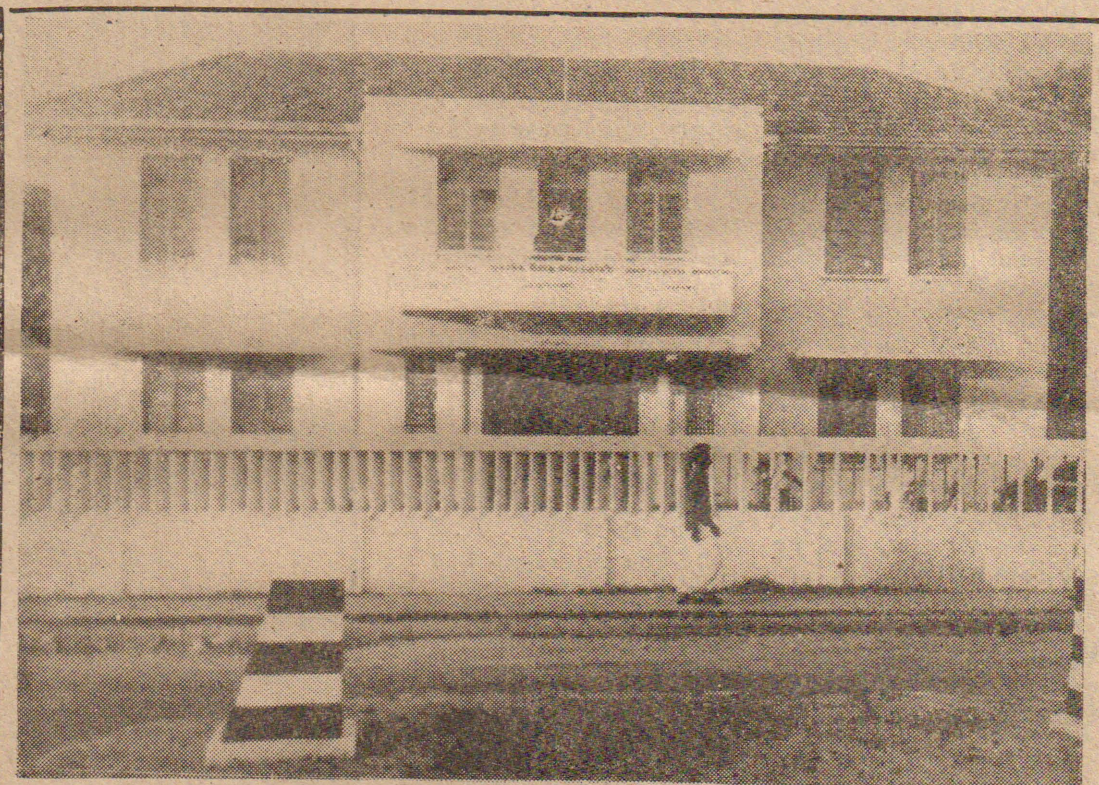
A: Yes. On the 16th, soon after the Army Commander, the Secretary to the Defence and others had arrived, we proceeded to the Army Camp at Palaly and there was a conference.

Mr. Ana Seneviratne also came

Q: Was there a conference on the 17th? The G. A. had a conference with the S. P. DIG, the Special Municipal Commissioner and others?

A: There may have been a conference. Unless, of course, there was a conference with the Service Chiefs.

On the 16th they all came from Colombo. They returned that very evening. Gen. Attygala, IGP Mr. Stanley Senanayake and the Secretary



A frontal view of the main entrance to the General Hospital, Jaffna. Much of the alleged Police atrocities took place close to the hospital and along Hospital Road.

Q: But this much is clear - You would have expected the S. P. Mr. A. S. Seneviratne, the moment he detected that there was tension and trouble to get in instant touch and work in co-operation thereafter with the G. A.? A: Yes.

A. S. P. Noordeen was there

Q: But that did not happen? A: Yes.

Q: Tell me, S. P. Mr. A. S. Seneviratne, was he in Jaffna on the 16th August? A: Yes, I met him at the Airport.

Q: Although you were in bed, was he in Jaffna on the 15th? A: I was not sure of that. Certainly he was here on the 17th and 18th.

Q: Once you got to the market and there were these menacing policemen, did you see A. S. P. Noordeen there?

would have observed anything like that.

Q: Did it appear to you that A. S. P. Mr. Noor Deen was in command at that moment? A: Yes.

Q: Have you heard that in Anuradhapura there were rumours that Tamil people and students had killed and attacked the Sinhalese students at the Jaffna Campus?

A: Yes.

Commissioner: Q: When did you come to know that?

A: It must have been on the 17th or the 18th, Sir.

Q: About atrocities committed by the Tamils upon the Sinhalese in Jaffna?

A: Yes.

Q: Rumours of the burning of Naga Vihara? A: Yes.

Q: Rumours of the Naga Vihara Priest had been killed?

to the Defence Mr. Jayasinghe came.

Q: But Mr. Ana Seneviratne? A: He also came with them. The Navy Commander did not come. These are the four gentlemen who came from Colombo. These are the four very important officers of the Government.

Q: And you found them offering you what you described as lame excuses?

A: Yes, they were not encouraging.

Q: Whereas, you expected from them instant positive action? A: Yes.

Q: The kind of thing which was an inspiration to you which came from Gen Attygala? A: Certainly.

(Continued next page)

S. P. ANURADHAPURA SHOULD BE IN ANURADHAPURA, WHAT WAS HE DOING IN JAFFNA? — COUNSEL

(Continued from page 3)

Q. Are you not able to recall now whether Mr. Liyanage was also in that lame excuse group? A. I am not too sure.

Q. Now we come to the stage where the plane arrived with Gen. Attygala, the I. G. P. and Mr. Ana Seneviratne. As the plane arrived, was there any talk or discussion immediately or did you move to the Army Headquarters, Palaly?

'I.G.P., D.I.G. & S.P. were not with us'

A. The Secretary to the Defence, the Army Commander and I went to the Army camp, but the IGP, DIG and the SP Mr. Seneviratne were not with us at the time we moved out of the air port.

Q. As Gen. Attygala and the other officers came off the plane did you immediately tell them about this fire which was blazing in Jaffna and which requires instant attention?

A. I told only the Secretary Mr. Jayasinghe and the Army Commander about this fire. I told them at the Palaly Air port.

Q. Was that within the hearing of Mr. Ana Seneviratne?

A. I am not sure, but he might have heard.

'What was his attitude?'

Q. Did SP Seneviratne or anybody else from Jaffna inform Mr. Ana Seneviratne about the raging fire?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Or that the police were berserk? A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Can you assist the Commission by telling as to what was Mr. Ana Seneviratne's attitude? Did he appear disinterested, unconcerned as to what was happening in Jaffna?

A. All the four of them coming to Jaffna together meant that they were coming on a very serious mission.

Q. Obviously to ascertain what is happening in Jaffna? A. Yes.

Mr. Liyanage was at airport

Q. You know Mr. Walter Liyanage, S. P. Anuradhapura? A. Yes.

Q. Did he come on that plane?

A. I think he must have come here that day or the following day.

Q. Did you see him that day at the Palaly Air port?

A. Yes.

Q. You went to the Air port and before this plane arrived, you saw Commander Andradi who commands the Navy here and Col. Madawella who commands the Army here and S. P. Seneviratne? A. Yes.

Q. They were among the gentlemen standing at the air port and awaiting the plane that was bringing these gentlemen from Colombo?

A. Yes.

Q. Walter Liyanage, either he came by that plane or he was at the air port awaiting them? A. Yes.

Q. Now can you recall whether Mr. Walter Liyanage came with the D. I. G. in that plane?

'I had seen him near the market'

A. I had not known Mr. Walter Liyanage, but I have seen him at some point in front of the market on the 16th or the 17th.

Q. You told His Honour that at the Air port you were conveying to Commander Andradi and Col. Madawella and S. P. Seneviratne the very serious situation in regard to the fire which is now blazing in Jaffna? A. Yes.

Q. You conveyed this to them because you found the police unco-operative and they were obstructing the people from putting out the fire?

A. That is what the people told me. I asked them 'why don't you put out the fire. They said we cannot do because police are obstructing us'.

Q. So because of the dangerous situation, you were trying to enlist their support for immediate action?

A. Yes. It was rather difficult to say that part of it because my thoughts were at that time confined to the fire. My idea was to put out the fire. Now that attitude was not there.

S. P.: He was in a tight corner

Q. In whose part? A. Police themselves were watching the fire and they did not bother to put out the fire.

Q. One thing is clear—S.P. Mr. Seneviratne certainly knew that there was this blazing in Jaffna? A. Yes.

Q. Did the S.P. also know that the police were menacing the people with rifles or the police had gone berserk?

A. He should have known.

Q. Did the S. P. Mr. Seneviratne appear to you unconcerned and indifferent to what had been happening in Jaffna?

Q. In other words, the police force was as if it had abandoned all discipline and had become a law unto themselves in Jaffna town and the S.P. therefore was helpless? A. Yes.



A view of Jaffna model market

A: I thought he himself was in a tight corner.

Q: In what sense? A: He was unable to sort out the situation.

Q. Or shall I help you—Shall I help you with more descriptive words and phrases. Did it appear to you that the tight corner in which he was was because he was unable to maintain control and discipline over his force?

Commissioner:

Q: Did you ask him where he was that morning?

A: I asked him: What happened to you; I was trying to contact you: He said, he was in the market area trying to see that some discipline was maintained.

A: And failed? A: I don't know.

Mr. Kadirgamar: Q. It is obvious that he had seen the situation with his own eyes? A. Yes.

'S. P. JAFFNA SEEMED TO HAVE LOST CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE SITUATION'

A: Yes, practically lost control over his men.

Q: Including the officers of the rank of A.S.P., Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors?

A: I can say only that he had lost control of the entire situation.

Q. You would expect him to communicate all these to the D.I.G., or I.G.P.? A. Yes.

Q. While you, General Attygala, and Mr. Jayasinghe went to the Army Camp at Palaly did you know where I.G.P., D.I.G., and S.P. went?

A: I did not know. I thought that they were follow-

ing us. They came to the Army Camp later.

Q. You have paid a well deserved tribute to General Attygala? A: Yes.

Army chief: A ready response

Q: Did General Attygala respond immediately and issue the command immediately he heard about this fire? A: Yes.

Q: You were the first informant to him about this fire to the market? A: Yes.

Q: The I.G.P., and the D. I.G., and the S.P., came later to the Army Headquarters at Palaly? A: Yes.

'I had seen him at some point near the market on the 16th or 17th'

Q: By that time had the troops gone out on the orders of General Attygala? A: Yes. The response was very quick. They got into the lorries.

Q: They were disciplined to the General's orders? A: Yes.

Q: How long after that did the I.G.P., D.I.G., and the S.P., come there?

A: About 15 minutes later.

Q. When they came there had they taken any kind of action in regard to the fire on their own because they were also superior Officers who could issue instant order to their men?

A. Obviously they had not taken any action.

Q: After they arrived there was any kind of action that they took to try and get the Police to do their duty? A: Not in regard to the fire.

Q: Nor in regard to their indiscipline in Jaffna Town?

A: Not to my knowledge.

Q. Was there Army telephone or radio contact with the Police headquarters?

A: No.

Q: There is radio contact between the Army Headquarters and police Headquarters Jaffna? A: Yes.

(Continued next page)

'MR. ANA SENEVIRATNE TRIED TO MAKE OUT THAT THE POLICE WERE NOT TO BLAME FOR SHOP FIRES'

(Continued from page 4)

Q: Did the Police Officers appear to be indifferent to the situation which required urgent action?

A: Not the top officers. They came to the Fort and went round on inspection.

Q: You had an example in General Attygalle for acting instantaneously? A: Yes.

No immediate action by them

Q: Hear are other officers who can act instantaneously?

A: They did not act immediately. I could see the reaction of General Attygalle. There was no such response on the part of the police officers.

Q: Would you describe it as indifference or apparent indifference?

A: I would say that it was not positive action.

Q: In fact the response on the part of General is what a citizen would expect from a uniformed officer? A: Yes.

Scene shifts to the market

Q: The next stage is when all these officers including yourself getting to the market scene? A: Yes.

Q: The Senior Police Officers were there, the I.G.P., D.I. G., and the S.P.? A: Yes.

Q: Was Mr. Walter Liyanage, S.P., Anuradhapura also there?

A: Yes. At this point I saw a dark gentleman who was described as S.P., Anuradhapura.

Q: The S.P., Anuradhapura should be in Anuradhapura. why was he here?

A: I had not known him. I thought that he was one of the A.S.P.s who had come there.

Police line was broken

Q: General Attygalle was at the scene of fire? A: Yes.

Q: Colonel Madawella was there? A: Yes.

Q: Commander Andradi was there? A: Yes.

Q: Was Noordeen there? A: No.

Q: Were the menacing Policemen there?

A: The policemen were still there. At the moment we went there they had dispersed and they were in ones and twos. They had broken from

the fireline. Once the Army vehicles started moving with the bowsers something positive was done. That particular line was broken.

Q: Was the Army in action when you went there? A: Yes.

Q: They fought the fire very vigorously?

A: Yes, with the co-operation of the public.

Q: This is the kind of thing that the citizen would expect? A: Yes.

Q: To your knowledge did the senior Police Officers who had come from Colombo assess the state of the fire and the role of the Police?

A: Yes.

Q: What did he say - did he say the police was responsible.

A: He said that there had been places where tyres had been kept and the police could not proceed beyond those. In the process of clearing those places the police had set fire to the tyres and thrown them into the shops

Q: The police had set fire to the shops?

A: That part did not come out. They said burning tyres were thrown into the shops.

Q: Were there other statements like that made? A: Yes.

Q: Saying that the police misbehaved themselves?

At that stage Mr. Ana Seneviratne asked who set

fusion the fires had taken place? A: Yes.

Q: Mr. Ana Seneviratne wanted to make out that the police was innocent?

A: There had been an encounter between the police and the public and that in the process the police were blameless?

A: That is what he was trying to make out.

Q: This situation could have arisen from something reported to him by the police?

A: I am not aware of that.

Q: S. P. Mr. Seneviratne was there? A: Yes.

'I.G.P. not making inquiries'

Q: Did he make any comment? A: Yes.

Q: Did it appear to you that Mr. Ana Seneviratne was not taking seriously what the public said?

A: I should think so.

Q: Do you know the I.G.P. was making inquiries? A: No.

Q: Was General Attygala making inquiries?

A: Yes. He asked how the fire started.

Q: He went out to the public?

A: Yes. As they were there.

Q: These people had come to find out facts? A: Yes.

Q: To report to higher authorities? A: Yes.

Q: Did Mr. Jayasinghe make inquiries? A: Yes.

Q: Did Mr. Attygala and party leave that night?

A: I could not say that. I do not know whether they left that afternoon or night.

I told G.A. what I had observed'

Q: You left with them?

A: No. I stayed back.

Q: They met the G.A.? A: Yes.

Q: Did you meet the G.A., before they met him?

A: When the G.A. came to the scene we were all together.

Q: Were you able to tell the G.A. what you had observed?

A: No. I don't think I told him at that time. Thereafter all of us retired to some place. I think Mr. Jayasinghe, G.A., and Mr. Ana Seneviratne left the scene for a conference. I am not sure whether they went to the Residency or to the Police Station.

Q: Did you have an opportunity that day for briefing or posting him with your observation? A: Yes.

Q: You had posted the G.A., with what you had seen and heard? A: Yes.

Q: On the 17th can you recall the G.A., calling for a conference at the Residency?

A: Yes.

Q: You had been invited personally along with Mr. Yogeswaran, M. P., for Jaffna and Mr. Amirthalingam for a conference? A: Yes.

Q: Did they come?

A: Yes.

Mr. Kadirgamar: There was a conference on the 17th. I am referring to the conference with the Minister.

Q: I am referring to the sequence of dates. On the 17th there was a conference which was called by the G.A.?

A: I was not there at the conference. I asked Mr. Yogeswaran and Mr. Amirthalingam to be present but I was not present. The conference that was held was only with the Minister Mr. Hurulle and the Deputy Minister Mr. Werapitiya.

The Kannathiddy shooting

Q: There was a conference called by the G.A., on the 17th August in the morning. That was a conference attended by Mr. Seneviratne, Assistant Collector of Customs; Dr. Dassanayake, Mr. Walter Liyanage, S. P.,

Anuradhapura, Mr. Sivagnanam, Municipal Commissioner.

Q: I want to know whether you were present at that conference? A: I do not think so. I am unable to recollect.

Q: In regard to the 17th itself, there was tension and there were incidents in Jaffna which you came to know? A: Yes.

Q: On 17th August you heard that the Police had done shooting in Kannathiddy Road where jewellery shops are?

A: I have heard about that.

'I heard of the Police looting'

Q: You heard that the jewellery shops were broken into, and looted by the Police? A: Yes.

Q: The public in Jaffna knew that top ranking Officers such as the I.G.P., General Attygalle, and Mr. Jayasinghe had come to Jaffna the previous evening and notwithstanding their arrival here the Police were still beserk on the 17th August?

A: Yes.

(Continued overleaf)



City Bakery at Hospital Street, Jaffna.
On its left is Ambal Cafe

Mr. A. A. JOSEPH (Retired) Contd.

Q: At the scene of the fire were present all the senior officers - did members of the crowd come up when they saw the I. G. P., Army Commander and the D. I. G. and try to tell the officers that they had suffered at the hands of the police?

A: I cannot remember how it started. One of the top officers wanted to find out from the members of the public as to what had happened. I told the officers that they could ask the people who were along the road by the shops and on the pavement to inquire from them. I am unable to say who asked. I motioned to the public and said, "Tell them what happened". One of the members of the public came up and said how the fire started

fire to the tyres and of course various statements were made.

Q: To the effect that the police set fire?

A: The statement about the setting on fire was made by the public and of course the construction was that in the process of removing the obstructions the police threw the burning fires into the shops.

'What D. I. G. tried to make out'

Q: The member of the public said that the police took the burning tyres and threw them into the shops? A: Yes

Q: Mr. Seneviratne wanted to contradict that statement and said that in the con-

'I. G. P. & D. I. G. WERE IN JAFFNA ON THE 16TH: BUT YET POLICE WERE GOING BERSERK ON 17TH!'

(Continued from Page 5)

Q. And that too not withstanding the arrival of the D. I. G., Mr. Ana Seneviratne? A. Yes.

Q. On the 17th August people in Jaffna, whatever their community be, Sinhalese or Tamils; whatever their rank, high rank or others, attributed all the trouble in Jaffna to the Police in Jaffna? A. Yes.

Q. As far as you could see Mr. Joseph, visibly no action seemed to have been taken by the Police Senior Officer Class to bring the berserk policemen into check - the position on the 17th was as bad as the 16th?

Messrs Hurulle, Werapitiya came

A. In other words, if any action has been taken the action was not effective.

Q. The view of the people was that the indiscipline and misconduct of the 16th also continued on the 17th August? A. Yes.

Q. Even if action was initiated at the highest level of I. G. P., D. I. G., or the S. P., still it was ineffective with the rank and file of the Police in Jaffna? A. That is right.

Q. There was a subsequent conference following the arrival of the Junior Minister Mr. Werapitiya? A. Yes.

Q. He came with Mr. Hurulle, Minister of Cultural Affairs? A. Yes.

Q. Who else came?

A. Those were the two.

Q. Can you recall when they came? A. Must have been on the 18th or the 19th August.

'Who pointed out the damage?'

Q. When they came did they go round the town?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they see some of the damaged places? A. Yes.

Q. Did they see the scene of fire? A. Yes.

Q. Did you go round with them? A. I went round with the G. A., and with them.

Q. What were the places that you saw?

A. We went round the entire area where the damage had been done.

Q. That is to say, the damage to the statues were shown to them? A. Yes.

Q. The site of the scene of fire was shown? A. Yes.

Q. Were the broken and looted shops in Kannathid-dy shown to them?

A. All those areas were shown to them.

Q. Were the places of shooting shown to them?

A. Yes, G. A., went along with them.

Q. In that way these gentlemen would have got some kind of idea of what had taken place in Jaffna?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the S. P., accompany you and Mr. Werapitiya?

A. Mr. Ana Seneviratne came. He and the M. P., came in another car.

Q. Who was pointing out to Mr. Werapitiya and Mr. Hurulle the damage and destruction by fire?

A. Mr. Ana Seneviratne.

Q. When the gentlemen were shown the broken statues in the town did Mr.



MR. ANA SENEVIRATNE, THE THEN D.I.G., NOW THE I.G.P.

Ana Seneviratne tell them as to who broke the statues - did he tell them that the Police broke them?

A. I do not know.

Q. You do not know what he was telling Mr. Werapitiya and Mr. Hurulle?

A. I am not aware.

Q. When they came to the scene of the shooting at Kasthooriya Road did Mr. Ana Seneviratne tell them that the Police fired in those places? A. I am unable to tell that. He was coming in the rear.

Q. At the site did they get down or did they move on in the cavalcade?

A. At the sites they got down.

Q. When they got down and questioned the officers you would have heard?

'What did the D. I. G. tell them'

A. Not necessarily. They were ahead and I was behind.

Q. I want to know whether Mr. Ana Seneviratne conveyed anything to Mr. Werapitiya and Mr. Hurulle?

A. I am not in a position to say.

Q. After they went round the town was there a conference?

A. Yes. It was at the Residency at about 7 p. m.

Q. Who attended this conference apart from those gentlemen?

A. Mr. Yogeswaran, Mr. Amirthalingam, Mr. Kantiravetpillai and Mr. Thiagarajah of the C. T. B.

Q. About how many others roughly? A. Mr. Ana Seneviratne was there but the S. P., was not there.

Q. There were other officers? A. Yes.

Q. At that conference were Mr. Werapitiya and Mr. Hurulle told that the Police had gone berserk and fired shots and set fire to the market and assaulted the people and so on?

A. Yes. I was wondering from which source.

Q. Can you recall the names of the people who said that to the Minister other than the three M.P.s?

'His attitude was: The Jaffna people got what they deserved'

A. Mr. Thiagarajah of the C. T. B.

Q. Do you also recall his having told the Minister about the hijacking by the Police of a bus? A. Yes.

Q. The hijacked bus and the Police went to Kannathiddy, broke up jewellery shops and looted them?

A. Yes.

Q. Was Mr. Ana Seneviratne making any comments when these gentlemen told the Ministers that all the trouble emanated from the Police - was he pooh poohing?

'He pooh - poohed the idea'

A. Yes, he was pooh-poohing the idea.

Q. Refusing to accept it?

A. Yes.

Q. He was dismissing it as an invention? A. I do not say that he was dismissing it as an invention. He was pooh-poohing the idea.

Q. Clearly at the conference he displayed himself as a person who will not accept that the Police had done a wrong? A. Yes. That was his attitude.

Q. That the Police would not have done any wrong or done this? A. Yes.

Q. Was he putting it on the Army? A. No.

Q. Was he putting it on the Navy? No.

Q. Was he putting it on the people of Jaffna?

A. Particularly he was putting the blame on the people of Jaffna. Generally they were accused of these troubles.

Q. In regard to the violence itself was he saying anything? A. No. His attitude was that generally the people had got what they had asked for and got what they deserved.

Q. He was suggesting that the people of Jaffna got from whom? A. From whomsoever.

Q. Who was the giver - was he assuming that or pretending that there was some unseen hand? A. No. What he meant was that those people behaved in a manner

Q. The conference was held where? A. At King's House, Fort.

Q. That was attended by several officers including Mr. Ana Seneviratne and the G. A.? A. Yes.

Q. To get to King's House you have to pass the Police Station? A. Yes.

Q. Were there Police detachments inside the Fort?

A. Yes.

'I heard they were hooted at'

Q. You can recall the misbehaviour of the Police personnel towards the people who came in and who left the conference?

A. I am unable to say about that but I heard that there was jeering and hooting.

Q. Have you heard that your G. A., was hooted?

A. I heard.

that the Police had to intervene and they had to give it back.

Q. Gave it back in the manner they gave? A. I do not know.

Q. His attitude was that the people deserved what they got? A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Hurulle and Mr. Werapitiya left that day?

A. I would like to bring to Your Honour's notice that at a certain point at this conference I left the place and I was told that they stayed the night there but I am not sure.

Q. Mr. Rudra Rajasingham was sent as Co-ordinating Officer in Jaffna?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he here with Mr. Werapitiya and Mr. Hurulle?

A. No.

Q. Can you recall when Mr. Rajasingham came here as Co-ordinating Officer?

A. I cannot give the exact date.

Q. Did you attend any conference called by Mr. Rudra Rajasingham? A. Yes.

Q. Perhaps the very first conference? A. Yes.

Q. The conference was called by him immediately on his arrival? A. Yes.

Q. Did the G. A., tell you that? A. No.

Q. Was Mr. Rudra Rajasingham hooted? A. I heard so.

Q. The Co-ordinating Officer? A. Yes.

'Did not hear he was hooted at'

Q. Did you hear that Mr. Ana Seneviratne was hooted at? A. No.

Q. At a certain stage the staff attached to the Kachcheri struck work? A. Yes.

Q. You recall that? A. Yes.

Q. They belong to some union? Q. Yes.

Q. What was the Union?

A. The clerical Service Union.

Q. How many unions are there in Jaffna?

A. Three Unions - The G. C. S., Welanda Samagama and the Minor Employees Union.

Q. The members of all three Unions went on strike?

A. Yes.

Q. When was that?

A. I am unable to say that

(Continued next page)

'POLICE MISCONDUCT IN JAFFNA GAVE RISE TO DISTURBANCES'

(Continued from page 6)

Q: About what time in relation to Mr. Rudra Rajasingham's arrival - did they strike before or after?

A: I cannot remember.

Q: What did they strike for?

A: I understand that they had sent a letter to the G. A. asking for protection while going by bus and sufficient notice had not been taken - positive action had not been taken by the S. P. and the G. A. in restoring order in the town and therefore they had no confidence in the G. A. and S. P.

Demand made in desperation'

Q: These unions were taking the stand that there was indifference and callousness on the part of the police and the G. A.?

A: Yes.

Q: That indifference and callousness had brought about the position that was prevailing in the town?

A: Yes.

Q: People were suffering at the hands of the police in Jaffna? A: Yes.

Q: They wanted the removal or interdiction of the G. A. and the S. P. Mr. Senviratne? A: Yes.

Q: They were making this demand in desperation because of what they suffered in town? A: Yes.

Q: This was not resolved until co-ordinating officer Mr. Rudra Rajasingham took over? A: Yes.

Q: He intervened and said that he would use his power to see that they came for work safe? A: Yes.

'My view - G. A. can't be blamed'

"My personal opinion is that the G. A. could not have restored matters to normalcy in a situation beyond his control unless the G. A. and the Police saw eye to eye. He could not have done it if he did not have the full co-operation of the police. It was impossible for the G. A. alone to maintain law and order. I do not blame the G. A. and say that he should be interdicted or transferred for a matter beyond his control.

Q: There was an officer sent from Colombo?

A: Yes.

Q: He was in over-all command of the situation?

A: Yes.

Q: He could give instructions to the G. A.?

A: I am not sure of that. Q: The D. I. G. could give orders to his men?

A: Yes.

Questioning by Mr. Sam Kadirgamar, ctd.

Q: Surely, Mr. Rudra Rajasingham made an appreciation of the situation, took his decisions, issued his orders, insisted that they be implemented? A: Yes.

Q: Something which any body in Jaffna with the rank of D. I. G. or the rank of S. P. could have done?

A: I agree.

Q: And Mr. Rudra Rajasingham by addressing his mind to this problem which was there when he arrived, quickly brought the situation under control? A: Yes.

Q: In other words, he used his judgment and he used his orders? A: Yes.

Q: Even over the strike he intervened by calling these people for a discussion and told them that he will do whatever he can and requested them to go back to work and they went back?



MR. E. L. SENANAYAKE

A: Yes.

Q: If they continued with the strike, there would be further dislocation and disruption? A: Yes.

Q: In Jaffna, it would have made the situation even worse? A: Yes.

Q: In fact, one could sympathise with these workers, namely that they were striking in desperation, they were striking for protection and not for any better working conditions? A: Yes.

Q: All that they requested was for the authorities to use their authority to give them protection? A: Yes.

Q: In other words, in short, if from the 12th to the 18th of August, 1977, in those fateful days, if senior police officers in Jaffna had con-

ducted in the way, D I G Mr. Rudra Rajasingham or the Army Commander did by taking positive action, this unfortunate situation would not have occurred?

A: I agree.

Q: This Hansard of 30th November, 1977, Column 1848 - where having had himself acquainted with the situation as it had developed and taken place in Jaffna, the Hon'ble Minister Mr. E. L. Senanayake said this - Can you read that paragraph which I have underlined?

A: "The unfortunate incidents in Jaffna where the police misconduct gave rise to disturbances".

(The Hansard is marked X 51)

Q: That is the considered view of the Hon'ble Minister Mr. E. L. Senanayake after he had acquainted himself with the situation?

A: Yes.

Q: I take it, just what I have asked you to read is

'That was what Mr. E. L. Senanayake Said in the House on Nov. 30, 1977'.

a fair statement in your opinion of what you have seen and observed of the origin of this problem in Jaffna?

A: Yes.

Q: Namely, that it was the police misconduct that gave rise to this disturbance? A: Yes.

Questioned by Mr. Bartlett:

Q: You mentioned that while you were on the way to the Air port that there was a line of policemen with rifles...?

A: Not to the air port. When I came in the direction of the hospital and when I was facing the market, this happened. I first wanted to inspect the new market.

Q: Now did you bring this to the notice of the G. A. or the S. P. or the D I G.?

A: Generally I would have brought this to their notice.

Q: What was their reaction to that?

A: I am unable to say about their reaction.

Q: Shall I say their reaction was unconcerned?

A: There was no response.

Q: Did you mention that Mr. Noor Deen was there?

A: Yes.

Q: What was his reaction?

A: I had no altercation with Mr. Noor Deen.

Q: Mr. Noor Deen was unconcerned with the experience you went through?

A: I can say that there was no response. That is all I can say.

Q: Did you tell the experience you went through to General Attygala?

A: No; I was more concerned about the immediate situation.

Q: In regard to the fire it could have been easily put out by the public? A: Yes

Q: You could have furnished that information if the police wanted it?

A: We did not have such a list.

Q: In your Kachcheri, there are a large number of Sinhalese Government Servants? A: Yes.

Q: About how many?

A: About 20 to 30 Sinhalese public servants.

Q: In the Jaffna division, I take it, there are a large number of Sinhalese doctors, nurses and other staff in the State and other allied services? A: Yes.

Q: Have the public servants of Jaffna harmed any of the Sinhalese public servants during the disturbances to your knowledge.

A: No.

Q: No such harm was brought on them? A: No

Q: In fact, I take it, the public servants of Jaffna brought them, the Sinhalese public servants, to refugee camps?

A: Yes.

Q: Were Sinhalese public servants anxious to leave this area before the 13th, 14th and 15th of August 1977 on the information they had received that there was going to be trouble in Jaffna?

A: I am not aware.

Q: You mentioned about having learnt certain things, seen certain things and experienced certain things in the course of your evidence?

A: Yes.

Q: In regard to what you learnt about the hooting of the G. A., you learnt that from fairly authoritative source? A: No, I just heard about it.

Q: Rumour? A: Yes.

Q: You heard also about the hooting of the co-ordinating officer? A: Yes.

Q: From a fairly reliable source? A: From the Kachcheri officers.

Q: From reliable source?

A: Yes.

Q: Something that you can take it? A: Yes

Q: There is some basis for your accepting that story?

A: Yes.

Q: That is not an invention? A: Something that could be taken as correct.

Mr. Underwood:

I am appearing for the affected public servants. We were not informed that this witness will be called today. We want to put certain documents to this witness.

Commissioner: (to witness) When can you come again.

Witness: Can I inform the Secretary, Sir.

Commissioner: Say, within two weeks?

Witness: Yes, Sir.

"Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right"

- Rudyard Kipling.

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

'NOORDEEN LED

POLICE ASSAULT:

EITHER WE OR

THEY SHOULD BE HERE, HE SAID'

SINNATHAMBY - THILAGAR: Affirmed. 52 Years, Hospital Overseer attached to Jaffna Hospital.

Mr. Kadirgamar: Q. You are attached to the Jaffna Hospital? A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been working at the Jaffna Hospital? A. For the last six years.

Q. You are in Government Service? A. Yes.

Q. You are a Ceylon Tamil? A. Yes.

Q. You are married? A. Yes.

Q. Your wife is a Sinhalese lady? A. Yes.

Q. She is also employed in the hospital? A. Yes.

Q. How many children do you have? A. Three boys and two girls.

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

Q. You reported for duty at the hospital at 6 a. m.? A. Yes.

Q. You were doing your normal duties? A. Yes.

Q. At about 9 a. m., you became aware that there was trouble in the Jaffna bazaar? A. Yes.

'Assaulting all and sundry'

Q. That the Police were assaulting all and sundry in the bus stand? A. Yes.

Q. At about 9 a. m., you became fearful that the Police attack might extend to everybody and ultimately to your family also? A. Yes.

Q. You bought extra newspapers and sent them home from the hospital?

A. Yes. My home is about 300 yards from the hospital. I sent the papers and a message to my children asking them not to go out but to keep indoors.

Q. From about 9 a. m., that morning you observed people being chased by the Police?

A. Yes.

Q. People were running into the hospital in desperation to take cover? A. Yes.

Q. The Police who had armed themselves with rifles and machine guns had chased this crowd and entered the hospital premises? A. Yes.

Q. They assaulted the people whom they could get hold of? A. Yes.

Q. They were led by an A. S. P.? A. Yes, by A.S.P., Noordeen whom I know.

Q. Those Police Constables were in uniform? A. Yes.

Q. Were they wearing identification numbers?

A. None of them were wearing identification numbers.

Q. The people who fled into the hospital were trying to find some means of escape? A. Yes.

Q. Did you close the gate and let one open for those who might run for shelter?

A. Yes.

Q. You prepared yourself in regard to other matters such as getting hold of additional labourers and stretchers to accommodate and take in the injured people?

A. Yes.

Q. You had to arrange for meals for the hospital patients? A. Yes.

Q: However at about 11.30 a. m., you managed to get to the house where your children were? A: Yes.

Q: Your children told you what had happened there?

A: Yes.

Q: In brief they told you that the Police had come there? A: Yes.

Q: And that they had assaulted your son? A: Yes.

Q: They had hit him with rifle butts? A: Yes.

Q: That at one point they had cornered your son and was about to assault him when

Q: When she spoke to the policemen in Sinhalese he had asked her whether they were Sinhalese? A: Yes.

Q: Your daughter answered "yes"? A: Yes.

They stopped assaulting

Q: Then the police stopped assaulting your son? A: Yes.

Q: You have a licensed .22 rifle? A: Yes.

Q: They told you that the Police had taken this rifle?

A: Yes.

Q: You have licensed it for 1977? A: Yes.

Q: The Police took your rifle away? A: Yes.

Q: Sub-Inspector Gurusamy had come into your house?

A: Yes.

Q: When you were in the hospital you met Sub-Inspector Gurusamy? A: Yes.

Q: He is well known to you? A: Yes.

Q: You asked him why the Police hit your children and why they took your rifle? A: Yes-

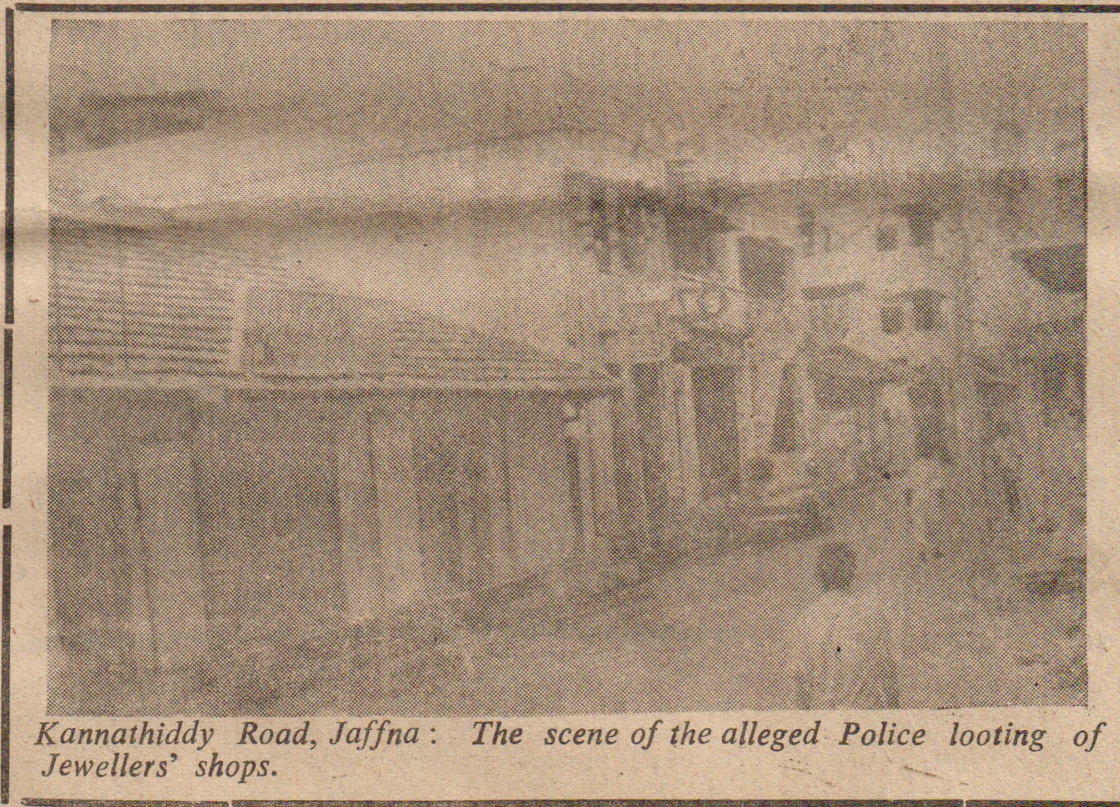
Q: He apologised to you? A: Yes.

Q: He told you that the assault was unfortunate and the rifle was in police custody? A: Yes.

Q: And would be returned in due course? A: Yes.

Q: Sub-Inspector Gurusamy has come to Hospital subsequently? A: Yes.

(Thilagar's evidence to be continued in next week's issue)



Kannathiddy Road, Jaffna: The scene of the alleged Police looting of Jewellers' shops.

Q. Was Noordeen assaulting the people? A. He was giving the command but not about the assault. The crowd was running. The Police party came in the truck and assaulted the people. He said, "Either we or they should be here". He said that.

Q. He spoke in what language? A. He spoke in English.

Q. Did you speak to any of the Police Constables who entered the hospital?

A. They were assaulting and chasing the people. There were some Police Constables known to me. I spoke to them in Sinhalese I told them to stop playing inside the hospital. Then they went away.

Q. While all this was going on you found injured people being brought to the hospital for treatment? A. Yes.

Heard Police had gone home

Q: At about 10.30 a. m., you received information that the Police had gone to your own home and assaulted your children? A: Yes.

Q: At this time you found several Police personnel all over the place and they were continuing to assault unabated.

Q: You did not think it advisable to step on to the road? A: Yes.

he lay fallen when your second daughter Janaki jumped and got hold of the constable's rifle and pleaded with him in Sinhalese not to assault her brother or injure him? A: Yes.

Q: She could speak Sinhalese fluently? A: Yes.

next week

- * The mystery about a rifle
- * Anuradhapura - once Crown Proctor's house attacked
- * Mr. Yogendra Duraiswamy testifies