

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977

'ACTG.

O. I. C.

WAS

No 12.

Saturday November 4, 1978

Re. 1:

FULLY DRUNK'

SOMASUNDRAM DEVA-RAJAN: Affirmed, 33 years. Civil Engineering Teritorial Service.

Q: You were the Executive Engineer, Dambulla, in August last year? A: Yes.

Q: Where were you residing? A: In my official quarters.

Q: Where is that? A: About 3/4 mile from my office.

Q: Your office is in the town?

My wife is a Dental surgeon

A: Yes. My wife also worked in the hospital as a Dental Surgeon. She was also residing with me and my children.

Q: You have forwarded to this Commission a letter dated 27-12-77 marked A.29?

A: Yes. (Counsel reads a statement attached to A29)

Q: What does D.W.C.D. stand for?

A: Director of Works, Central Division.

'Station was in nobody's control'

Q: You have attached a list of the property you lost and you assess their value at Rs. 29055. This includes your Fridge, Sewing machine, clothes etc? A: Yes.

Q: You said you have some further details to give? A: Yes.

"When I went to the Dambulla Police station on the 17th evening about 300 yards from my place, on the same road where my house is; and requested that I be given one armed policeman to guard my house. I wanted a uniformed policeman. I told them that a uniformed policeman was better than my watcher. They refused. The O.I.C. was on transfer orders. He was not there. Sgt. David was acting for the O.I.C. He was missing from about 2 to 9 o'clock. At 9 he appeared fully drunk. He could not raise his head. The station was in nobody's control. If he was steady he could have helped us.

Not more than 7 or 8 PCs

To Commissioner:

Sgt. David was fully drunk. That was on 17-8-77

Q: How many P.Cs were there?

A: Not more than 7 or 8.

A. S. P. dispersed the crowd

Q: What were they doing? A: They were telling us that 22 police officers had been killed at Jaffna and such things. One or two constables were trying to help us.

The O.I.C. who was the Sgt. at that time was missing. He returned at 9 fully drunk. The A. S. P. Mr. Liyanage from Matale came and tried to help us. He was very helpful. He dispersed the crowd.

To Mr. Bartlett:

Q: You are presently the Executive Engineer, Vavuniya- A: Yes.

Q: You secured your transfer after these disturbances? A: Yes.

Q: Because you could not work there after this trauma? A: Yes.

Q: You annex to A29 a list of 49 items which were smashed up. How much do you value them at?

A: At Rs. 29,055/-. In my annexure to A29 I have stated about my pain of mind.

ALSO AT DAMBULLA:

These two were among the refugees in Jaffna in August 1977. 6-months old baby Selvarajah and his sister, 11 year old Manoranjitham, who escaped by hiding in the jungle. Their brother was killed. When this picture was taken last August, there was no trace of their parents.

'I could hear the mob'

Q: When did you get your transfer?

A: In the latter part of October 1977. I have got all my payments due to me from Govt. I claim compensation. My wife was transferred from 1-11-77. She also has got all payments due from Government. She is in Jaffna and I am in Vavuniya.

To Mr. Shanmugalingam:

Q: Your house was close to the police Station — about 200 to 300 yards away?

A: Yes.

arters of the Works Supervisor, Mr. Sivasinnam and my quarters. The police had to give protection only to these two quarters. If they had sent one or two constables those two quarters



Q: Anybody in the police station could have heard the mob shouting?

A: I heard the police had come up to see my house without uniform and had returned. I could hear the mob from my house. I told the police that if one officer was sent my house could be saved.

Q: "Sangarapillai & Sons" were the first to be attacked? A: Yes.

Q: You saw the flames from that building going up? A: Yes.

"The only two premises that were left were the qu-

would have been protected. Further more, the police would have dispersed the crowd that attacked Sangarapillai & Bros. because, at that time, it was a small crowd

"Thereafter, the crowd increased. Thereafter my house was looted and so was my Works Supervisor's house. At Dambulla there was a Farm School and the school of Agriculture at Velvehara. A number of Tamil students were studying there. They had undergone lot of suffering.

(Continued next page)

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

— Santayana - American philosopher 1863-1952

'AFTER MR. RUDRA RAJASINGHAM LEFT, MR. ANA SENEVIRATNE CALLED A POLICE CONFERENCE'

(Continued from page 1 of previous issue)

'Sgt. Bandara told them "Priests including a number of Sinhalese civilians and police officers were attacked by Jaffna people and the injured had been despatched to Colombo by special vehicles and now the police officers, army and the navy are posted up to Vavuniya on the road and you must show your reaction while passing Anuradhapura".'

'What P. C. Bandara told them'

Q: What do you mean by 'reaction'?

A: The Sinhalese priests, civilians as well as the police had been injured and you must tell these things after you pass Anuradhapura.

Q: In other words, rumours must be sent across?

A: Yes.

Q: PC Bandara was also hospitalised after some shooting incident at Puttur?

A: Yes. He was in ward No. 17.

He signed bed ticket himself

Q: You were requested by the H. Q. I. to discharge him from hospital and bring him to the station?

A: I got the instructions on the 16th evening. That was a verbal order. I went to the hospital. P. C. Bandara signed the bed ticket on his own and he came and got into the jeep. Then I brought him to station.

Q: As you brought P. C. Bandara to the station, what happened?

A: On the 17th he was sent to Anuradhapura by car for treatment.

Mr. Bartlett: That is all from this witness, Sir.

Mr. G. P. S. de Silva:

This witness may be asked to come tomorrow, Sir.

Commissioner: Yes.

(Sittings adjourn for the day till 9-30 a.m on March 3, 1978).

MARCH 3, 1978

Ponniah Ramupillai, affirmed 43, years, PC 124, attached to Kopay police.

Questioned: by Mr. Bartlett.

Q: Yesterday you said that you were attached to the Jaffna police station in the month of August, 1977?

A: Yes, subsequently I was transferred in January, 1978.

During the disturbances, Mr. Rudra Rajasingham was appointed Co-ordinating Officer of this area. He was here for about a month. After Mr. Rudra Rajasingham left, the DIG of this range, Mr. Ana Seneviratne called a conference of police officers. I attended that conference.

D. I. G. spoke of Sivakumaran

Q: Could you tell this Commission what happened at the conference and what the DIG stated?

A: At one stage, he said "Tamil police officers are giving contributions to the T.U.L.F. party and Tamil leaders like Amirthalingam and others are misleading the youths". He said the youth, Sivakumaran was involved in a number of activities and he asked S. I. Nadarajah to tell what and what things Sivakumaran did. S. I. Nadarajah was present.

Q: He asked S. I. Nadarajah to tell the crowd what and what things he did?

A: Yes. Then he said, S. I. Nadarajah said, Sivakumaran was questioned for placing the bomb on Thuraiappah's car and the former Jaffna S. P. Mr. Chandrasekera and also the attempted robbery at the Kopay Bank.

Q: Reference was made to Sivakumaran at that conference and the DIG wanted SI Nadarajah to state Sivakumaran's activities in Jaffna? A: Yes.

Q: By that time, Sivakumaran was dead and gone? A: Yes.

'I thought D. I. G's allegation false

Q: When the DIG mentioned that Tamil officers made financial contribution to the TULF, what was your reaction?

A: I felt very odd. I never contributed to the party and I thought it was a false allegation against us. I thought that statement would bring a rift in the good relationship between the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

Q: In other words, the DIG brought politics into that conference? A: Yes.

Questioned by Mr. Underwood.

Q: You stated yesterday that the A. S. P. Noor Deen ordered the police officers to go to the armoury and remove the weapons? A: Yes.

Q: So, you went and took a special baton? A: Yes.

Q: When you go into the armoury and take weapon, of



Mr. Ana Seneviratne

(below)

topped statue of Sivakumaran



course, there is a procedure that has to be followed?

A: Yes, the name, the number of the officer, the number of the rifle, number of rounds of ammunitions and the date— all these particulars have to be entered.

'All rushed and took ammunition'

Q: Since you were there, did Mr. Noor Deen give any instructions in regard to the entries in the book?

A: He said 'throw all the bloody books. Issue all weapons available in the armoury,

As a result of that order, all people rushed and lifted the rifles. The ammunition was on the table. They lifted the ammunition and walked out.

Q: In that state of affairs, it will not be possible for anybody to record the name, number of the constable and link it up with the corresponding number of the rifle?

A: Yes;

Q: You also gave evidence in regard to what happened. That is an armed party of

P.C. RAMUPILLAI's EVIDENCE (Contd.)

constables armed with revolvers was taken by Mr. Noor Deen and in effect let loose on the ordinary citizens of Jaffna? A: Yes.

A few men were found in the Bazaar. They did not do anything. Police assaulted all those people. If one person was assaulted, all constables went and assaulted him.

Noor Deen was in Vehicle

Q: It was an unprovoked attack on the people of Jaffna? A: Yes.

Commissioner: Mr. Noor Deen was also waiting in this vehicle?

A: He was occupying the front seat and I was seated behind, Sir.

Questioned by Mr. G. P. S. de Silva.

Q: You referred to an incident on the night of the 17th? A: Yes.

Q: You said you were lying in the verandah? A: Yes

Inside Police premises

Q: Which verandah?

A: Inside the police premises, there is an old building; that was the former S. P.'s and A. S. P.'s office. I was at the verandah right opposite the laundry.

Q: What were you doing there?

A: I was about to sleep. We were given instructions not to go home. So, I was there.

Mr. de Silva: Q. Bandara was brought from hospital? A: Yes.

Q: What was wrong with him, did you observe?

A: He had a wound on the thigh but I cannot say whether left or right thigh.

Q: What kind of wound? A: A gun shot injury, an injury, caused by a firearm.

Witness: In today's issue of the "Eelanadu" it is reported as my having mentioned that Bandara got discharged on the 15th. I brought the patient from the hospital on the 16th.

Required Running Chart not there

Mr. Underwood: Your Honour remembers that we called the O. A. to produce the Running Chart for the Kachcheri Jeep and the corresponding Log Entries. I under-

stand that somebody has come from the G. A.'s Office with these documents. We asked for the entries particularly including the 16th and 17th August. They have sent the Running Chart in respect of Jeep 5 Sri 1346 for the period 22. 7. 77. to 15. 8. 77 and for the period 22. 8. 77 to 31. 8. 77 The Running Chart for the period 16. 8. 77 to 21. 8. 77 is not there. Then there is the other document, the Log Book maintained at the Kachcheri Watcher's Post.

'Write to the G. A. for document'

Commissioner: Have you got what you wanted?

Mr. Underwood: The Daily Running Sheet for the period 16. 8. 77 to 21. 8. 77 is not here.

Commissioner to Secretary: Write a letter to the G. A., saying that you want those documents for those dates.

Mr. Underwood: The Daily Running Sheet for this vehicle for the period 16. 8. 77 to 21. 8. 77 exists and it is not a question of preparing that. We wish to know what happened to these documents.

Secretary: If they have no such record we can get the G. A., to state that.

Commissioner They can write back to us that there is nothing recorded. (Sittings adjourned till 9.30 a.m., on 4. 3. 78).

DAMBULLA....

(Continued from page 1)

"I met a number of them at the police station. For two days some of the young boys and girls underwent great hardship. That morning at 3 a.m. with the police escort, we went in our jeep and car to Matale.

Q: You said, some of the police officers were reluctant because they believed that 23 police officers had been killed? A: Yes.

Q: It was because of the rumour that some of the police officers were unconcerned about the fate of the Tamils residing in Dambulla?

A: Yes.

'POLICE RADIO MESSAGE WAS DICTATED BY H. Q. I. JAFFNA'

NAGAMUTTU

KUMARASAMY:

Affirmed: 43 years, P.C.7034
Amparai Police.

To Mr. Bartlett:

Q: You were a police constable attached to the Jaffna police station at one time?

A: Yes. For two years.

Q: What was that period?

A: From January 1976 to December 1977.

Q: In August 1977 you were stationed in Jaffna as wireless Operator?

A: I was stationed as Radio Operator.

Q: How long have you been Radio Operator at Jaffna?

A: The Radio Officers work according to a roster each being in charge for a week.

'Radio message

about Naga Vihare'

Q: In August 1977 did you at any time send a radio message to Colombo to the effect that Naga Vihare, Jaffna was attacked and the attack spread to the Jaffna Railway Station?

A: Yes.

Q: What was the date of that message?

A: 17-8-77 at 11 a.m.

Q: The register containing that message is here today?

A: Yes. (Witness is asked to take that register)

Q: What is this register called?

A: It is the telephone register of the Jaffna police Station.

(This telephone register is marked X. 53)

(T. M. No. 1071 of 17-8-77 is marked X.53A)

Q: What is the message?

A: The message was "Today four C. T. B. buses set fire. Naga Vihare Jaffna is being attacked. Crowd collected at Railway Station Jaffna to attack incoming passengers. Situation serious."

Q: This was sent to the I.G.P. by the S. P. of Jaffna?

A: Yes.

'He came to my table and said....'

Q: Who instructed you to radio this message?

A: I was on duty and the H. Q. I. Mr. Godfrey Gunasekera instructed me to send this message. He came to my table and said "Coomarasamy write this down and transfer this to the radio room or transmit this." He dictated the message.

A.53A is in my own handwriting. It is pasted in the book.

Q: To whom did you pass this message?

A: I passed this message to the radio operator Mr. Jacob.

Q: After this message was transmitted, was a subsequent message sent to the I. G. P. Colombo, from Jaffna?

A: Yes. It reads, "Further to my message of just now please cancel this message. Further message will follow".

2nd message

at 11-15 a. m.

Q: At what time was this message?

A: The first message was at 11 a. m. and the other was at 11-15 a. m.

(Subsequent message is marked X.53B)

The second message is numbered 1072. The first message was transmitted at 11 a. m. and the subsequent message cancelling that message was transmitted at 11-15 a. m. The 2nd message was sent to me by Inspector Gurusamy. On his instructions I transmitted that.

To Commissioner:

Q: You took down that message in your hand writing?

A: The 2nd message was not taken down by me. It was taken down by the wireless operator.

Q: The person who takes down - does he sign it or was it anonymous?

A: (Counsel hands over the telephone message book to Commissioner who peruses same.)

Q: You do not know who took this down?

The wireless

'Out Register'

A: I do not know.

Q: You have nothing to do with the 2nd message?

A: I had nothing to do.

Q: How do you know that Gurusamy dictated this?

A: He was in charge of the radio room.

Q: The first message was dictated by the H.Q.I.?

A: Yes.

Q: The 2nd message was given by Gurusamy?

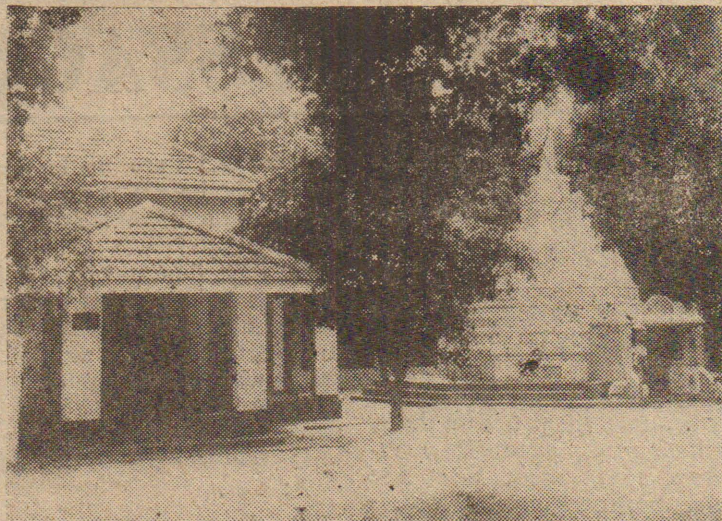
A: No. He had given instructions, but I do not know who took down

Q (Witness produces a book, What is this book called?

A: It is the wireless "Out Register". It is marked X.54

Q: What is the page on which you took down the message?

A: The times are entered. (Counsel moves to mark the entry 17. 8. 77)



Naga Vihare is being attacked, message said

Q: The police message pasted at X53A is in X54A?

A: Yes.

Q: The numbering of that in the Out Register is 223?

A: Yes.

Q: It is in the wireless book A: Yes.

(Counsel reads, "Today four C. T. B. buses set fire. Naga Vihare Jaffna is being attacked. Crowd collected at Railway Station Jaffna to attack incoming passengers. Situation serious".

Q: In whose handwriting is that?

A: In some officer's handwriting.

Q: Message 224 in X53A is pasted in identical terms?

Senior officer

must order

A: Yes. (X.54B and X54C) They are in the telephone register. The times are registered in X54A. The first message.

Q: Who is the radio officer?

A: Mr. Jacob.

Q: Mr. Jacob sent both messages? A: Yes.

Q: What is the procedure that you follow in regard to your duties as radio officer-how do you register it and transmit it?

A: Some senior officer must give the instructions. We cannot send messages on our own. An officer writes the message on a piece of paper and if we can send it by telephone we do so and if we cannot we pass it on to the radio room. There are certain writing pads and when a senior officer comes and gives instructions the officer at the telephone writes the message. When he is given instructions he writes down in the pad.

Q: You took down the message in the pad-the first message? A: Yes.

Q: The first message was dictated by the H.Q.I. Mr. Godfrey Gunasekera? A: Yes.

Q: You can speak to that message only? A: Yes.

Q: You are aware that 15 minutes later there was a counter message cancelling the first message? A: Yes.

Q: That is all you know? A: Yes.

Messages can be picked up

Q: Once this message is transmitted, I take it that it goes to all police stations in the island?

A: There are links and it is possible that the message can be picked up by other police stations.

Q: The purpose of sending it is to alert the police station?

A: It does not necessarily mean that.

Q: Any other police station can pick it up? A: Yes.

Q: All wireless operating stations are open at all times?

A: (No answer.)

(To Commissioner:

Q: If a message goes to the I.G.P., other stations can pick it up?

A: If it is an important message it is the duty of the I.G.P.'s office to see that it is not picked up by other police stations.)

If the message is sent to the I.G.P. and if he considers it important, he will tell so to the other police stations.

'Now I am aware it was false'

Q: On transmission, any radio wireless can pick it up? A: Yes.

Mr. Bartlett: Q: You have worded on this message that Naga Vihare was being attacked and four buses were burnt. Are you aware that it was a false message?

A: At that time I could not say that because I did

not go out of the Station. Today I am aware that Naga Vihare was not burnt.

Q: Now you are aware that no buses were burnt?

A: Now I am aware that the message was a false one.

Q: In fact within 16 minutes of this message being handed over it was cancelled? A: Yes.

Commissioner: Where is Mr. Godfrey Gunasekera now?

Mr. Shanmugalingam: He is the Officer-in-Charge of Peliyagoda Police station.

Commissioner: Are you calling him?

Mr. de Silva: In view of this evidence I will have to call him.

Mr. Bartlett: It is premature to call him now. He may be called when all the evidence unfolds the true position.

Q: Do you know that there is a departmental inquiry proceeding regarding this communication on that day because the message that was transmitted was a false message and that it had serious consequences?

'After 3 weeks an inquiry'

A: About three weeks after this message was sent I.G.P., ordered an inquiry. The inquiry commenced and I also gave evidence. I have made a statement about this.

Mr. Bartlett: If the inquiry is over then there will be the findings of that inquiry.

Commissioner: We make our own findings on the evidence before us:

Mr. Underwood: Q: You came on duty at what time?

A: At 6 a. m., on the 17th

Q: You were on duty on that time?

A: Till 2 p. m., on the same day.

'I was seated close to him'

Q: What was your designation? A: Radio Operator.

Q: What is the Radio Operator's function?

A: Normally only one radio station functions. During these days an additional radio was installed. The Radio Station was in charge of Gurusamy and I was also there.

Q: What were Gurusamy's duty hours? A: I am aware that it was from 6 a. m., to 2 p. m.

Q: You were seated together? A: I was seated close to him.

Q: All the time you were seated together? A: Yes.

Q: How did this message come there - did the Headquarters Inspector walk into the room and speak to you or to Gurusamy?

(Continued overleaf)

'FIRST MESSAGE SENT AT 11 A. M.: CANCELLING MESSAGE AT 11.15 A. M.: I.G.P. SENT A MESSAGE AT 11.20 A. M.'

(Continued from Page 3)

A: The Headquarters Inspector came and spoke to me.

Q: Gurusamy could have heard what he said? A: Yes

Q: Both the messages were sent by Jacob? A: Yes.

Q: He was the only wireless operator operating there at that time? A: Yes.

He went to the Control Room

Q: Gurusamy was there 16 minutes later?

A: Yes. Saying that the earlier message should be cancelled he walked into the Radio Room.

Q: He told whom that the earlier message should be cancelled?

A: He must have told Jacob.

Q: Gurusamy sits by your side and when he opens his mouth and says something you could hear what he says?

A: Yes.

Q: You heard him say what? A: He went to the Radio Control Room, then came back to my room and told me that he had given a message cancelling the earlier message.

'Gurusamy told me to hurry up'

Q: Gurusamy was by your side when the Headquarters Inspector asked you to send the message and Gurusamy did not utter a word?

A: In fact Gurusamy asked me to hurry up and radio it.

Q: When the Headquarters Inspector told you about this message Gurusamy asked you to hurry up and radio it. A: Yes.

Q: Gurusamy was seated by your side during the next 15 minutes? A: Yes

Q: During that period did anybody walk into the Radio Room?

A: No. I cannot remember.

Q: Suddenly Gurusamy got up, walked up to the Radio Room and told you that the earlier message was cancelled?

A: That is so.

Q: Were you aware of any messages coming from Colombo into Jaffna when you and Gurusamy were in your room? A: Yes.

Q: Where did these messages come? A: Those messages also came into the same room.

Q: In connection with the first message was any message sent from Colombo about Naga Vihare being attacked?

A: Not during the time I was there.

Q: Was any further message sent till you were there, till 2 p.m., about Naga Vihare, that apart from the two messages? A: No.

Q: Nothing reserved?

A: No.

Q: Did this message come from the I.G.P., to Jaffna - "232 Navy would guard Naga Deepa Temple. Please make arrangements to place guards to guard Naga Vihare". At what time did this message from the I.G.P. come on 17-8-77?

A: At 11-20 a.m. this message came from the I.G.P.

Guard Naga Vihare said message

Q: The first message was transmitted at 11-00 a.m. and the second message was transmitted at 11-15 a.m. At 11-20 a.m., you got a message from the I.G.P. asking you to make arrangements to guard Naga Vihare at Jaffna? A: Yes.

Q: The only reaction of the I.G.P. to these two messages were that he asked the S.P., to guard Naga Vihare and Naga Dipa. This was the result of the first message you sent because there is no other message?

A: That is so.

Mr. Underwood: I mark the message from the I.G.P. to S.P., Jaffna as "X53" and "X63C" This entry is in this book called Telephone Register.

Commissioner's direction

Mr. Underwood: We have information that there were certain other messages sent.

Q: When were you at work earlier on the 17th?

A: That week, according to the roster - I cannot give the dates - starting from Sunday to Saturday I was on duty during those times.

Commissioner: He can come here tomorrow and in the mean time you can examine the books. Come tomorrow at 9-20.

NAGAMUTTU KUMARASAMY: Recalled and affirmed.

Mr. Underwood: Q: The entries in the telephone

register X53 are made immediately before the messages are sent? A: Yes.

Q: The first message is marked X53B. This entry was made at 11.05 and the transmission was at 11.15. So, it was almost immediate?

A: Yes.

Q: Gurusamy was there? A: Yes.

Q: For the next 15 minutes was he seated there? A: No. He went out and came. After the first message was passed Gurusamy went out.



The Secretariat, Jaffna

Q: When the Headquarters Inspector met you and asked you to send the message about the attack on Naga Vihare Gurusamy was there with you? A: Yes.

Q: How long after that did he go out?

A: I left to the Radio Room with the message and when I came back he was there. Soon after that he went out.

Q: Then there is the entry of a message that has come from the I.G.P., to the S.P., Jaffna - No.1 of 47 marked X.53C - is this entry in your handwriting? A: No. That is in E.P.O's handwriting.

Q: There is another entry No. 232 in 54? A: Yes.

Mr. Underwood: There is reference given there in "X53C" of No. 232 but there is no reference in X.54.

To Mr. Underwood:

(Refers to the Wireless Telegraph In Book. That is not X.53. There will be a corresponding entry in the W.T. Inward and an entry in the Outward. X.53 deals

with the Out Book. There is a message in the In Book also. The particulars already given are from X.53).

The time in X. 53C as pasted by the Wireless Operator, gives the time as 11.20. (Shown entry No. 9214 in the W. T. Out Book of 16.8.77. The marking of the book is X.54 at 2225 hours.)

Q: You made this entry?

A: This is from the S.P. Jaffna to the D.I.G. It is not in my handwriting.

In this connection evidence has been given by O.I.C. Mr. Thamothearam on 11.2.78 and at page 123 he refers to this incident. At Pannai there are the family quarters of the police. There was a Reserve P.C. at Manipay. To go there one has to go through Otumadam.

(Mr. Thamothearam referred to this matter. Counsel reads from page 123.)

(When Alwis was in hospital here is a message sent to give the impression that the policemen injured were not treated. Evidence would be called to show that there was no necessity to rush them to Colombo.)

Cancellation of first message

Q: In X53, this was the message you stated that you transmitted to the IGP? A: Yes.

Q: You wrote it and gave it to the radio room? A: Yes.

Q: Subsequently, the message X53B had been marked and you did not transmit that message A: Yes.

Q: That is also addressed to the IGP from the S.P.? A: Yes.

Q: That message says "Further to my message of just now, please cancel this message. Further message will follow".

Q: Was a further message sent after X53B was transmitted? A: I don't know.

Q: Is there in this register a further message as set out in X53B? A: I don't know.

Q: The register does not show that a further message had been sent on that day? A: No.

Q: Although the text of X53B says 'further message will follow', no message was sent? A: Yes.

Q: X53B does not say that X53 is false message? It only says cancel this message? A: Yes.

Messages are examined daily

Questioned by Mr. R. Balasubramaniam.

Q: Every day, the register that you produced here containing the message are examined by the S.P. or the A.S.P.?

A: The HQI, ASP and the SP.

(Continued overleaf)

"The entry also reads:

"The rear glass and the windscreen damaged and there are pellet marks on the sides of the jeep. The two rifles carried by the two officers are also damaged due to pellets striking the weapons. The men have to be necessarily removed to Colombo due to the situation here I request that an air craft be sent immediately, to transfer them to Colombo"

Q: This is a message entered in the book? A: Yes.

'U. S. BASED DOCTOR ATTACKED AND ROBBED AT ANURADHAPURA'

TERRENCE FRANCIS WIJERATNAM BALARATNAM, Sworn, 51 years.

Clerk, Hospital Clerical Service, Jaffna Hospital.

Examined by Mr. G. P. S. de Silva.

"In August last year I was attached to the office of the Medical Superintendent, Anuradhapura. On the 17th August 1977, I along with other officers attached to the Medical Superintendent's Office were directed to remain in the general office of the Medical Superintendent. There were ten of us at the beginning. That was at about 9 a.m. on the 17th August. I remained there right up to 10 p.m.

Car driver was bleeding

Q: Around 8 a.m. what happened?

A: An incident took place before 8 a.m. We went to office at 8 a.m. Around 9-30 a.m. I saw Dr. Navabalachandran who was working in the United States with his family coming up the stairs to the Medical Superintendent's office with a tale of woe. His car driver had bleeding injuries on his face.

"When I asked him what had happened, he said that he was travelling from Trincomalee along with another clerk Vamadevan to catch the Yarl Devi to go to Jaffna. He was coming to the Anuradhapura railway station.

Wife relieved of the 'Thali'

"Near the railway gate, near the railway station, they were attacked by a mob and they were relieved of their belongings including his suitcase which contained his passport and travel documents. He told me that his wife was relieved of the 'Thali' and he requested me to arrange transport to go to the police station to make an entry so that he will recover his travel documents.

"When he was speaking to me, Dr. Ganeswaran, the Psychiatrist came in and he said that he knew this couple. He said he will make arrangements for this family to be looked after by him. Thereafter, I had not seen Dr. Navabalachandran when he was there, but I heard from Dr. Ganeswaran that he was taken by him to his bungalow for safety.

P. H. Albert was phoning Colombo

"As we continued to stay there, one of my brother officers Mr. P. H. Albert, who was also a clerk working with me, also reported for work in the morning at 8 o'clock. He was seen suddenly in conversation over the telephone in the office with somebody. He said over the phone, "Communal trouble had started in Anuradhapura. What about Colombo". By this time he had come to know that there was trouble in the town.

"I scolded Mr. Albert for inciting the people when we were all trying to take shelter in the hospital. Immediately he put the receiver down and he walked out of the office.

He went away and came again

"Again, after sometime Mr. Albert came back to the office, with looted articles in his hand. He had a ball of twine and he was telling that the shops in the town had been looted and he also had got a part of the loot and he was playing with a ball of twine in his hand.

"He went away again out of the office. We don't know where he went.

"By 11 a.m. Mr. Albert came again. He said there was plenty of trouble in the town and he asked all the Tamil clerks in the office not to go down to the ground floor and he also wanted us not to leave the premises. He asked us to get down the lunch from the canteen and not to go down.

"We were all in mental fear and we got down lunch from the hospital canteen. By 12-30 p.m. that same day, I noticed the Laboratory Assistants of the hospital who were working in their lab — that is a separate office — coming into our general office. They are Tamil officers.

'Not even a pillow to sleep on'

"Then at 4 p.m. Mr. Albert came to our office and said "Don't go down. Almost all the boarding houses had been looted and nothing left. Not even a pillow to go and sleep" and he advised to sleep in the office. He said he himself will sleep in the office.

"When, I questioned him as to how he knew that my boarding house had been looted "You are in and out of us. How did you get that information that my room had been looted" he had no answer for that and walked out of the office.

S. H. S. Office going to be attacked

"Around 4-30 p.m. he came into the office once again and he took the office telephone, phoned up the SHS office which was just across the road and he spoke to one Nanayakara who was acting for the Chief Clerk on that day.

"I heard Mr. Albert speaking to Mr. Nanayakara: "SHS office is going to be attacked. Bring all your Tamil officers and put them in the hospital with the hospital clerks" We were rather

nervous because from this conversation we knew that danger was imminent.

"By about 6 p.m. Mr. Albert came again to the office and he said "All of you stay in the room switching out the light and be in darkness".

"To this I told Mr. Albert, "It is useless to stay in darkness. This light from the office cannot be seen from the road. There is a wall outside our office and reflection cannot be seen to the road. Therefore, there is no point in switching off the light. Everyone working in the hospital, during day and night knew that we are taking shelter in the office."

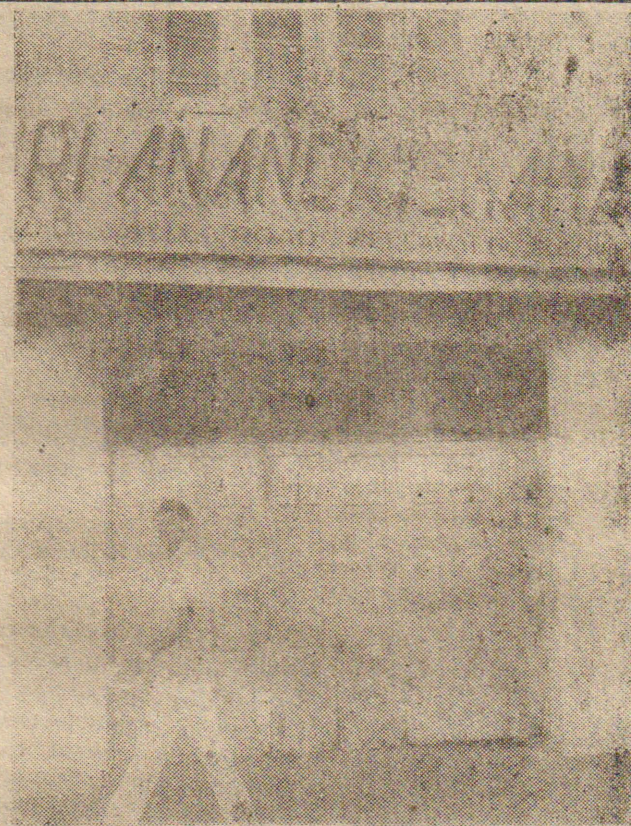
"Then he had no answer to that and he walked out of the office. A little later he came back to office and said 'Balaratnam, this is not communal trouble - he said, this is looting'

Mr. Shanmugalingam: May I say Sir, this. There is a murder case pending.

Witness: I have not been told that there is a case.

Mr. Bartlett: Sir, I am relying on his evidence. Mrs. Sivasambu said that her husband died. She is claiming compensation. I wish to have his evidence in camera.

Commissioner: Yes, we will hear his evidence in camera after the interval.



"Mr. Albert said: Communal trouble has started in Anuradhapura. What about Colombo? Above is a picture of a Tamil vegetarian eating place in Colombo taken in August 1977.

VISVAMADU RESIDENT COMPLAINS

Sinniah Kandiah, 43 years, residing at Visvamadu.

Examined by Mr. G. P. S. de Silva.

"I am residing in the Mullaitivu Electorate. In pursuance of a notice published in the papers by this Commission, I sent a written

representation dated December, 1977 marked A16. I have stated in this petition that my house was set on fire on the 19th August, 1977. I have also stated that my business premises were attacked and things looted. I have estimated my total loss at Rs. 11,550/-. That was my mini-

mum loss. I have mentioned only the value of jewellery and cash. My house had been completely burnt. I cannot estimate the value of the house. That house was not mine.

No questions by Counsel.

They were authorised messages: P. C. KUMARASAMY

(Continued from page 4)

Q: So, all three have gone through all these messages every day? A: Yes.

Q: If a message is sent, it is signed and sent? A: Yes.

Q: If it is dictated, you write it and send that message? A: Yes.

Q: In the evening or the following morning, the S. P. and the ASP both go through the messages? A: Yes.

Q: If a message had been sent without authority, then you would have been questioned? A: Yes.

Q: In this case, no such thing had taken place? A: Yes.

Q: So, it is accepted that message was sent with authority? Yes.

Q: They were authorised messages? A: Yes.

Mr. Underwood: Sir, I believe, once these documents

are marked, they are in the custody of this Commission?

Secretary: Yes, they are in our custody.

Questioned by Mr. G.P.S. de Silva:

Q. (Shown X53A) You referred to HQ I Mr. Gunasekera in relation to X53A? A: Yes.

At that time I was in the radio control room. I was on duty. He came and asked me to write this message. He

dictated to me the message that is contained in X53A. I wrote it down.

Commissioner: Q. As going from the S. P.

A. The normal procedure is that all messages are sent through the S. P. to the IGP. Questioning, Ctd. by Mr. G. P. S. de Silva. [X53A was dictated to me and I wrote it down.

Q: At that stage, you also said that SI Gurusamy was

present? A: Yes.

Q: SI Gurusamy, I believe, was just in front of you at the same table? A: Yes.

Q: Was SI Gurusamy the officer-in-charge of the control room? A: Yes, on that day.

Q: He was a Sub-Inspector at that time? A: Yes.

Was there only one officer by the name of SI Gurusamy? A: Yes.

PSYCHIATRIST TESTIFIES: 'S. P. WALTER LIYANAGE SAID FALSE STORIES TO DR. WIJEWARDENE'

DR. THIRUNAWUKARASU GANESHWARAN: Affirmed: 37 years: presently attached to General Hospital: Jaffna. (March 3, 1978)

Q: In August last year you were a Psychiatrist attached to the Govt. Hospital Anuradhapura? A: Yes.

Q: You have by a letter dated 28.12.77 addressed to this Commission indicated your desire to give evidence before this commission? A: Yes.

Q: It is marked A. 28? A: Yes.

Q: You have with you an affidavit which you desire to read to this Commission? A: Yes.

(The Affidavit is marked A. 28A)

(Witness reads A. 28A)

Questioned by Mr. Bartlett

My wife is a doctor. She is a Medical officer at the Out Patients Department.

Q: In paragraph 7 of your affidavit, you referred to S.P. Anuradhapura Mr. Liyanage having come with a long story and related the story to Dr. Wijewardena in whose house you were staying that night? A: Yes.

Many believed what he said

Q: This story of S.P. Liyanage would have created an alarm among those present here?

A: Most of the people believed what he said.

Q: And it was an alarming story to hear under that kind of condition? A: Yes.

Q: In fact, he carried rumour to that place?

A: Yes.

Q: It would now appear that all his story is false? A: Yes.

Commissioner: Why did he come here?

Mr. G. P. S. de Silva: It appears that when there was trouble here, he was summoned.

Mr. Shanmugalingam: Mr. Ana Seneviratne, D.I.G., came to Anuradhapura, picked him up in his helicopter and both of them came to Jaffna, Sir.

Q: You would now know that all these stories that he related to Dr. Wijewardena are utterly false and they created tension and trouble to the Tamils living in that area? A: Yes.

Q: In that affidavit, you have stated "This frog in the well does not know what will happen when the campus boys return to the south"? A: Yes.

Q: I take it, these are the very words he uttered on that occasion? A: Yes.

Q: In other words, he anticipated the University students to bring rumours to Anuradhapura? A: Yes.

Q: They had not arrived at that time? A: No.

Q: You confirm that those words were uttered by the S. P. on that day? A: Yes.

Q: And you want that affidavit be considered as evidence and testimony in these proceedings? A: Yes.

Q: Every item of it?

A: Yes.

Q: He also made specific reference that the Sinhalese and Muslim shops in Jaffna were looted?

A: Yes.

Q: And the new market destroyed? A: Yes.

'It could have alarmed Dr. W.'

Q: This statement could have alarmed even Dr. Wijewardena and this story would have been spread to the other Sinhalese residents of the area? A: Yes.

Q: Coming to the other parts of your affidavit, you state that there has been callous disregard by the authorities in regard to the trauma you underwent and no payments have been made to you up to date? A: Yes.

Q: You ask the Commission to go into this matter and see that immediate relief is given to you and also your salaries paid to you?

'Not involved in politics'

A: Yes.

'As a public servant serving in this area- I never involved myself in politics. I never identified with any political party. I am a specialist and I was confined to my official duties. Police officers holding high positions, even the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Liyanage, who himself is a responsible public servant, did not care to protect public servants like myself. I have stated that the best form of relief I could have is to permit me to retire from service with compensation for loss of career.'

Association was formed

Questioned by Mr. Underwood:

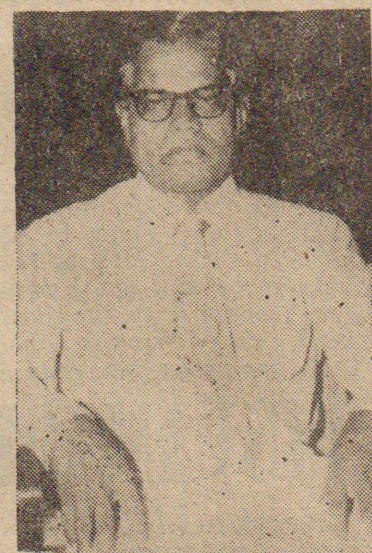
I arrived in the early hours of the 19th, at about 2 o'clock. Since then, I am staying here.

Q: Soon after you arrived, in the months of August and September, you found collected a group of Government servants, several thousands who had gone through this experience, some of them are more severe than yours and are still suffering the nerve-breaking experiences of their period. To your credit and a few others like Dr. Balasingam, Mr. Arumugam, and Mr. Shanmugasamy, you got together and decided to provide some sort of leadership to about 2,500 to 3,000 public servants to look into the immediate difficulties facing them and you formed yourselves into an association known as the Association of Affected Tamil Officers?

MR. ANA SENEVIRATNE PICKED HIM BY HELICOPTER & CAME TO JAFFNA, SAYS COUNSEL

A: Yes.

'I took a leading part in the formation of this Association with Dr. Balasingam as President and we met almost daily at No. 448, Navalar Road, which was our office at Dr. Balasingam's premises.'



DR. BALASINGAM

Q: And had representations made to you from large numbers daily about what to do when many of them were even without their clothes, with their salaries uncertain or suspended, without any income and so on. A: Yes.

Q: You met regularly?

A: Yes.

The General meetings were held at Trimmer Hall. The Committee meetings were held at No. 448, Navalar Road. We issued two bulletins.

(Bulletin No. 1 dated 16th Sept. 1977 is marked Y1)

'This was sent out for the information of our members, the various resolutions. This also refers to certain correspondence that passed between our Association and several

institutions and personalities ranging from the Prime Minister downwards. It also includes our letter addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister through the Co-ordinating Officer, Jaffna and signed by Dr. Balasingam, as President. I mark the letter to the Prime Minister dated 5th September, 1977 as X1A. I participated in this resolution. (X1A read by Counsel)

Q: Do you know whether any legal action has been taken against any of these culprits?

A: I am not aware.

Q: You have been asked to repair the house of somebody else? A: Yes.

The owner of the house is a very senior Government servant. He is one Wijewarnasooriya. I have two children. One is school going. (The Prime Minister's acknowledgement is marked Y1B)

A difference in treatment

Q: You have also included in this Bulletin a written letter addressed by Dr. Balasingam to the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Amirthalingam on the subject of differential treatment of refugees? A: Yes.

Q: This letter is dated 6th September, 1977?

A: Yes.

(Marked Y1C)

'At this time, I was not working, but I was in touch with my colleagues, my brother-officers and we noticed that there was a certain difference in treatment and we decided to bring this to the notice, both to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.'

'I am one of the Senior Psychiatrists in the Island. It is impracticable to post me to a station that is junior to my grade as I am eligible to one of the more senior stations, for example, Colombo. Therefore, it could not be found in the North and East: Therefore, my only solution is to retire. I am senior enough to work in Colombo. My problem will not be solved by appointing me to Batticaloa.'

Mr. Underwood continues reading the bulletin.

Q: The position you have taken up here is that you

have no objection to the Sinhalese officers being given any advantage? A: Yes.

Q: All that you wanted was that similar benefits should be made available to the Tamil Officers as well?

A: Yes.

Q: You have also stated that instead of conferring the benefits on the Tamil Officers the Government withdrew the benefits given to the Sinhalese? A: Yes.

Q: I think 12th September 1977 was the first deadline given for the Government

Servants to return to their posts and your association made urgent appeals and the deadline was extended to 19th September? A: Yes.

Q: However the deadline was put off for 31st October on representations made?

A: Yes.

Q: You had to wage an incessant campaign to move the Leader of the Opposition and the Government Ministers to get your transfer?

A: I have not been given my salary. The M. S., was not informed of my transfer and he refused to pay my salary.

Q: You are not doing any work here?

'I worked at the Base Hospital'

A: No. When I came to Jaffna until 12th September I worked at the Base Hospital, Kankesanthurai. Then there was a circular and this was stopped.

Q: After 12th September you were at home? A: Yes.

Q: How many times did you go to the Head Office for your pay?

A: I have written several letters. The pay is given by the S. H. S. Anuradhapura. I have sent a registered letter to the D. H. S.

Q: You wanted the benefits granted to the Sinhalese Officers to be extended to the Tamil Officers as well and not to the withdrawal of those benefits? A: Yes.

(Continued next page)

'DR. WIJEWARDENE WAS VERY HELPFUL TO TAMIL DOCTORS & OFFICERS IN THE MEDICAL DEPT.'

(Continued from page 6)

Q: On the question of the Tamil Officers getting back to work you have indicated at page 6 an incident at the Jaffna Railway Station which happened on 12th September, when the Naval Personnel, who were to protect the Tamil Officers who were travelling by train, started assaulting them? A: Yes.

Q: Apparently the Tamil Officers were anxious to resume work but they could not do so? A: Yes.

Q: You and your association from the beginning campaigned for the early appointment of a Commission? A: Yes.

(Counsel continues reading page 6 of the bulletin.)

'We asked for a Commission'

Q: In every case the looter disappeared and the Police found it difficult to catch them. You urged that the Commission should be appointed early? A: Yes.

Mr. Underwood: I mark this portion with regard to the appointment of a Commission mentioned at page 6 of the bulletin as "Y1D". That is paragraph 4.

Q: In desperation some officers wanted to go and you have referred to the treatment meted out to them in paragraph 5 at page 7 of your bulletin? A: Yes.

More refugees pouring in

Q: While this was going on you were holding your meetings and more and more refugees were pouring in by ship, train and plane? A: Yes.

Q: This does not indicate the return of normalcy? A: Yes.

Mr. Underwood: I mark the Press Statement issued by Mr. Balasingham dated 15.9.77 referred to at page as "Y1E".

Q: In respect of the call to return to work on the 19th September, was there a threat? A: They asked the officers to apply for leave and that was left to the discretion of the authorities to refuse or not.

Q: You expected a little more understanding by the Government of your difficulties? A: Yes.

Q: You ended up by saying, "It is against the background of this tragedy on a national scale that we the officers

should pick up again the threads of normal life" because you were anxious to resume work provided the situation was made tolerable? A: Yes.

Mr. Underwood: In this connection might I say that both Dr. Balasingham and Dr. Shanmugasamy will give their evidence at the appropriate stage.

Q: You referred to a number of other matters in the bulletin No. 2 which is dated 26.9.77 and which is marked "Y2"? A: Yes.

Q: You referred to a meeting attended by 3000 on 17th A: Yes.

(Counsel reads paragraph 3 of the bulletin.)

Commissioner: Is it necessary to read all these?

Mr. Underwood: I am reading only one or two paragraphs.

Q: You are referring to the fact that by this time a Presidential Commission had been appointed? A: Yes.

Q: You understood that certain things would be done? A: Yes.

Q: The appointment of a Presidential Commission was one of the things that you wanted and it was appointed but a number of other things had to be done? A: Yes.

Interview with the minister

Mr. Underwood: Dr. Balasingham will relate what was happening between the Government and the affected officers.

Witness: I went to Colombo and interviewed the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister. The Leader of the Opposition interviewed the Minister on our behalf. The S. H. S., agreed with the Leader of the Opposition to grant me compensation. Now I have been transferred to Jaffna from 10th January.

Mr. Shanmugalingam: Q: You have referred to Mr. Liyanage telling you certain things with regard to what was happening in the General Hospital, Jaffna? A: Yes.

Doctors refused to treat, he said

Q: He told you and the others present there that the Police Officers who were wanted and admitted in Jaffna Hospital were not being treated and therefore he had air lifted them to Anuradhapura? A: Yes.

Q: You found that it was false to say that the Doctors in the Jaffna Hospital had refused to treat any Police Officer? A: Yes.

Q: With regard to that matter what Mr. Liyanage said in Anuradhapura was false? A: Yes.

Q: You said that a Public Health Nurse informed you about the looting of your house? A: Yes.

Q: No sooner you passed your M. B. B. S. you went abroad? A: Yes.

Q: After you got your training you were happy to come to Ceylon? A: Yes.

Q: You were happy to serve your Country? A: Yes.

Q: Now you want to retire and want to go abroad? A: Yes.

Q: Dr. Wijewardene also suffered certain losses as a result of trying to assist Tamil personnel - doctors and others affected by violence?

A: Yes. I heard he was unable to work at Anuradhapura because he helped us.

Q: Did you hear that some of his belongings got lost?

'The Leader of the Opposition interviewed the Minister on our behalf'



Q: After you came to Jaffna you have not gone back to Anuradhapura?

A: Yes.

Public Health Nurse's letter

Mr. Shanmugalingam: I have a letter from the Public Health Nurse, might I produce it?

Commissioner: Produce it.

Q: You produce the letter dated 31.8.77 written by Mrs. Piyadasa, a Public Health Nurse attached to the M. O. H's Office at Anuradhapura marked "X.55"? A: Yes.

Q: In this letter "X55" she has informed you that your house had been looted?

A: Yes.

Q: You also produce marked "X56" a letter dated 18.2.78 written by Wijewarnasooriya, Chief Agricultural Officer, Anuradhapura. He informed you about the damage to the house and things and amount he has spent? A: Yes.

Q: You went abroad and got yourself trained?

A: Yes.

'Serve in Jaffna or go abroad'

Q: Are you happy over it? A: The only thing is to serve in Jaffna or go abroad.

Q: With regard to the Medical Supt. Dr. Wijewardene, would it be correct to say that he was extremely helpful to the Tamil Doctors and officers in the medical department?

A: Yes. He did a very good job in helping us. He is now at the Eye Hospital.

A: I did not hear of any loss. He was unable to work at Anuradhapura.

To Mr. Balasubramaniam:

Q: At page 3 para 7 of your affidavit you have said, (Reads para 7)? A: Yes.

Q: He said this after coming to Anuradhapura from Jaffna (Reads from Affidavit)? A: Yes.

Q: By "Frog in the well" whom did he mean?

A: The Leader of the Opposition Mr. Amirthalingam.



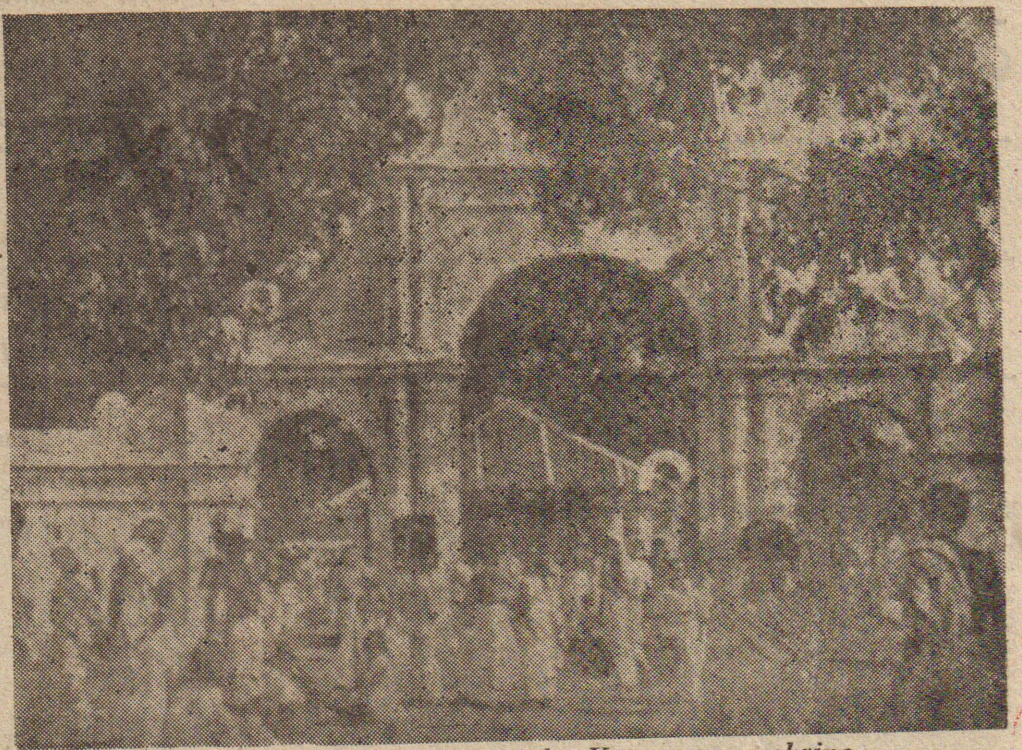
Sri Sivasubramania Swamy Temple, Ukkuwela, one of the several Hindu temples alleged to have been damaged and desecrated during Aug. '77

"Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right"

— Rudyard Kipling

The Sansoni Commission Evidence

The Story of the Sri Lanka Race Riots 1977



The entrance to the Kataragama shrine

People ran out and they saw

2 constables & Grama Sevaka

'KATARAGAMA PILGRIMS' REST WAS SET ON FIRE ON AUG. 22'

Mr. R. Balasubramaniam calls:

PONNAMPALA SWAMI
AYATHURAI SWAMI:
affirmed, 56 years, Now residing at Vavuniya. (4. 3. 78)

I am the owner and proprietor of the Ponnampalam 'Madam' at the old Kathiramalai junction at Kataragama. That madam is a pilgrims rest. The pilgrims come to the madam, have their meals and rest there. This madam was founded by my father in the year 1922, that was the year I was born.

The main purpose of the pilgrims rest was to provide shelter and other facilities to thousands of pilgrims who attend the annual festival, the Murugan's festival, at Kataragama.

'Dutugemunu was a worshipper'

Kataragama is a historic temple. It was founded at the time of King Sangili Euen the King Dutagaimunu was a regular worshipper of this temple, according to legend.

During the annual festival in July, about fifty thousand pilgrims patronise in my Madam. They come and reside in the madam, have their meals and go to the temple and worship. The Madam was not exclusively meant to the Hindus. Followers of the various religions come to my Madam. Even visitors from the United States of America are welcome there.

Q: Can you mention any leading men who come and patronise this madam?

Basnayake Nilame used to come'

A: The Basnayake Nilame used to come and reside there. He comes there, because he

likes my meals. He was the former M. P. for Bibile. Lord Soulbury's son comes to the Madam very frequently. There is a German Swami. He also comes to the madam.

Q: This madam was originally situated on the southern Bank of the Menik Ganga?

A: Originally, it was situated on the southern bank of the river. When the Government declared it a sacred area, the new madam was built in front of the bus stand that is called the Kathiramalai junction.

When the Government declared Kataragama a sacred area, all the madams on the northern side were demolished. As my madam was on the southern bank of the river, I was not covered by that order. In fact, even the former Minister of Lands, Mr. Kobbekaduwa had personally requested the officials of the area not to remove my madam.

'Demolished against orders'

And when they started to demolish the madams on the northern side, what happened to your madam?

A: That was also demolished. That was the last to be demolished.

That was done contrary to the orders of the Government. Therefore, I had to take up that matter in the Supreme Court. That matter is in appeal before the Supreme Court. I was given an alternate site. That is the present site.

'In the present site, I got a plan approved and put up a temporary structure at a cost of Rs. 8,000/-. After the construction of the madam. I bought utensils, brass ware, aluminium ware to the value of Rs. 25,000/-. In one vessel alone I can cook rice for about 500 to 600 people.

'This madam had a shop. First they set fire to the shop and later they set fire to the madam. This happened at 1 a.m. on the 22nd of August, 1977. The shop and the madam had been completely burnt. Police came and saved a portion of the utensils. The rest, some of them were burnt and the others were looted.

'At the time of this incident, the Manager, Kanakapillai and the watcher's wife were present. When the shop

and the madam were on fire, the people who were inside the building; ran out. Then they saw two constables and the Grama Sevaka standing out at the gate. That is all they know. They only saw two constables and the Grama Sevaka at the gate. They could not say who did it. I had cows and goats. One goat was burnt and the other animals escaped.

Q: What is your estimate of the loss of your utensils?

A: About Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000/-.

'I also had books on Hindu literature and other documents. All those books got burnt. Those books cannot be obtained anywhere. I estimate the damage to the madam at Rs. 8,000/- as it was a temporary structure. I estimate damage to the shop at Rs. 3,000/-.

I am requesting this Commission to pay me a sum of Rs. 26,000/- so that I can re-establish the Madam.

'POLICE ROBBED HIS GUN, THILAGAR COMPLAINED': I. P.

PONNAMBALAM RAMANATHAN: Affirmed: 42 years: Insp. of Police: Jaffna: (4-3-78)

Q: You are an Inspector of Police attached to the Jaffna Police? A: Yes.

Q: When did you come to Jaffna?

A: On 5.11.77?

Q: Prior to that where were you?

A: I was the O. I. C. Slave Island Police.

Q: How many years of service have you put in?

A: 23 years.

Q: Somewhere in December 1977 witness Thilagar came to the police station?

A: On about 26.12.77 I was in the office and I was summoned by A. S. P. and Thilagar was there and he wanted me to record his statement.

Complaint made, on Dec. 26

Q: The complaint was to the effect that the police robbed his gun from his house? A: Yes.

Q: The gun was a .22 gun and prior to his complaint this gun had been produced in Court in inquest proceedings in regard to the August incidents?

A: Yes. The inquest proceedings are still pending.

Q: That gun was produced in Court and Thilagar has identified it as his gun?

A: Yes. I did not produce it before this Commission but I was present when it was produced. It was sent by the A. S. P. and it was produced here. Thilagar produced the licence for this gun here. He produced that licence when I recorded his statement at the police station.

To Mr. de Silva, D/Solicitor General:

I examined the rifle and the licence and they referred to one another.)

To other counsel: Nil.

next week

- * Chettikulam S. M's widow testifies
- * 'Saw it all from Power House'
- * C. T. B. Security Officer's evidence