



ஈழ மக்கள் புரட்சிகர விடுதலை முன்னணி. EELAM PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY LIBERATION FRONT

THE RECENT OPERATION OF THE PLA.

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR BELOVED PEOPLE OF EELAM AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS WITHIN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

On Thursday, the 10th of May, the Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) took into custody an American "expert" attached to the Water Supply Project in Jaffna, financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development. His wife who was with him at their residence was also taken into custody. The PLA then issued a message to the Sri Lankan government, claiming the American couple as hostages and demanding the immediate release of political prisoners and a ransom of \$5 million in gold. A deadline of 72 hours was set and the Tamil Nadu was nominated as the contact point through which the exchanges would be effected.

On the following day, the Eelam Peoples' Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) in a Press Release issued from Eelam Peoples' Information Centre in Madras, confirmed the operation of its military wing, the PLA, and highlighted the following:

- (1) Evidence collected by the Intelligence wing of the EPRLF on the American couple, who were kept under surveillance over a period of time, confirmed that the American couple were CIA operators;
- (2) The role played by the U.S. in financing the operations of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces against the Tamil Speaking People and the Freedom Fighters, in addition to the training and equipping of the Sinhala youth militias;
- (3) The gathering of intelligence by the CIA through project financing by the U.S. Agency for International Development and other "developmental" projects;
- (4) Evidence of a plan by the Sri Lankan Government to stage another Welikade style prison massacre.

The Press Release, further, issued a stern warning that although the American couple were being treated well, the CIA operators would

தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

be promptly executed, if the civilian population in Jaffna were attacked.

On the 14th of May, following appeals made by the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds and on the statement of the Prime Minister of India that "the Government of Sri Lanka has expressed its readiness" to have talks on the demands of the PLA, the Central Committee of the EPRLF took the following decisions:

- (i) To issue a directive to the PLA to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds and on the grounds that the objective, to internationalize the role of the U.S. in supporting the Sri Lankan Government's reign of terror in Eelam and the brutalities meted out to the political prisoners, had been achieved;
- (ii) To appeal to the Prime Minister of India to demand from the Sri Lankan Government the immediate release of all political prisoners, languishing in the torture chambers of the Sri Lankan prisons and army camps, and compensation to the families of those killed in the genocide of July '83.

Accordingly, the Secretary-General of EPRLF, on behalf of the Central Committee, issued a directive to the PLA cadres involved in the operation to release the hostages. On the 15th of May, the hostages were released and handed over to the Bishop of Jaffna. On the 16th of May the appeal was issued to the Prime Minister of India.

Given the nature of the operation, which deviates from the type that have been carried out in the past, it is not surprising that there should emerge varying responses from our beloved people of Eelam and organizations within the Liberation movement. We do not wish to boast about the praise and support that this operation has earned the EPRLF and its military wing, the PLA, from amongst the Eelam masses and fraternal progressive movements in the international arena. However, we feel obliged to respond to certain confused criticisms that have been levelled against the operation. Firstly, it has been

pointed out that the Tamil Speaking People are bound by traditional values and culture which is alien to violence; and that the operation was a show of ingratitude, since the U.S. was helping the Tamil people through the U.S. AID water supply project. Secondly, it has been argued that the demand that political prisoners and the ransom be handed over to the Tamil Nadu Government had embarrassed the Indian Government and had complicated the talks between the U.S. Vice-President Bush and the Indian Government on the Tamil issue.

The EPRLF firmly believes that our beloved People of Eelam are, indeed, peace-loving. They have now taken a firm and resolute stand that if liberation cannot be obtained by the force of reasoning, then the only other option available is the force of arms. We, therefore, categorically reject the position of the reactionaries who bastardize the real essence of "culture" and use it to prevent the oppressed Eelam people from exercising the fundamental right to struggle against oppression. As Amilcar Cabral has said, it is the "cultural resistance" of a people that takes on new forms (Political, Economic, Armed) in order fully to contest foreign domination.

As regards the role of the U.S., the EPRLF has consistently taken the position that our struggle for national liberation is inseparably linked to the anti-Imperialist struggles and progressive movements all over the world. The geopolitics of the Sub-continent with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka acting as the puppets of U.S. Imperialism and their active support for the suppression of the struggles of our beloved people and the direct role played by Zionism and the western allies of U.S. Imperialism in arming and training the Sri Lankan Fascist regime further highlights the necessity to expose and counter the designs of Imperialism and Zionism. The People of Eelam are now fully aware of massive support, economic as well as military, given by the U.S. and her allies to the morally degenerate and economically bankrupt regime of Sri Lanka.

But what is often ignored or not understood is the manner in which U.S. Imperialism engages in covert operations through State 'Aid Agencies' and private companies floated by the C.I.A. This is done with the dual objective of destabilizing progressive governments, on the one hand, and strengthening fascistic and pro-U.S. puppet regimes, on the other. Further, the "developmental" projects of these organizations have also been widely used to gather intelligence about democratic and revolutionary struggles all over the world, so as to subvert them. The evidence collected by the Intelligence wing of the EPRLF on the U.S. Aid Project in Jaffna and the activities of "technocrats" and "experts" engaged in the project coincides with the pattern mentioned above. To those who claim that the Tamil Speaking People should be grateful to the U.S. for supplying water to the people of Jaffna (as though our people have survived without water for the past so many centuries), all that we wish to point out is that the People of Eelam are not simpletons to be grateful to the U.S. for supplying water. While simultaneously engaged in supplying arms and training, directly or indirectly, to the Sri Lankan armed forces and killer-squads. To the freedom fighters who claim that the PLA operation had undermined efforts on the part of the U.S. to resolve the Tamil problem (referring to the visit of the Vice-President of U.S., Bush to India), we wish to highlight to them the dangers of being taken in by the two faces of U.S. Imperialism.

In the last analysis the Eelam National liberation struggle will be fought and won in Eelam. The recent operation of the PLA has succeeded in confusing, confounding and demoralizing the Sri Lankan regime. But we should not underestimate the strength of our enemy.

We fully realize that it is not enough for the struggle to be restricted to guerrilla warfare based on small mobile fighting units, while leaving the rest of the populace unprotected and unarmed. Such a strategy cannot lead to any significant military victories or create the conditions necessary to sustain a protracted People's War. The

Freedom Fighters will have to be fed, trained and equipped; mass organizations will have to be widened and deepened, including the creation of a People's Militia to protect the civilians from reprisals from the armed forces and criminal elements; production will have to be stepped up and diversified. Such is the task of the Eelam National Liberation Movement and this is precisely what the EPRLF has embarked on through its military and mass organizations.

VICTORY TO PLA!

VICTORY TO EELAM PEOPLES STRUGGLE!

MAY 1984

Padmanabha holds abduction legitimate



Padmanabha
Jaffna and released them in the besieged city earlier this week.

Padmanabha is one of the most wanted men in Lanka with a mammoth prize on his head. He is articulate in Tamil, though rather shy when speaking in English. His boyish looks, the unruly hair and the shaggy moustache do not fit the archetype of the guerilla or the revolutionary, but his deep eyes, full of anguish and anger, leave one disturbed.

He says he and his central committee had given the go ahead to the abduction plan which was first formulated about six months ago. After Mrs Indira Gandhi appealed for the release of the abducted American couple, it was Padmanabha who sent the coded message to the group in Jaffna, releasing the American couple in the house of the Bishop of Jaffna. In an interview after the release of the US couple, Padmanabha spoke to this reporter on the issues the abduction had raised:

Question: Was the abduction a legitimate means to focus attention on your plight. You are on record against individual terrorism?

Padmanabha: Yes. It was legitimate, and we will use it again if necessary. We are not terrorists. We could have bumped the couple off. We had the power. But we did not do so. They have given testimony how we treated them. We know the US

"Yes, the abduction was a legitimate means to focus attention on the massacre of Tamils in Sri Lanka. And we will use it again, if necessary", says K Padmanabha, general secretary of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and leader of the People's Liberation Army which had abducted the American couple Daymon and Stanley Broson Allen in

Jaffna and released them in the besieged city earlier this week.

is involved, and we have proof against this group. They were involved in surveys which were being given to the army, to which the security forces had easy access. These were detrimental to our movement. In Jaffna, we can vanish from the main roads into the side streets and the army cannot follow us, because it does not know the roads, does not speak the language, and as aliens, has no support of the people.

This information that the Americans had gathered would help the army against them. We could therefore have taken direct action against them by killing them. But we did not. In fact, it was the Jayewardene government that could not care whether they lived or died.

Q: Did you not fear a Grenade type assault by people trying to rescue the Americans.

Ans: If they had done so, we would have shown what we are capable of. Lalith, among those responsible for the butchery of 200 people

Interview by John Dayal

last month and 3,000 last July, took a hell of a chance with the Americans in Killinochey (where the first release had been rumoured). Several thousand of his troops were combing the area, even when he had given an assurance that there would be no attempt to capture the abductors. Suppose we had left the Americans in Killinochey (which is near Jaffna but south of the peninsula), the story of the Allens would have ended differently. We decided to leave them at Bishop's house out of concern for their lives. We strongly believe there was a possibility that Lalith's men would kill the Allens, even go to the extent of dumping their bodies in the sea as they float to India and then he could say "We knew all along that the abduction was planned from India..."

We have given the CIA and the US a good warning. I do not think they will get any more warnings.

Q: There has been a build-up that the Americans couple were innocent...

A: They were not social workers. It does really matter if they were direct employees of the CIA or were involved indirectly. The fact remains that the work they were doing was being passed on to the army.

Q: Was there any want of planning in the abduction. There would seem to be much confusion in the first phase, the ransom demand and the like?

A: There was no confusion. The ransom note was handed over to the GA (Government Agent, or district collector). Of course, we were never serious about the ransom.

Q: Why was the Government of Tamil Nadu brought into the ransom note? This was an embarrassment to India.

A: It did create complications. That was a mistake, but what were we to do. There was something wrong with the phrasing. We meant not the Government of Tamil Nadu but the people of Tamil Nadu, for they are the only friends we have...

Q: This did help the build up in Sri Lanka alleging an "Indian hand"

A: That was started by the Government of Sri Lanka, but since last July, in their paranoia they have been seeing the Indian hand, an imminent invasion every minute... they wanted to make it as if the Allens had been abducted across the Palk straits.

This is in fact a big defeat for them. Our comrades took the Allens from the Jaffna city and dropped them back in Jaffna while the entire army searched in vain.

Q: But meanwhile did not the anti-terrorists experts come from the US, including some from private firms?

A: There are about 35 or 40 of these people, and they are still in Sri Lanka. Our opinion is that these people are storm troopers. But we can handle them.

இணை
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ஜெயவர்த்தன பிரேரணைகளுக்கு முன்னணி எதிர்ப்பு

புதுடிவில், மே 8 - இலங்கையில் தமிழர் பிரச்சனைக்குத் தீர்வு காண புதன் நிறைமயன்று சர்வகட்சி வட்டம், மேஜை மகாநாடு கூட்டிக்கும் தருவாயில் இலங்கைத் துடுப்பிதெறிவித்துள்ள வில், யோசனைகள் வர், நேர்மையாக நடந்து கொள்ளவில்லை என்பதை அம்பலப்படுத்தும் முயற்சியில், சமீபம் மக்கள் புரட்சி விடுதலை முன்னணி பொதுச் செயலாளர் கே. பத்மநாபர் தலைமையில் வெளியிடப்பட்ட ஒரு அறிக்கையில் கண்டித்தார்.

வட்டம், மேஜை மகாநாட்டின் பெச்சுக்களின் விளைவு எதுவாக இருந்தபோதிலும், மாவட்டக் கவுன்சில்களை அமைக்கும் திட்டத்தை செயல்படுத்தப் போவதாக ஜெயவர்த்தன கூறியிருப்பது, அவர் புதிய யோசனைகளைப் பரிசீலிக்கக் கூடிய நிலையில் இல்லை என்பதைக் காட்டுகிறது என்றும் பத்மநாபர் கூறினார். மாகாண கவுன்சில் அமைக்க வேண்டும் என்று தமிழர் ஐக்கிய விடுதலை முன்னணி கோருகிறது.

தமிழர் ஐக்கிய விடுதலை முன்னணியின் பொதுச் செயலாளர் அமிர்த விங்கத்துக்கு ஒரு பிரமமான நிலவரத்தை ஜெயவர்த்தன உண்டாக்கி விட்டார். ஒரு பிரேரணையை அறிவித்து அதை ஏற்றுக் கொள்ளுங்கள் என்று கூறுவதை சமாளிக்கவேண்டிய நிலை அமிர்தவிங்கத்துக்கு உள்ளது. அமிர்தவிங்கத்துக்கும், தீவிரவாதிகளுக்கும் இடையே பிளவு ஏற்படுத்த ஜெயவர்த்தன தந்திரமாக முயல் கிறார். அமிர்தவிங்கம் இது குறித்து எச்சரிக்கையாக இருக்க வேண்டும். ஜெயவர்த்தனவின் பிரேரணைகளை ஏற்பதற்கு முன்பாகவும், தமது பிரேரணைகளைக் கூறுவதற்கு முன்பாகவும் சமீபம் போராட்ட வீரர்களை அமிர்தவிங்கம் ஆயோசனை கலப்பது நல்லது என்று பத்மநாபர் கூறினார்.

இலங்கையில் தமிழர் பிரேரணைகளைக் கொண்டு

"GOVT. IS KINDLING CHAUVINISM"

offensive without certain amount of arms and a capable military cadre. It can't be just hit and run, as the 'everyone's army' is a well organised network which can be countered only by a politically disciplined military organisation. The purpose, therefore, is not just to kill, but only when inevitable.

WR: What do you think is the reason for the Sinhalese rulers repression against the Tamils?

P: The Sinhalese basic problems are unemployment, inflation, etc. Therefore the rulers have been kindling Sinhalese chauvinism as a diversionary tactic. This has been going on in the island even during the British days. The powerful Bikkus (Buddhist monks) on the other hand, too, want to maintain their land and property and hence are spreading the virus of hatred in the minds of the Sinhalese masses. With this in mind, the Sinhala rulers have been

emancipation of the Tamils can't be achieved without an armed struggle based on the help of politically aware masses. We have been constantly strengthening the PLA as the army of the People for the State of Eelam and for carrying out socialist reconstruction.

WR: Everyone of the Eelam Liberation Group says it is different from others. Do you also think so?

P: I would say we are qualitatively different. Our cadre is not recruited at random. We absorb only those who are politically developed and who were in the forefront of the political struggle and give them training instead of adventurist youths.

This is so because when we later achieve Eelam we don't want anarchy by youths who are short sighted with. Objectives like taking vengeance on certain people and so on, which is quite natural. We are also not for induline in an

VIEW, the youthful lanky Padmanabha, hailing the initiative for unity, said that his mass-based group could lead not only the intellectuals but also the working class, peasants, students and women.

WEEKEND REVIEW: What are the objectives and the strategy of your Front? Also explain the structure of your organisation?

PADMANABHA: We have several bodies created for practical and tactical purposes. We have a student's wing, called General Union of Eelam Students (GUES), Eelam Youth Front (EYF), Plantation Proletariat Front (PPF), Eelam Women's Liberation Front (EWLF) and the Fisher Workers Front (FWF) besides the People's Liberation Army for furthering the military struggle to liberate Eelam and find a socialist society. Since Sri Lanka has a 'Fascist' regime, the



armed struggle is the only way to achieve a Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka", says Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) general secretary Padmanabha "and this would be possible only with people's active involvement."

Talking to WEEKEND RE-

teaching nationalism in schools. For instance text books describe Diwali as a festival of those who come from India.

WR: When the aim of all of you is the same, why are you all struggling separately?

P: We are for a United Front. That's why we three groups - TELO, EROS and ELPRF were the first to come together. There are so many other groups, as many as 13 or even more. The other important groups are PLOT led by Uma Maheswaran and LTTE headed by Prabhakaran and we would certainly welcome a united front.

WR: What is the contribution so far of the various liberation groups in the island?

P: We have all boosted the morale of the Tamils that they could certainly challenge the Sinhalese rulers.

-C.S.J.

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