



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

REF.

STATION

PRESS RELEASE

DATE 11th December '85

SRI LANKA INTENSIFIES PREPARATIONS FOR MAJOR MILITARY OFFENSIVE

Recent reports on massive troops movements and induction of military hardware to the Northern Province, in particular the Jaffna peninsula, confirm J.R. Jayawardena's clarion call in his recent interview to India Today that "we are getting ready for a decisive military action." As regards the tactics to be adopted, he stated in the same interview that he would like to first "finish off" the other provinces before "tackling" Jaffna.

Our intelligence reports clearly indicate that the Sri Lankan State has already set in motion the final military offensive envisaged by J.R.

The past one week has witnessed the following military manoeuvres:

(1) Around 20 aircrafts including Bell helicopter gunships, Marchetti fighter planes fitted with napalm bombs and transport planes have been flown to Jaffna. The Marchetti fighter planes and some of the Helicopter gunships were piloted by mercenaries, believed to be Malaysian nationals.

(2) 250-300 ^{Soldiers} are being transported to Jaffna daily by train along with military hardware. This has been going on for the past 10 days.

(3) Mass arrests, murder of political detainees and search and destroy operations which have, hitherto, been concentrated in the Eastern province have now been extended to the northern province. Our reports indicate that the average number of persons killed or missing daily over the past two weeks is more than 50.

(4) The army which have, hitherto, been confined to the barracks in Jaffna unlike in the Eastern province, have now been deployed on patrols. On 8th December, a massive military manoeuvre was carried out involving a "show-of-strength" march by the army through the streets of Jaffna from Jaffna Port to the Palaly camp, accompanied by armoured cars ~~wixx~~ and aerial support involving Marchetti fighter planes and helicopter gunships. Following this, people have started leaving their homes out of fear.

கிளவிக்! ஈழ மக்கள் புரட்சிகர விடுதலைப் போராட்டம்!

தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்



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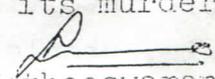
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According to our intelligence reports, the military offensive is to be co-ordinated and implemented by Brigadier Harsha ~~Gunawardena~~ ^{GUNARATNE}, presently Commanding Officer, Trincomalee. Brigadier ~~Gunawardena~~ ^{GUNARATNE} gained notoriety during the 1971 insurgency for the brutal methods adopted by him to terrorize the Sinhala youths and the local populace which had given them support; in addition, he is also known to have initiated the method of dumping into the sea, Tamil youths who had died under interrogation. Brigadier ~~Gunawardena~~ ^{GUNARATNE} is also one of the leading figures within the armed forces who have been systematically inculcating sinhala-buddhist chauvinism and hatred for the Tamil People amongst the rank and file. A Special Task Force under his command was responsible for the recent search and destroy operations and mass killings in Trincomalee. The Special Task Force is specially equipped and includes 60 South African manufactured Hippo armoured personnel carriers capable of withstanding 20lb gelegnite explosion. and helicopter gunships.

In addition to the military manoeuvres, a systematic campaign has been launched to drive the Tamil People out of their homes into so-called "refugee camps" which are in effect concentration camps aimed at depopulation of strategic areas and ~~ensuring~~ ^{to ensure} that the freedom fighters do not have access to material support (ie food, shelter and funds) from the People. In addition such tactics are being adopted to simply terrorize the local populace into submission. This campaign also includes the destruction of crops aimed at undermining the subsistence economy which has a crucial role to play under conditions of a state of seige.

In view of the genocidal situation facing our beloved people who have faced the brunt of military offensives by the Sri Lankan ~~Sri Lankan~~ armed forces, we call on the government of India, all peace-loving nations and non-governmental organizations engaged in the field of human rights to impose the maximum pressure on the racist J.R. regime to cease immediately its murderous design to annihilate our People.


L. Ketheeswaran

(Official Spokesman)