



T.E.I.B.

**THAMILEELAM
NEWS**

JULY - AUGUST

1986

A NEW
LEASE OF
LIFE.....



DEMOLISH ALL REPRESSION

Excerpts from The interview given by comrade UMA MAFESWARAN secretary general of PLOT to United News of India (UNI) in Madras on 15th July 1986.

- * "I am requesting the Indian central government to handover the arms seized in Madras harbour in 1985."
- * "The Srilankan government has planned to stop the food supply to the north if the colombo talks regarding Jayewardene's proposal fail. As a counter measure the freedom fighters should unite and liberate a zone, where the Srilankan army could not enter, We can only defend ourselves through this measure".
- * "When the Srilankan government is negotiating the army is attacking the civilians in Vavunya, Mannar and Mulaithivu making them refugees. When the army succeed in this, supply to the north could be easily stoped. Our organisation is establishing camps out side north to break this strategy. We are also strengthening leftist organisations in the south."
- * "The Tamils crisis could be solved only if the self determination of the Tamils is recognized,"
- * "We will not accept the agreement made by the TULF and the Srilankan government. Tamils are also opposing any agreement."
- * "The failure of the talks may give grounds for an army coup. Mr. Ravi Jayewrdene, son of J.R is highly influential in the high ranks of the army. Mr. Anura Bandaranayaka son of Mrs. Srimala is influential in lower cadres. There is a possibility of an army coup through them."

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

The conference of PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ORGANISATION OF THAMILEELAM which took place recently in Tamilnadu has given a new lease of life to PLOT.

At this juncture it is advisable to analyse the reasons which necessitated a conference. We do accept crimes of commission and ommissions by few comrades of PLOT.

These crimes led to a conference in Thamileelam, where it was decided to convene another conference in Tamilnadu as a follow up. The conference of Thamileelam never decided to overthrow the leadership or to blame the leadership for the crimes committed by few individuals.

The 2nd run-up to the conference also evaluated the past strategy of the organisation. A resolution was passed to step-up the military activities.

Commissions were formed to enquire into matters needing attention and corrective actions.

58 members were elected to the general body of the conference held in Thamileelam. In addition another 29 were elected in Tamilnadu who will be responsible for the activities out side Thamileelam.

We strongly believe that this conference will mature us into a politically, militarily, and structurally powerful organisation which will liberate the Tamils from fascist Srilankan regime.

"LONG LIVE THAMILEELAM"

ON THE BATTLE FRONT

In mid-May the PLOT army announced that it had developed a new mine, the BCM-85 and had successfully used the same against the Sri Lankan army which had imported South African troop carriers which are said to be land-mine proof.

The new BCM-85, a tree mine whose explosive impact is downward shattered the myth of the invincibility of the South African troop carrier and resulted in the death of over 30 troops.

Within the space of the three weeks since that announcement and the time of going to press, the PLOT army announced a number of successful operations against the enemy troops, some of which included confrontation with patrols leaving the Point Pedre army camp the sinking of a 25-foot motor patrol boat off the heavily guarded Jaffna fort, and a number of other successful tree mine attacks on troops who had

ventured out of their camps for attacks on civilian targets. No attacks were made on the injured survivors.

Today, after nearly three years since the plight of the people of Thamilleelam received world-wide attention following the most brutal government sponsored pogrom against the Tamil people, the liberation struggle is being diverted and given a communal twist.

PLOT over the years pointed out the out-dated hit and-run tactics and said they would only prove counter productive.

Today as a result of the atrocities unleashed by the armed forces on the civilian Tamil population in retaliation for the hit-and-run raids. Our people,

especially those in the border areas of Amparai, Pottuvil, Trincomalee, Vavuniya and Mannar are being forced out of their lands, homes and sources of

livelihood. They are being systematically pushed into the confines of peninsula Jaffna.

At the same time in reaction to the fascist attacks on the civilian Tamil population by the Jayawardene regime, counter-terrorism is becoming common-place among a number of groups fighting for the liberation of Thamilleelam, and killing of Sinhalese civilians has become common place. Even more unfortunate has been the fact that these attacks have been aimed at persons of working class origin.

The most unfortunate aspect of this recent tendency however, has been the fact that whereas during an earlier stage where killings of innocent civilians were deplored, today even a mild condemnation of such acts are looked on with disfavour, and people are seeking revenge.

What started off as a liberation struggle is today being gradually diverted into a communal war and military actions alone are being accepted.

In these circumstances in order to give new direction and leadership to the deteriorating situation the PLOT army is moving into relatively more active military positions. The task of the PLOT army is not merely to defeat the enemy militarily but to help take political struggle of the party forward through its inter-action with the masses, and helping to build people's political power which alone can inflict a decisive defeat on the enemy.

17.05.86

A helicopter was attacked and damaged in the north by the military wing of PLOT.

22.05.86

BCM 85 treemines which are an invention of PLOT were used in defence operations. 30 soldiers were killed when these treemines exploded.

23.05.86

8 soldiers were killed and 4 were wounded in operation carried out by the military wing of the PLOT in Pointpedro.

A 25 feet long patrol boat which was used for the defence of fort army camp was demolished by by PLOT.

19.06.86

15 soldiers were killed when a land mine set up by PLOT, exploded in Mannor.

A joint attack carried out by PLOT and the other organisations made the army retreat into the Palaly army camp.

20.06.86

9 soldiers were killed in the retaliatory attack carried out by PLOT in Vasavilan.

23.07.86

7 soldiers were killed and the others retreated when PLOT attacked in Mullaithivu.

25.07.86

6 soldiers were killed and many were injured when PLOT attacked in Pointpedro.

Many soldiers were killed when PLOT army attacked the soldiers in patrol duty at Vavuniya.

PLOT denies split

The People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT), one of the major Tamil militant

groups of Sri Lanka has not split as stated by a section of disgruntled former Central Committee members, according to a PLOT release here reports

The release said the "second run-up" to the party conference now in session at Tiruvavur in Manjavar district was not aimed at overthrowing the leadership of Uma Maheshwaran or rejecting the party ideology.

It said, "what happened was that a few disgruntled ex-Central Committee members, who lost their posts during the first run-up to party conference held between February 19 to 25 this year, attempted to disrupt the second run-up to the conference, which is now in session."

Two days prior to the scheduled date of the conference, these dissident members of the Central Committee, whose party posts were in danger because of "crimes of commission and omission", called for an extraordinary meeting of the Central Committee, at which they urged for a reduction in the powers of the conference coordinating committee, the release said.

The release said the dissidents, being in a majority at this unscheduled meeting, had passed the motion. This was, however, rejected by both the conference coordinating committee and the assembled delegates.

The coordinating committee decided to continue with the conference irrespective of whether the dissenting members participated in the deliberations. Having failed in their bid to win over the support of general membership, these disgruntled elements were attempting to mislead the masses on the present party position, it added.

The release said that 104 of the 135 elected delegates were participating in the conference. Only five of the delegates had joined the disgruntled elements, led by Rajan.

It said with the commencement of the "second run-up" to the party conference, the entire old Central Committee stood dissolved. The party was presently being run by a four-member politburo, comprising Uma Maheshwaran, Vasudeva and Kan. The fourth member had been imprisoned by the Sri Lankan Government.

The PLOT dismissed the claims of these dissidents, whose only ambition was "personal power and position", the release said.

04.07.86

- * 8 Tamils were killed by the army in Trincomalee.
- * 5 Tamils were shot dead by the army in Kokkadi-chcholai, Batticola. When the army shelled from helicopter 15 houses were damaged.
- * 2 soldiers were killed and 5 were injured, when the freedom fighters attacked the camp in Mankkeny.

07.07.86

NEWS ROUND UP

- * The Indian government has asked the Sri Lankan government to give a full report regarding the killings of 9 Indian fishermen who were shot dead by the Sri Lankan navy on 1st of July.

08.07.86

- * In Sammalathivu, Trincomalee people are moving towards Mullaithivu in fear of army atrocities.
- * 10 Tamils were killed in Vavunathivu, Batticola by the Sri Lankan commandos.

09.07.86

- * The Indian government has requested the Sri Lankan government to clarify some contradictions in its proposal on Tamil issue.

10.07.86

- * The Jaffna University students staged a demonstration demanding the release of a fellow student arrested.
- * The Mahanavkathero of the Asgiriya chapter Sathanantha there had call the government to hold a referendum on the new proposals to solve Tamil problem.
- * In Trincomalee 16 Tamil civilians were killed and another 5 were injured by a 13 member gang, wearing black uniform. 12 Tamil civilians were also killed in Mulippothani, Trincomalee by Sinhala home guards.

- * In Jaffna More than 5000 people attended the cremation of the 8 EPRLF comrades. Comrade Davidson of EPRLF and Comrade Gowry of PLOT paid tribute for the comrades.

12.07.86

- * It has been reported PLOT, EROS, EPRLF and LTTE had discussion in Thamileelam on the new government proposals.
- * In Thamileelam a mass demonstration took place renouncing the government provincial council proposals and to oppose the TULF's decision to negotiate with the government. This demonstration conducted by PLOT, LTTE, EROS, EPRLF and TEA.

14.07.86

- * 80 Tamil civilians were killed by the army in Mannar, Many houses and buildings were also damaged in an air raid.

15.07.86

- * The Sri Lanka freedom party has announced that they are rejecting the provincial council proposals of the government and they will put forward a separate proposal to solve the Tamil problem.

01.08.86

- * 30 Tamils were killed in Vavuniya, In retaliation to the killing of 4 soldiers.
- * 43 Tamils were attacked by the Sinhala home guards in Seruvela, Trincomalee.
- * The army in the north have 50 members of Mossad per camp.
- * Sithamparappillai Saraswathi was sentenced to 18th month imprisonment by the high court of Colombo for not divulging information about the freedom fighters.

05.08.86

- * In the U.N.P. conference, The Sri Lankan President has called on the Sinhalees to prepare for war

in the event, that the current talks fail.

06.08.86

- * In Pandiruppu, Batticaloa 300 Tamils were arrested by police commandos.

06.08.86

- * In Vagarai, Batticaloa 6 soldiers were killed and 4 were injured in a land mine explosion.

07.08.86

- * 10 soldiers were killed and many were injured when the freedom fighters attack the army in Trincomale.

- * 9 fishermen were shot dead by Sri Lankan army in Patticaloa.

12.08.86

- * The Canadian coast guards have rescued 152 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in two boats beyond Newfoundland seas.

16.08.86

- * The Gail police has arrested 2 groups including schools who are members of J.V.F, which is banned by the Sri Lankan government. On the enquires was revealed that J.V.F is responsible for the recent strikes.

17.08.86

- * 12 soldiers were killed in the clash between the army and the freedom fighters in Trincomale.
- * The PLCT, ENLF, and LTTE met Mr. Vengadeswaran the secretary of Indian foreign ministry in New Delhi. Comrade Uma Maheswaran has said that it is difficult to implement the proposals even if TULF and the government arrive at an agreement.

20.08.86

- * The leaders of the PLCT, LTTE, EROS, EPRLF, and TELC met to discuss in New Delhi, regarding the current development.

'Much ground covered at Colombo talks'

From Our Special Representative

MADRAS, July 25.—The Sri Lankan exercise in finding a solution to the ethnic crisis shifted once again to Tamil Nadu with the return of the five-member Tamil United Liberation Front delegation from Colombo last night.

Mr A. Amirthalingam, Secretary-General of the TULF, said here today that though the 10-day talks of his delegation in Colombo had not led to an agreement, much ground had been covered and the differences between the Tamils demanding a separate Eelam, and the UNP Government of Mr J. R. Jayewardene, seeking a solution within the unitary framework, had been narrowed considerably.

The TULF delegation returned here for consultations with other members of the Politburo and representatives of the Tamil militant organizations before returning to Colombo in mid-August for a final round of discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka on its proposals for devolution of power to Provincial Councils.

Mr Amirthalingam said the TULF demand for a single Tamil linguistic unit comprising the northern province and parts of eastern province where the Tamils were in the majority did not receive satisfactory response from the Government side.

The Tamil militant groups, responding to the political parties conference in Colombo asking them to put forward their counter-proposals to resolve the ethnic problem within the unitary framework of Sri Lanka, said that they had taken to armed struggle a decade ago only after exhausting all avenues for a negotiated settlement.

"The PPC appeal has no relevance to us since the situation in Sri Lanka has not changed from the time we have launched our armed struggle", said a spokesman for the Eelam National Liberation Front comprising the EPRLF, EROS and the TELC.

The ENLF, however, had not closed all options for a peaceful solution. It had reiterated its faith in the good offices of India in resolving the problem.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, enjoying the patronage of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr M. G. Ramachandran, was the only militant group still harping on a separate Eelam and nothing less.

The spate of bombings and mine blasts on passenger buses in the vicinity of Vavuniya in the last 48 hours, resulting in the death

of more than 60 Sinhalese civilians and causing grievous injuries to many more, for which the LTTE had taken credit, was described as "barbaric and degenerate acts" by Mr L. Ketheeswaran, spokesman of the EPRLF, a constituent of the ENLF.

Mr Ketheeswaran said that State terrorism by the Sri Lanka Government could not be countered by engaging in acts of terrorism against innocent Sinhala civilians. "Such acts of terrorism do not go beyond the generation of revulsion and ultimate degeneration and certainly will not lead to the emancipation of our people" he said.

Coinciding with the isolation of the LTTE from the mainstream of the Tamil militant organizations, the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), which had pursued a different path all along, was vertically split today with a sizable section of the group challenging its leader, Mr Umma Maheswaran.

With so much disunity among the militant ranks, the time is most opportune for the TULF to enter into an honourable settlement with the Sri Lanka Government.

Mr Jayewardene, speaking at a banquet he hosted in honour of the Bangladesh President, Mr Ershad, in Colombo last night, said that "winds of hope of return to peace and harmony are sweeping through the length and breadth of our country". The only stumbling block to a peaceful settlement is the obduracy of the LTTE under the protective wings of "MGR".

India hopeful of accord in Lanka

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Tuesday.—India continues to be hopeful of a political settlement to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr K. R. Narayanan told the Rajya Sabha during question hour today. And there was no proposal from India to request the U.N. to send a peacekeeping force there to ensure maintenance of the cease-fire, he said.

It had been impressed upon the Sri Lanka Government that a settlement was the only way out. "Sri Lanka will be compelled to follow this approach to avoid disaster to its own polity", he said.

Members drew the attention of the Minister to newspaper reports which had quoted the Sri Lanka President as saying he was preparing for war. Mr Narayanan said the reports indicated that the President might take that course only if the negotiations failed. India hoped that the talks would not fail.

When asked what India was doing, he said more than just playing the rôle of a mediator. The package of proposals being discussed had been prepared with Indian assistance. The proposals constitute a "reasonable basis" for negotiations.

India had also been in touch with the militant Tamil organizations and though they had not accepted the package they had as-

sured India they would not obstruct the talks to be resumed later this month, he said.

Mr Narayanan maintained that India had helped check violence in Sri Lanka which had enabled the talks to begin. Regarding a U.N. peacekeeping force, he said India was not in favour of "internationalizing" the matter. The Government of Sri Lanka, he said was capable of keeping its army in check.

On the supply of arms to Sri Lanka, Mr Narayanan said there was nothing secret about the fact that Israel, Pakistan, the USA and some other countries were involved. India had impressed upon those Governments with whom it had ties, that arms supply would be unproductive.

Asked whether visits of U.S. Navy warships to Sri Lankan ports had a direct bearing on the situation, he said they did have bearing, even though it was claimed that they were on goodwill visits or to give their crew a rest and recreation break.

"...Our common enemy is imperialism and zionism. Whether we live in Africa, Latin America or in Asia, we are subjected to discrimination, apartheid, plunder, oppression, torture, and blackmail etc. Inerefore our aim is one. It is against the interests of imperialism..."

UMAMAHESWARAN

Jayewardene admits having Tamil origin

From Our Correspondent

COLOMBO, July 27.—The Sri Lankan President, Mr Junius Jayewardene, yesterday publicly acknowledged that his father's generation had Tamil origins.

He said this to a question asked at a public meeting here what would happen to "our (majority Sinhalese Buddhist) community" after his proposals to settle the ethnic problem were implemented.

He said that it had been mentioned in Parliament recently that the Opposition leader Mr Anura Bandaranaike, also had Tamil origins. So had the last four kings of the island. "It is difficult to say who has pure Sinhalese blood," he said.

Mr Jayewardene was addressing a meeting of the National Workers Union controlled by his United National Party at which searching questions were asked about proposals and their implementation.

Asked why he had held discussions with the Tamil United Liberation Front when earlier he had maintained that he would not hold talks with any group advocating separatism, he said "I talked to them to change their views Mr Amirthalingam (Tulsi general secretary) had trod the wrong path. I showed him and his colleagues the correct path."

Asked why he opposed the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam formula of 1958 which could have been a means of settling the ethnic problem he said it provided for the linkage of the northern and eastern provinces to form one unit. "The UNP was opposed to this and is opposed to it now," he said.

He added that the political parties conference would continue its session until a lasting settlement was reached. He looked forward to India's continued good offices to achieve this goal.

SLFP DECIDES TO BOYCOTT MEETING

From Our Correspondent

COLOMBO, July 14.—The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, led by the former Prime Minister, Mrs Bandaranaike, has rejected the Government peace proposals and decided to boycott the political parties conference scheduled for tomorrow here.

The only other political party to reject the proposals is the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna led by Mr Dinesh Gunawardene, son of late Philip Gunawardene, one of the founders of the Left movement in Sri Lanka. However, as a political force, the MEP is insignificant.

The proposals were considered by the SLFP's 400-member Executive Committee yesterday. Press reports suggest that the SLFP Executive Committee was of the view that the proposals were so far reaching that they could not be accepted without being endorsed by the people. The proposals on land settlement were also criticized by the committee which felt that they would negate the benefits of the Mahaweli scheme to the majority of the people.

EVER ONWARDS
TO VICTORY:
THE PLOT SHOWS
THE WAY
FORWARD

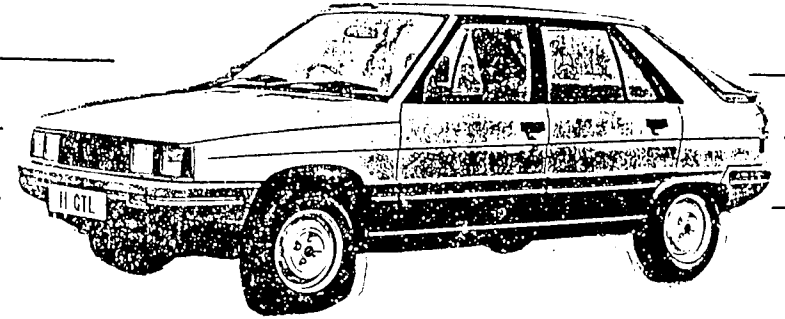
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TICKET : 50p EACH.

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