

Ref: TIC/ACM/87

24th April 1987

TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE**MEMORANDUM****SRI LANKA - ECONOMIC AID**

The lives of the Tamils in Sri Lanka are in increasing danger from the Jayewardene Government's military attacks, atrocities and economic war against the Tamil nation. When a government sets out to destroy its own people (Tamils) and everything they cherish in life, it is only natural for them to cry out for help - as we have done in the past, appealing to the international communities which value every human being's right to life, livelihood, liberty and dignity.

In our last letter, dated 4th June 1986, to members of the Sri Lanka Aid Group we cautioned that the military activities of the Sri Lanka Government portended not only destruction of the Tamil nation in Sri Lanka but also ruin for the country as a whole. We are glad that serious note of Sri Lanka's violations against the Tamils was taken at the last two years' Aid Consortium Meetings held in Paris. However, the message delivered by the donor community to Sri Lanka not to pursue its military options against the Tamils was effectively negated by the increasing aid commitments made by most of the major donors. It is therefore understandable that the Sri Lankan Government propped up financially by aid donors, has continued its course of blatant violation of human rights and has relentlessly pursued and intensified its war of destruction against the Tamils.

The Government's increasing violations of human rights are a matter of public record as documented by independent sources. During 1986 alone more than 2,800 Tamils have been killed by the security forces (Annex 1). Amnesty International has again reported on the widespread practice of torture and unexplained disappearance of hundreds of Tamil youths taken into custody by the Sri Lankan Government (Annex 2). At the recent sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights several delegations condemned Sri Lanka on its dismal record of human rights violations (Annex 3) and a resolution was passed urging the Sri Lanka Government to permit the International Committee of the Red Cross to fulfil the function of protecting humanitarian standards and to provide assistance to victims of violence. At the hearings of the Committee on Human Rights of the United States House of Representatives in March 1987, the Government was condemned for its atrocities against the Tamils in pursuit of its military "solution".

As such military "solution" has proved elusive, the Government has from the beginning of 1987, slapped on a severe economic blockade of the Northern Province combined with intensive aerial bombing, helicopter strafing and mortar

firing, and by killing of Tamils by frequent forays into civilian areas. While wreaking immeasurable economic damage and human suffering on the Tamil population, the Government is also guilty of bringing economic ruin to the country as a whole. The inhuman nature of these military attacks and the economic pressure against the Tamils is characterized by the stoppage of fuel, food and essential medical supplies, and by the bombing of hospitals, schools and places of worship (Annex 4). Although the Government has maintained that these actions were taken against "terrorism," the facts are that during 1986 almost 3,000 Tamils, almost all of them civilians, were killed, and reportedly more than 800 Tamils were killed in the first three months of 1987 alone.

At the same time there has been no abatement in the "search and destroy" operations and mass arrests of Tamils, many of whom have been subjected to the most inhuman forms of torture and many more reported to have disappeared. Also, in a diabolical attempt to change the ethnic composition of the traditional homelands (Annex 5), several towns and villages have been subject to destruction and devastation by military offensives by air, sea and land, and by wholesale burning of houses, shops and other property, with the result that the residents have been terrorized to flee into jungles and refugee camps. The number of Tamils refugees in Sri Lanka alone has risen to more than 200,000 about 10% the Tamil population of the Northern and Eastern Provinces, in addition to the 250,000 Tamil refugees in India and elsewhere. The atrocities against the Tamils reached such abominable proportions that a group of British mercenaries who have been partly instrumental in carrying them out have walked out in protest against the depths of brutality resorted to by the Government security forces (Annex 6).

The genocidal actions of the Sri Lankan Government would not come as a surprise to anyone who has followed their pronouncements and actions. Ever since July 1983 when state-sponsored terrorism on a massive scale was unleashed against the Tamils, the Government has adopted a systematic plan of placating the aid donors just prior to the annual meetings of the Sri Lanka Aid Group by well orchestrated actions and propaganda designed to create the impression of readiness to negotiate peaceful, political settlement of the ethnic problem. However, after aid commitments are obtained, the Government has consistently scuttled the peace moves and escalated the military attacks in the Tamil provinces. Such placating tactics have also been frequently adopted by the Government, aimed some times at the USA, other times at India, and every time just prior to international events such as World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings, United Nations Sessions, U.S. Congress hearings on Human Rights violations, visits to Sri Lanka by foreign dignitaries etc. It should also be noted that some of Sri Lanka's specific proposals in the Government negotiation - packages, such as SECOND CHAMBER OF PARLIAMENT with greater representation for Tamil minorities, appointment of a TAMIL VICE PRESIDENT of the Republic, and TRIFURCATION OF

THE EASTERN PROVINCE, the Tamil homeland, are in fact cornerstones of a diabolical scheme by Jayewardene's Government to decimate the Tamil nation (Annex 5).

It is too evident now that India's mediation efforts have failed to secure from the Sri Lankan Government a negotiated settlement. International diplomatic persuasion even by Western countries, has failed. We therefore feel that the only meaningful weapon left in the international arsenal is the suspension of generous aid offerings by donor countries.

It would be a mistake to assume that only the \$ 450-\$ 500 million expressly allocated in Sri Lanka's annual budget is all that is used in the war against the Tamils. What about the millions spent by the various government departments and parastatal corporations providing services in this war? It should not be assumed that finance provided by the donors is used purely for development purposes and not diverted to military activities, as sanctimoniously pledged by Sri Lanka's Finance Minister. Money is fungible. Whatever is given by the donor helps to release other resources for the overt and covert military activities of the Government against the Tamil minority.

We are encouraged to learn that in the "Country Study And Norwegian Aid Review" the study group has taken into consideration the serious human rights violations in Sri Lanka. The report recommends inter alia to "Stop Commodity Assistance/Import Support as soon as the present commitments have been fulfilled." (Annex 7).

In the name of humanity, therefore, we plead with you to stop the aid to Sri Lanka until a peaceful, meaningful and sustainable settlement is reached with the Tamils.

3rd Floor
24-28, Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UR



FR N IRUTHAYAM
INFORMATION OFFICER
TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE

ANNEX 1

1986

HINDU

1-A

Consortium steps up aid to Sri Lanka

PARIS, June 20.

The Western nations and aid agencies, grouped in the Paris Club which coordinates international assistance for Sri Lanka, have sharply increased their pledges for this year in order to help the island's economy troubled by the continuing ethnic violence.

The Aid-Sri Lanka Consortium announced at the end of its one-day meeting here yesterday that its total pledges for 1986 will go up by 46 per cent in nominal terms to \$703 millions. In real terms the increase is estimated at 23 per cent.

This year's bigger aid package from Sri Lanka's most important source for external assistance was the result of substantial increase in the pledges of donor nations. All nations except the U.S. either raised or maintained their level of aid, the Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, who led the Sri Lankan delegation, told a news conference here.

Drop in U.S. aid: The U.S. contribution dropped to \$48 millions from \$78 millions last year and the American delegation made it very clear that the drop was merely because of budgetary constraints and not because of any political reasons, Mr. de Mel said.

Japan took the leading position by raising its contribution to \$150 millions from \$100 millions last year. West Germany came next with a contribution of about \$113 millions. Britain raised its share to £35.5 millions from £15.5 millions while France maintained its aid at the level of 137 million francs. The contributions by the World Bank group, which are mostly on concessional terms, rose marginally to \$137 millions.

More than expected: Expressing great satisfaction at the Consortium pledge, Mr. de Mel said the international aid community was sympathetic towards Sri Lanka's development needs. He indicated that Sri Lanka received more than it had expected.

The sharp increases in commitments by bi-

lateral donors were due to their pledges for the two big hydro-electric projects at Rantembe and Semanalawewa, he added.

But delegates from some member countries said privately that they were also motivated to increase their contributions because of the mounting strain on the Sri Lankan economy from the continuing strife between the Sinhalese and the Tamil minorities.

Concern over violence: A statement issued by the World Bank at the conclusion of the meeting said the members expressed "deep concern over the adverse effects of the continued ethnic violence on economic developments" and urged the Government "to explore all possibilities for a speedy and negotiated cessation of the hostilities."

The statement said the members welcomed the recent initiatives of the Sri Lankan Government for a political solution, as conveyed to them by Mr. de Mel, and hoped for their success.

They commended the Sri Lankan Government for its economic management and noted that the gross domestic product (GDP) grew by five per cent last year, matching the 1984 growth rate.

But they underscored the vulnerability of Sri Lanka to adverse movements in the prices of the main export crops and the need for the Government to pursue policies that would stimulate diversification into other areas of comparative advantage, as an important means of correcting the structural weakness of the economy.

The members also felt that if the growth was to be sustained within a manageable financial framework, issues of investment strategy and domestic resource mobilisation, would have to be addressed. They urged the Sri Lankan Government to pursue the implementation of new policy measures to stimulate growth of exports, and promote private sector development and greater efficiency in public enterprises.

Mr. de Mel said ethnic violence was hurting

the Sri Lankan economy very much. It had affected rice production in some northern and eastern parts of the island as well as fish production. It had already hit hard the tourism industry, the second important source of foreign exchange after tea exports, and the Government feared that the violence might also affect the foreign investments in the country.

He said the country's balance of payments position was further complicated by the decline in tea prices and by a sharp fall in the overseas remittances by Sri Lankans working abroad.

Sri Lanka's present external debts are estimated at Rs. 17,000 millions, about ten per cent of the GDP.

Military expenditure up: The Finance Minister said the ethnic violence had forced the Sri Lankan Government to increase its military expenditure from Rs. 3,000 millions in 1984 to Rs. 9,500 millions last year. But he insisted that not even a single dollar from the Consortium aid would be used for that purpose.

Earlier, speaking at the Aid group meeting, Mr. de Mel said his Government had now made "rather far-reaching proposals for a solution of the ethnic issue".

"These proposals are based on a substantial measure of provincial autonomy within the context of a unitary State. They include provincial assemblies elected by the people, provincial councils of ministries and provincial chief ministers together with a considerable devolution of power to the provinces."

The proposals were the farthest any Government could offer in a situation like the present, he added.

The Minister said there was no doubt that the people of Sri Lanka of all races desired peace and harmony and the Government was doing everything possible to discharge its responsibility towards the majority of peace-loving people of Sri Lanka, be they Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims or any other community.—UNI & Lanakapuvath

HINDU

Colombo to spend more on defence, security

1-B

COLOMBO, Oct. 27.

The Sri Lankan Government's offensive against the Tamils is proving to be a costly burden on the island nation's economy, already plagued by low commodity prices and a drop in tourism revenue.

But the military spending is to be stepped up even further next year to confront the retaliatory campaign waged by the Tamil militants which, by unofficial counts, has left 2,000 dead in the past 22 months.

Spending on defence and security is to be boosted by at least about \$80 millions next year, or about \$200 millions above the original estimates for 1986, Finance Ministry sources said. Military spending this year was initially estimated at \$224 millions although additional funds voted later brought the actual 1986 total to \$344 millions. Next year the expenditure will rise to an estimated \$424 millions, the sources said.

The Sri Lankan Finance Minister, Mr. Ronnie de Mel has stressed that in the coming year no extra spending would be allowed for Ministries apart from Defence and Security, the sources said.

Some observers say that the Government is

not optimistic about reaching a settlement with the Tamils through peace proposals based on granting them greater autonomy. The expected increase in military spending shows the Government's determination to step up military preparedness and at the same time gear up for a possible meeting with the militants for a political settlement, analysts said.

The fighting, which is becoming more sophisticated in both tactics and weaponry, has spread beyond the regions in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka, where the Tamil population is concentrated, to affect even the capital now.

Deal with Israel: The Sri Lankan Navy will soon acquire a fleet of eight Super Dwora naval craft from Israel, the city daily *Sun* reported today. It said the Defence Ministry had awarded the tender for the naval craft to an Israeli supplier against stiff competition from South Korea.

At present the Navy has six Dwora class patrol craft and these had proved their effectiveness by "repeated success" in intercepting Tamil boats in the Palk Strait, it added.

The additional naval craft were required to intensify patrolling of the Palk Strait.—AFP UNI

DAILY NEWS, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10, 1986

1-C

No expense will be spared to defend nation: Ronnie

Sri Lankan Army to buy fleet of light tanks

1-D

From Our Correspondent

COLOMBO, Nov. 10.

The Sri Lankan Army is to buy a fleet of light tanks, according to the 1987 budget estimates and the Government's seriousness in fighting the militants, said the Independent daily *Island* on Sunday. The paper said the military declined to say from where they hoped to buy the tanks or what type they would be.

The tracked squadron together with two squadrons of armoured cars, for which provisions have also been made, will cost about Rs. 254 millions, according to the estimates.

The Air Force too will get 12 armoured cars for which Rs. 8.6 millions has been allocated.

A phenomenal expenditure increase for the Special Task Force is also seen in the estimates. This year its allocation is Rs. 51.6 millions. For 1987 Rs. 200 millions will be allocated, of which Rs. 20 millions will be for weapons and special equipment.

The military commanders in charge of terrorism-hit areas and top brass in all the security forces were briefed on the country's situation, according to the newspaper *Weekend*.

Appeal to Jayewardene: The Sri Lankan President Mr. J. R. Jayewardene has been urged by the Eastern Sri Lankan District Batticaloa Citizen's Committee to stop the security forces from using civilians as human shield. According

to the committee sources, a telegram has been sent to Mr. Jayewardene to this effect. It has cited a recent incident at Periya Porativu on the Deepavali day. Sources said about 46 people were arrested on that day and were made to walk in front of the Army vehicles using them as human shield.

Report on Jaffna Hospital: A Sri Lankan Government Medical Officers' Association delegation is expected to submit its report on its recent visit to Jaffna. The report, according to a spokesman of the delegation, will be submitted to the Government shortly and will brief how the Jaffna Hospital in the northern capital has been shelled even while the team was present there.

Muslim team for Pondicherry: A Muslim delegation is expected to visit India shortly, according to Muslim Council sources. They said the delegation will visit the Union Territory of Pondicherry and study the set-up of the territory, comprising Pondicherry, Yanam and Karaikal, which are not contiguous.

A spokesman told THE HINDU that they were not against the formation of a separate provincial council with the Tamil areas in north and east Sri Lanka, but their opposition was to the formation of a Tamil-speaking council including the Muslim areas in the two provinces.

L-E

THE INDEPENDENT Saturday 31 January 1987

Troops accused of Tamil slaughter

COLOMBO (AFP, AP) — More than a hundred civilians were massacred when Sri Lankan security forces destroyed a Tamil base near the east coast city of Batticaloa, local people said yesterday.

Security forces rounded up employees of a seafood company and shot 23 of them at the start of the military operation on Wednesday, a spokesman of the Batticaloa citizens' committee said.

The company, at Kokadicholai, eight miles from Batticaloa, is jointly owned with foreign interests.

The security forces later rounded up nearly 80 civilians from the village of Mahaladithivu and shot them after claiming they were active separatists, the spokesman for the citizens' committee said.

Yesterday the Presidential Secretariat said that it had received demands for an inquiry from the citizens' committee in Batticaloa and from similar groups in the cities of Jaffna and Vavuniya.

THE GUARDIAN Saturday January 31 1987

L-F

Sri Lanka protest at 'massacre'

From John Rettle
in Colombo

Residents of the Sri Lankan east coast town of Batticaloa yesterday protested to President Jayewardene that security forces had massacred up to 100 civilians during a three-day offensive against militant Tamil separatists.

In a telegram to the President, the citizens' committee said that, according to survivors, "young males are being systematically killed." Sources in the committee said the security forces were going into houses in the area, ordering out any males between the ages of 11 and 45, and shooting them.

The committee expressed its "shock and outrage" at such military action, especially when peace talks are under way. It demanded "immediate and urgent action" to stop the killing, and requested the appointment of a civilian commission of inquiry.

Survivors are only now beginning to trickle out of the operations zone, which has been virtually sealed off by the security forces. Some escaped by swimming across the lagoon, but several others who tried to cross by boat were killed when they were attacked by helicopter gunships.

The government claims to have captured the headquarters of the main Tamil militant group in the area, the Tamil Tigers, as well as two other bases, a field hospital, a

makeshift courtroom, and much weaponry, equipment and medical supplies.

It said that 27 Tigers had been killed for the loss of only 13 of its own men, most of them when an armoured car was blown up by a landmine.

But survivors emerging yesterday said that the brunt of the killing had been borne by civilians. In one village,

Ambalathurai 45 people had been killed. In Mahaladithivu, 23 workers at a seafood farm built in collaboration with an American firm were herded on to a tractor and trailer, taken to a road junction, and shot.

Seven of them were boys aged between 12 and 14. When 10 people sought refuge in the farm later, they too were shot, survivors told the citizens' committee.

They said the security forces were burning bodies on piles of old tyres — something of which they have often been accused. Sources in Batticaloa said they collected large quantities of old tyres from the town's bus depot on Wednesday.

Many survivors told the committee that a number of villages had been abandoned, while in others people were in danger of starving. Not only were many of their menfolk dead, but they could not go to work in their paddy fields or fish in the lagoon. They were not even allowed to leave the area and seek refuge elsewhere.

Saturday Review

L-G

17th January 1987

More Than 2000 Tamils Killed Yearly

According to figures released by the Secretary of the Citizens' Coordinating Committee, 14,705 Tamils have been killed by Security forces between January, 1981 and December, 1986. The break-up of the figures is as follows:-

1981 - 846
1982 - 1,380

1983 - 3,678
1984 - 3,301
1985 - 2,695
1986 - 2,805

191 Tamils died in 1985 and 200 in 1986 for lack of oxygen in hospitals. 63 died of shock in 1985 and 49 in 1986.

HINDU

Massacre in Mannar

MADRAS, Feb. 10.

The Sri Lankan Army has "hacked to death" more than 80 innocent Tamil civilians in northern Mannar district yesterday and today as 4,000 troops drawn from various camps descended upon the villages of Pandivirichan, Truktheeswaram, Manthai, Uyilankulam and Parapakadanthan and went on a wild spree slaughtering the Tamils and burning down their houses, according to the LTTE here. Women and children were also mercilessly massacred by the rampaging soldiers who left a trail of arson and looting.

The LTTE spokesman said 18 Tamils from Tiruktheeswaram refugee camp were rounded up and shot dead. About 500 refugees at Madu Church were being held hostage and used as human shield whenever the military advanced.

Fierce fighting: More than 10,000 people had fled into the jungle and were facing starvation. Fighter planes dropped fire bombs on civilian targets and set ablaze about 30 houses. Fierce fighting continued for the fifth day today on several new fronts at Thondamannaru, Velvettithurai and Palally between the Army and the LTTE with an all out offensive by the soldiers to wrest control of the northern province.

The spokesman said the escalated conflict

by the Sri Lankan Government had "transformed the entire northern province into a theatre of war". In the clashes at Mannar, 14 soldiers were killed today and a large number of them wounded. LTTE lost six guerillas.

The "jubilant" claims made by the Sri Lankan Army that it had destroyed LTTE bases and killed a number of Tigers at Mannar "are far from truth". The Army had killed only innocent Tamil civilians and claimed to have wiped out the LTTE men.

Heavy fighting was still raging at Kilinochchi today and in fierce counter offensive, LTTE had driven away soldiers from Uruthirapuram where they attempted to hold positions.

In the Jaffna peninsula troops from Velvettithurai, Palally and Thondamannaru army camps were locked in fierce battle with LTTE men near Thondamannaru bridge. Colombo had deployed more than 10,000 soldiers in an all out offensive in the north with Air Force and Navy providing support to the ground forces, the LTTE spokesman said.

D. B. S. Jeyaraj reports from Colombo:

The transport to Jaffna came to a standstill today again after a day of relaxation yesterday. It is said that today's suspension is due to some

troops movement at Kilinochchi from helicopters.

A ban on sale of fuel was imposed today in Mannar district, which caused a traffic halt in the town and other areas.

In Colombo, the Lands and Mahaweli Minister announced that a Mahaweli Brigade would be set up for the security of Mahaweli settlement and the project areas against possible sabotage by the Tamil militants.

PTI reports:

Sri Lankan armed forces launching the biggest and concerted offensive in recent times against the Tamil militants were reported to have inflicted a severe setback to the LTTE in the battle front.

The offensive covered almost one fifth of the island's area in northern districts and parts of eastern Trincomalee in the last four days, a Government communique issued here today said.

It said the armed forces before capturing several headquarters of the militants had destroyed a large quantity of arms and ammunition in the northern districts of Mannar, Jaffna and Kilinochchi. As a result the militants are retreating into the jungles, the communique said.

50 civilians killed, Tamil village wiped out

MADRAS, Feb. 11.

The Sri Lankan Army killed 50 more innocent Tamil civilians yesterday in Kilinochchi district according to LTTE here.

An entire Tamil village of Kumarapuram in Kilinochchi was wiped out in the aerial bombardment by the Sri Lankan Air Force planes. (The Army had massacred 80 Tamil civilians in Mannar district on February 9 and 10).

An LTTE spokesman said several Tamil civilians were killed in Kilinochchi after the Sri Lankan Army had asked them to gather in a "safe place" and attacked them. Fifteen Tamils, who were asked to gather in a house were killed when the house was bombed from the air. A 'gurukulam' school in which people had taken shelter was also subjected to aerial bombing. Besides, the soldiers shot at sight the Tamil public on the road.

Altogether, 50 Tamils were killed in the aerial bombing and shooting by the soldiers in Kilinochchi district yesterday. More than 75 houses were destroyed, the spokesman said. Meanwhile, fierce fighting between the Army and the Tiger guerillas continued as more than 500 soldiers filed out of the camps in Kokkavil and Kilinochchi. Three bomber planes, one sea plane and two helicopter gunships provided aerial support to the ground forces.

In the Jaffna peninsula, the LTTE clashed with about 1,200 soldiers who had left their camps at Pallaly, Velvettithurai and Thondamannaru. There was shelling from the sea by the Sri Lankan Navy and strafing from the air. Ten soldiers and one LTTE member were killed in the fighting yesterday in these places.

In Trincomalee district in the East, more than 1,000 soldiers laid siege to the LTTE bases at Peraru and Kumpurupaddi. Simultaneously, there was shelling from the sea and aerial bombing. Fighting was still continuing there, the LTTE spokesman added.

HINDU

HINDU

'Tamils facing starvation'

MADRAS, Feb. 13.

About 30,000 Tamil civilians in North Sri Lanka were facing starvation as the island's armed forces intensified their military operation in the districts of Mannar, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu, according to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam here.

An LTTE spokesman said that three bomber-planes of the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed the villages of Uruthirapuram and Viswamadu in Kilinochchi today, destroying several houses. About 150 Tamil civilians had been killed in Kilinochchi alone in the army offensive during the last nine days, he said. About 100 mortar-shells were fired at Uruthirapuram from the army camp at Kilinochchi yesterday, injuring several civilians. The villages of Paranthan, Kanagapuram, Jayanthi Nagar, Kumarapuram and Uruthirapuram were completely deserted.

Hundreds of Tamil women, men and children had started trekking through the jungles towards Jaffna, the LTTE spokesman said. Many of them had fainted as they were facing starvation for several days now.

There was a ban on the movement of food and medicines to Kilinochchi. About 1,500 soldiers had camped in four buildings in Paranthan in Kilinochchi. In Vavuniya district, the villages of Iradai, Iluppaikulam, Velankulam and Puvarasankulam had been surrounded by the army today and several Tamil civilians arrested. About 1,00 soldiers were moving towards Mullaithivu with aerial support. Another 1,000 troops had taken position at Palandu in Mannar, he said.

ANNEX 2

HINDU 2-A

Amnesty concern over Sri Lanka disappearances

LONDON, Oct. 23.

Amnesty International has expressed concern over the continuing disappearance of people in Sri Lanka, allegedly abducted by security forces, and said 30 more people have vanished since it called last month for an inquiry into the disappearances.

In a letter to the Sri Lankan Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathumudali, the human rights organisation expressed concern that the Government had taken no action to clarify the fate of 272 missing persons whose cases had been submitted to it by Amnesty International.

Reacting to a government statement inviting it to file legal action on such cases before the Sri Lankan courts so that witnesses to the arrests of the missing persons by security forces could be examined, Amnesty said although the Government had offered to guarantee the safety of the witnesses, nearly all witnesses contacted by it had expressed fear of reprisals by security forces if their identities were disclosed.

On the Sri Lankan Government's suggestion that complaints be filed before the Inspector General of Police, the letter pointed out that the IGP carried no overall responsibility for the conduct of the Army, the Air Force and the Special Task Force, which have most often alleged to be responsible for disappearances, mainly from the eastern provinces.

The letter also noted that in the few cases where the Government had announced that investigations were being carried out by the police or Army, results were invariably not published.

Pleading for an impartial investigation into the cases, Amnesty International said the investigative authority must be empowered to enforce the cooperation of the witnesses and pro-

tect them from reprisals.

Amnesty International also urged the Sri Lankan Government to bring to book the security forces responsible for the disappearances.

The letter urged Sri Lanka to invite the United Nations working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances to the country to examine such cases. Such an invitation, the letter added, could "substantially alleviate the sorrow and anguish of the families who till now have searched in vain for relatives who have disappeared."

Amnesty said it received "widespread allegations of torture."

"Prisoners were allegedly hung upside down and beaten with sticks and sand-filled plastic pipes, had chilli powder inserted in the nostrils, mouth, eyes and genitals, suffered electric shocks and were threatened with execution," Amnesty said.—PTI & UPI

Indefinite curfew in Mannar

MADRAS, Oct. 23.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in Mannar district after the Sri Lankan armed forces dropped pamphlets from helicopters asking the residents to evacuate their houses and seek shelter in temples, churches and schools, according to Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front. An EPRLF press release said today that more than 2,000 troops had been massed at Manthai and Adamban in Mannar since Wednesday which led to an exodus of people from these areas. The army was attacking the Tamils there and there was a cloud of smoke over Adamban village. The soldiers also beat the Tamils travelling in a bus at Manthai.

632 arrested by Sri Lankan forces 'have disappeared'

2-B

BATTICALOA, Jan. 5.

Six hundred and thirty-two people arrested by the Sri Lankan security forces in Batticaloa and Amparal districts since May, 1984, had disappeared, according to the Batticaloa Citizens Committee.

A committee spokesman told a visiting UNI correspondent that a list of 369 people arrested upto May 1986 was sent to the Coordinating Officer, Batticaloa.

"The only reply we got from him was that except in two cases the others were not arrested by the Special Task Force (STF)," the spokesman said.

The committee had made several requests to the Island's Government to institute a commission of inquiry into each of these cases.

Affidavits being collected: The citizens' committee has been collecting affidavits from the people to prove that the arrests were indeed made by the STF. The National Security Minister, Mr. Lalith Athulathumudali, denying the allegations, said in Colombo that those who filed "ex parte affidavits" should come forward and lodge complaints with the police. "What we require is not a list of names but complaints to the police, which is required to start investigations," he said.

Mr. Athulathumudali referred to the case of the Kalmunai citizens' committee president, Mr. Paul Nallanayagam, who was acquitted by the court after he was held under emergency regulations for allegedly spreading false information to the foreign media.

The acquittal of Mr. Nallanayagam showed that the judiciary in the country was independent and that anyone could seek redress through the courts, he said.

He said whenever complaints were registered with the police, the government had initiated prompt action.

A citizens' committee spokesman said the bodies of those who died in the camps were never released to the relatives though the National Security Ministry had assured that this would be done provided that the bodies would not be used for propaganda purposes.

Asked about allegations of torture, the coordinating officer for the district, the Police Superintendent, Mr. M.S.S. Silva, said "We don't resort to torture as a rule."

More Disappearances

2-C

Amnesty International in its January 1987 issue has again spotlighted the "disappearances" of Tamils and has asked the Sri Lankan Government to clarify.

Among the 100 persons arrested at Othiyamalai in Vavuniya District on 2-12-84 is a 31 year-old Technical Officer Linus Aloysius Franklin who was attached to the Irrigation Office at Chemamadu. He was married and with 2 children.

The officials have disclaimed knowledge of their arrests but there were strong reasons to believe that Linus Franklin and the rest of the 100 who "disappeared" had been "killed" and their bodies disposed in secret possibly in Irataperiyakulam Army Camp at Vavuniya.

His photograph appears in the current issue of the Amnesty International.

ANNEX 3

HINDU

3-A

Colombo flayed for killing of Tamils

From A Special Correspondent

GENEVA, March 3.

India today launched a bitter attack on Sri Lanka decrying the latter's lack of "political will and firm conviction" to find a negotiated political solution to its ethnic problem.

Addressing the 43rd session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the leader of the Indian delegation, Mr. Veerendra Patil said that even though India had repeatedly offered its good offices to find a solution, the Sri Lankan promise of negotiations has "been followed by unrestrained military actions." In the beginning of February, the Government's security forces carried out several military operations, especially in the Eastern provinces "ostensibly against the militants but with civilians as the main targets."

Recalling the "unprecedented and extraordinary step of imposing an economic and communications blockade against its own citizens in Jaffna" early this year, Mr. Patil said that the large-scale suffering "inflicted by the Government on the entire Tamil minority can only antagonise the community further and make progress towards a negotiated settlement that much more difficult."

Commenting on Sri Lanka's shabby human rights record as established by several independent international groups, he said "the Sri Lankan Government sought to justify these events as the legitimate response of law and order agencies to the actions of those it perceived as terrorists." More than 2000 civili-

ans, an overwhelming majority of them Tamils were reported to have been killed in 1986 alone, he added.

Hostilities continue

From D. B. S. Jayaraj

COLOMBO, March 3.

Hostilities are continuing in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula. People of Kadduwan and Tellipalai areas are evacuating because of shelling by the armed forces from their camp at Palaly.

According to reports reaching Colombo the shells fired from the camp are able to hit targets eight to 10 km away.

Fishermen in the stretch from Valvettithurai to Aalhiyavalai along the sea are unable to go out for fishing as naval boats are seen in the area.

Patients leave hospital

MADRAS, March 3.

Most of the patients in the General Hospital at Tellipalai in Jaffna have left the hospital after the artillery-shells fired by the Sri Lanka army from their camp at Palaly fell on the hospital, according to the LTTE here today.

Its spokesman said of about 350 in-patients in the hospital, only 30 remained there. The doctors, nurses and other employees were also reluctant to work as some of the shells landed on the hospital campus in the last two days.

The general hospitals at Tirukovil in Amparai, Mahiladitheevu in Batticaloa and Palamadu in Mannar had been converted into soldiers' camps by the Sri Lanka's armed forces.

Colombo to intensify drive

From D. B. S. Jayaraj

COLOMBO, March 3.

Operations in the northern Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka continued for the third day today, according to reports reaching Colombo. The security forces were reported to have fired shells from the Navatkuli and Point Pedro camps. No details of injuries, casualties or damage were available.

The drive against the militants is to be intensified, according to the Tamil daily *Veerakoodam*. It quoted a senior official of the Joint Operations Command today as saying, "Our military operations will get more intensified from next week. All arrangements towards this have been made."

The peninsula, where a fuel embargo and communications blockade is in effect for the third successive month, is the scene of a massive security operation. Shelling, strafing and bombing are common features, while the people face a severe economic blockade.

On Sunday, shells were reportedly fired from the Navatkuli and Valvettithurai camps, and the area was strafed by a couple of helicopters. At least 15 persons were reported to have been injured and admitted to hospital for treatment.

Bunkers destroyed: Official sources said a patrol from Navatkuli on a routine march along the Jaffna-Kandy road towards Kaithady on Sunday destroyed a large number of bunkers and machine gun emplacements, and killed three militants. Many more were seriously wounded, they said. The sources also confirmed that

low flying aircraft were used in Saturday's operations.

An EROS militant, Henry alias Sabaratnam, was reported to have been arrested in Colombo last weekend. Official sources said he was responsible for a number of bomb blasts in Colombo and its suburbs. Yesterday, the entrance to Colombo city was under strict surveillance.

Hamed for Geneva: Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, Mr. Sahul Hameed left on Sunday night for Geneva. It was reported here that Argentina was planning to move a resolution against Sri Lanka in the session of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. It is to counter this that he is said to have gone.

The Sri Lankan National Security Minister, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, has accused unidentified 'foreign elements' of supplying arms to the Tamil militants while talking publicly with the Colombo Government.

Mr. Athulathmudali told a public meeting at Ratnapura last Saturday: "It is a matter of great regret that certain foreign elements, while talking publicly with the Sri Lankan Government, are supplying arms to terrorists to kill Sri Lankans".

The arms, secretly supplied to rebels, were used not only to kill Sinhalese and Muslims but also Tamils, the Minister said, according to an official summary of his speech issued today. Mr. Athulathmudali did not name the foreign elements but he was believed to have been referring to India. New Delhi has denied previous Sri Lankan charges that Tamil rebels are trained and armed in India.

3-B

TEXTS OF INDIA'S MESSAGE AND COLOMBO'S RESPONSE

A RESPONSE is awaited from the Government of India to the Sri Lankan Government's response, dated February 12th, to the Government of India's message delivered to Mr. J. R. Jayawardene on February 9th by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. J. N. Dixit.

The substance and details of the respective positions were presented, in full text, by Mr. Jayawardene in his address to the Sri Lankan Parliament on Thursday. Here are the texts of the original Indian message and Colombo's response:

Indian message

Message from the Prime Minister and the Government of India to the President and Government of Sri Lanka, delivered in Colombo on Monday, February 9th:

1. As far as the current military operations against the Tamil civilians continue, and other discriminatory measures, like economic and communications blockade affecting civilians exist, India is not in a position to resume discussions with Tamil militants. While this is so for the present, India will remain willing to resume the peace process if and when these actions are withdrawn.

2. India is firmly of the view that the proposals which emerged on the 19th of December, after Mr. Natwar Singh and Mr. Chidambaram's visit to Colombo, must clearly be affirmed by the Government of Sri Lanka as a basis and only a beginning point for further negotiations. India is also of the view that the final framework of a solution based on those proposals can only be forged when (the) Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil side come together again for negotiations.

3. If the Government of Sri Lanka continues the economic blockade and military operations against Tamils, prospects of violence will increase. India's assessment is that the conflict will be prolonged and will escalate."

The response from the President and Government of Sri Lanka to the Prime Minister and Government of India was handed over by Mr. Jayawardene to Mr. Dixit on Thursday, February 12th. It was worded as follows:

Colombo's response

Introduction

"The response to the Government of India's message being given below is predicated on the clear understanding that all further discussions to be held or solutions to be evolved shall be within the framework of the Independence, Territorial integrity and Unity of Sri Lanka.

1. If the armed separatists (LTTE) agree to cease armed violent operations and related military preparations and desist from any activity aimed at setting up, or interfering with, the legal administration of the area, and this is announced by them, the Government of Sri Lanka would ensure that the Armed Forces will not carry out any further military operations in the area during this period.

2. When hostilities cease, in terms of para 1 above, the embargo (on the movement of certain commodities), now in force in the Jaffna peninsula will be lifted.

a. If the LTTE is prepared to attend talks with the representatives of the Government of Sri Lanka towards a peaceful solution of the ethnic problem, appropriate talks may be held in New Delhi with the assistance of the representatives of the Indian Government. The Government of Sri Lanka expects the Government of India to underwrite the implementation of any agreement so reached.

3. Upon the armed separatists giving up their arms - a vital step in strengthening the civil administration - a general amnesty will be given to them by the President of Sri Lanka.

4. When talks towards a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem commence, the Government of Sri Lanka will release those persons now held in custody under the Prevention of Terrorism Act who have no charges against them.

5. In all these proceedings the mediatory role and the good offices of the Government of India are relevant. The Government of Sri Lanka reaffirms that the results of the discussions held so far, including the proposals of 19th December, 1986, will be the basis for evolving a durable solution.

6. The Government of Sri Lanka is agreeable to an early date being fixed for the negotiations."

Some restrictions lifted

FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S Cabinet decision to lift certain restrictions imposed on the Northern Peninsula, the government yesterday announced the following fuel distribution schemes.

No restriction on kerosene. However, the Government agent, Jaffna will appoint 20 dealers to handle the distribution of kerosene for Jaffna peninsula. No restriction on firewood. No restriction on engine oil. Petrol and diesel will be distributed rationally. The scheme will be read out by the Coordinating Officer and the Jaffna GA and will be implemented as follows:

- (a) Private cars - three gallons per week.
- (b) Private buses, vans and lorries - ten gallons per week.
- (c) Tractors - five gallons per week.
- (d) Motor-cycles - one gallon per week.

All vehicle owners will however have to produce their 1987 revenue licences, vehicle registration books and insurance certificates to obtain their quotas. Normal requirements will be issued to SLTB buses.

Island 17/3/87

December 19 Proposals

The December 19, 1986 proposals, worked out between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka as "a basis" and "only a beginning point for further negotiations", have not been officially handed over either to the LTTE or the TULF. Here is the text of the proposals which emerged after talks in Colombo between the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, and the two Indian Ministers of State, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, and Mr. P. Chidambaram in December.

"The present territory comprising the Eastern Province minus the Amparai Electorate (electoral district) may constitute the new Eastern Province.

"A Provincial Council will be established for the new Eastern Province.

"The institutional linkages between the Northern Province and the Eastern Province discussed earlier will be further

defined in order to make it more acceptable to the parties concerned.

"The Sri Lankan Government will be willing to consider a proposal for a second stage of constitutional development providing for the Northern Province and the new Eastern Province coming together subject to modalities being agreed upon for ascertaining the wishes of the people comprised in the Northern Province and the Eastern Province separately.

"The Sri Lankan Government is willing to consider the creation of an office of Vice-President to be appointed by the President for a specified term.

"The five Muslim MPs of the Eastern Province may be invited to visit India and to discuss matters of mutual concern with the Tamil side under the auspices of the Government of India."

THE INTERNATIONAL TAMIL CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

has obtained observer status at U.N. General Assembly. The International Tamil Cultural Association will be able to send two representatives to the annual sessions of the U.N. General Assembly.

Although as mere observers its accredited representatives will not be able to participate in the General Assembly debates or other proceedings, yet it would provide opportunities for lobbying officially. The ICTA representing Tamils resident in many countries is expected to hold its Annual Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during May 1987.

Fuel movement ban begins to choke Jaffna

From Our Correspondent

COLOMBO, Jan. 8.

The economy of Jaffna, affected by the past years of conflict, showed signs of grinding to a halt with the island Government's New Year resolution of "choking" the peninsula of fuel supplies. Although fuel stocks in the area are adequate to withstand an economic blockade for a few days, the public at large are suffering the effects of such a move.

The Government agent of Jaffna, Mr. M. Panchalingam and the Northern Transport Board Chairman, Mr. K. Kanagarathnam are in Colombo making representations to the authorities about the problems faced by the civil administration responsible to Colombo.

In Jaffna all fuel depots are closed. Residents say that bottles of petrol, diesel and kerosene are being sold at Rs. 70, 80 and 40 each respectively at some places. Most vehicles are off the road and private transport vehicles curb their trips. State-run buses are concentrating on long-distance routes. Special buses for school children and Government servants are run at long intervals. According to the Transport Board Chairman, unless alternative arrangements are made even these services will have to be stopped.

The Joint Operations Commander, Gen. Ranatunge, told the press that the Security Council had resolved to suspend fuel supplies till the present incidents were over. He was alluding to the LTTE moves to establish a

parallel administration in Jaffna. The General said a proposal to limit the supplies to the State-run buses was being considered.

Mr. Kanagarathnam met the National Security Minister, Mr. Laith Athulathmudali and explained the position.

Security sources in Colombo feel that fuel will not be given to even State buses as that would negate the purpose of the ban. If long-distance bus services are stopped, the main land will be cut off from the peninsula. Already trains run only up to Vavuniya, 144 km to the south of Jaffna and on the border of the Northern Province.

Bus services cut

Since security forces at check-points, particularly at the Elephant Pass barrier, are ever vigilant and have seized even cans and bottles of fuel and kerosene carried by individuals, private buses and lorries going from Colombo to Jaffna have drastically reduced their services. From Jaffna also as many vehicles as possible are moving out in increased number of passengers.

Those who can find accommodation in areas outside Jaffna are moving out as they fear a worsening situation culminating in an all-out armed onslaught against the peninsula. They feel the fuel ban would cause a chain reaction of decrease of food supplies, essential goods including medicine, infant foods, etc. Though there are food stocks in Jaffna, the residents point out that lack of transport would prevent the movement of essential food items. Food supplies are

freighted to Kankasanturai. How to transport them from there is the question. The residents suspect that power supply would be cut soon and then the State would make an all-out bid to conquer Jaffna militarily. A freezing of bank funds is also feared. Vegetables cost more

In the peninsula farmers, particularly those cultivating onions and tobacco, are unable to irrigate their crops for want of fuel. Vegetable prices too are on the rise. The bus fare for passengers both within Jaffna and to areas outside has increased.

Health conditions too are eroding. The Jaffna Medical Superintendent, Dr.

Nachinarkinar said the ambulance service would be shut down soon. The supply of vital drugs and oxygen cylinders coming from Colombo was curtailed. There is no fuel for standby-generators if power supply is cut.

The Municipal Commissioner of Jaffna city Mr. Sivagnanam, said that once the existing fuel stocks were exhausted the Council would not be able to maintain any sanitation facility.

Following the limited bus services, attendance in school and offices has begun dropping. The Jaffna bazaar too is fast shedding its activity.

Bullock-cart in use

Some resolute citizens of the area are travelling in bullock-carts to beat the fuel ban. The use of cycles, a familiar mode of conveyance in Jaffna, has increased. An interesting feature has been the difficulty

faced by the LTTE in enforcing road travel rules through its new traffic police. Passengers are permitted to travel on footboards and bus tops. Even two or three persons are allowed to go on cycles.

The Government ban on aluminium foils is interpreted as one that would directly affect LTTE's arms production. According to reports the LTTE manufactures six mortars and 25 shells a day. In Vavuniya five lorries carrying motor spareparts and hardware goods to Jaffna have been detained by the security authorities.

The irony of the fuel ban is that, while depriving the LTTE from carrying out a parallel administration, the State too is self-destroying the remaining vestiges of its control in Jaffna.

LTTE's appeal

The LTTE has appealed to the people to "unite and consolidate" in their fight to thwart the Government's move to impose, what it termed "economic sanctions" to cripple the liberation struggle of the Tamils.

In a statement issued from its headquarters at Jaffna late last night the LTTE said it was time people came "forward to contribute to the cause of Tamil Eelam."

The statement made available in Colombo today from sources at Jaffna, said the Government, after failing militarily to "crush out the liberation struggle, has now decided to cripple the economy of Jaffna, causing hardship to the people."

4-8

Checkpoints choke food supplies

JAFFNA, Jan. 28.

Six-year-old Kopal Nageswary scraped the last of the half-cooked rice from her plate, devoured it hungrily and turned imploringly to her mother for more. But there was none. Even if some rice were available, there was no fuel to cook it with.

Kopal and her family, like others in their village in the north-eastern Jaffna peninsula, are victims of a new weapon being used by the Sri Lankan Government in its bitter conflict with Tamil militants.

Jaffna is facing a blockade. Early this month, the Government banned petrol and other fuel supplies from entering the area, a militant stronghold linked to the island by a sliver of land known as the Elephant Pass.

Travel to and from the peninsula, where most of the 800,000 people are Tamils, is still allowed, but food supplies appear to be subject to unofficial delays.

This reporter saw almost 80 lorries loaded with rice, coconuts, sugar, cabbages, brooms, buckets and other goods waiting to be searched at a checkpoint in the Pass manned by two policemen and a soldier. One driver,

whiling away the time with a game of cards, said he had been there four days.

"Starvation has to come soon with the way things are going," said one Jaffna resident, who helps distribute government food rations to hundreds of thousands of the poor.

Kopal's mother said she did not know how they and their neighbours in Araly village would survive the fuel embargo, which even applies to firewood.

"It (embargo) has caused many villagers to eat uncooked meals, pushing them back to the stone age. This is an experience very difficult for me to forget," said N. Kugaraja, secretary of a citizens committee in Araly.

Food still finds its way to Jaffna. Ox-drawn carts trundle sacks of rice through dusty sandbagged streets, past immobilised old Morris Minor cars that were once taxis.

But not enough supplies get through, and some prices have doubled. "Butter and cheese are now out of the question," said a well-off Jaffna matron. "If this is our plight, how much worse is it for the poor people?" she asked.

Even fish is scarce. The military has banned

fishing within 1,000 metres of the coast.

Letters are piling up in post offices and garbage is rotting in backyards. There is no transport to take them anywhere.

State-owned buses no longer run within the peninsula. But they still operate in the rest of the island. Private vans will go anywhere for anyone willing to pay the sky-high fare.

Officials' claim

Military officials claimed they were trying to clear the backlog at Elephant Pass and that the people should blame the militants for the security measures disrupting their lives.

But most people, this reporter spoke to, felt the Government was punishing them unfairly in its bid to crush the Tamils' struggle which began in 1983 after years of discrimination at the hands of the island's Sinhalese majority.

"The people here have learned to suffer. The tougher the Government gets, the harder the Tamils become," said Protestant Bishop David Ambalavanar.

"I feel frustrated, very hurt and angry to think that a country which calls us citizens should treat us like this," said a Jaffna housewife.—Reuter

Economic blockade of Jaffna being tightened

MADRAS, Feb. 2.

The Sri Lankan Government was preparing to launch a major assault on the Jaffna peninsula, along with tightening of the economic blockade, according to a spokesman of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam).

He said here today that large contingents of Sri Lankan troops in armoured vehicles and equipped with artillery, were being moved from Colombo to Vavuniya in the Tamil majority North, according to LTTE's intelligence reports.

The reports said that the Government has also alerted all the camps in the North for an imminent military assault to wrest control of the peninsula.

Plan to cut off medicine supply: The spokesman said steps were also being taken to cut off medicine supply to the peninsula. Lorries carrying drugs worth lakhs of rupees from Anuradhapura have been detained at the Anaiyiravu checkpoint.

In view of the increased use of bicycles in the peninsula following the fuel blockade, the Government has stopped transport of bicycles and spare parts from 2 p.m. yesterday. Lorries carrying bicycles arrived in Jaffna empty after they were offloaded at the Anaiyiravu checkpoint.

Irrigation channels closed: The spokesman said the army has closed the irrigation channels of Iranaimadu tank in Killinochchi district and as a result, crops on thousands of acres were withering.

He said about 80 lorries were detained at Madavachi in Anuradhapura following intensification of checks at the army camp there. In Jaffna, petrol was being sold at Rs. 75 a bottle.

The spokesman said that in Colombo, the police launched a massive search operation yesterday and arrested about 50 innocent Tamil youth.

Military patrol ambushed: At Mundingaikulam in Mullaitheevu in the North, the LTTE ambushed a military patrol this morning, killing 10 soldiers. An army vehicle was blasted by a landmine laid by the Tigers, he added.

Ban on movement of food, fuel to Batticaloa

MADRAS, Feb. 3.

The Sri Lankan Government has clamped a ban from February 1 on the movement of food-items and fuel to Batticaloa district in the East, according to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam here. (Batticaloa witnessed fierce battles between the Sri Lankan Special Task Force commandos and the LTTE militants for three days from January 28).

An LTTE spokesman said here today that the army had established a string of checkposts on the roads leading to Paduvankarai in Batticaloa district and it was carrying out rigorous checks on all vehicles transporting fuel and food. The ban on transporting food and fuel to Batticaloa had brought more hardship to the Tamils in the district.

4-E

Economic blockade of Jaffna being tightened

MADRAS, Feb. 2.

The Sri Lankan Government was preparing to launch a major assault on the Jaffna peninsula, along with tightening of the economic blockade, according to a spokesman of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam).

He said here today that large contingents of Sri Lankan troops in armoured vehicles and equipped with artillery, were being moved from Colombo to Vavuniya in the Tamil majority North, according to LTTE's intelligence reports.

The reports said that the Government has also alerted all the camps in the North for an imminent military assault to wrest control of the peninsula.

Plan to cut off medicine supply: The spokesman said steps were also being taken to cut off medicine supply to the peninsula. Lorries carrying drugs worth lakhs of rupees from Anuradhapura have been detained at the Anaiyiravu checkpost.

In view of the increased use of bicycles in the peninsula following the fuel blockade, the Government has stopped transport of bicycles and spare parts from 2 p.m. yesterday. Lorries carrying bicycles arrived in Jaffna empty after they were offloaded at the Anaiyiravu checkpost.

Irrigation channels closed: The spokesman said the army has closed the irrigation channels of Irainimadu tank in Killinochchi district and as a result, crops on thousands of acres were withering.

He said about 80 lorries were detained at Medavachi in Anuradhapura following intensification of checks at the army camp there. In Jaffna, petrol was being sold at Rs. 75 a bottle.

The spokesman said that in Colombo, the police launched a massive search operation yesterday and arrested about 50 innocent Tamil youth.

Military patrol ambushed: At Mundingaikulam in Mullaitheevu in the North, the LTTE ambushed a military patrol this morning, killing 10 soldiers. An army vehicle was blasted by a landmine laid by the Tigers, he added.

Ban on movement of food, fuel to Batticaloa

4-F

MADRAS, Feb. 3.

The Sri Lankan Government has clamped a ban from February 1 on the movement of food-items and fuel to Batticaloa district in the East, according to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam here. (Batticaloa witnessed fierce battles between the Sri Lankan Special Task Force commandos and the LTTE militants for three days from January 28).

An LTTE spokesman said here today that the army had established a string of checkposts on the roads leading to Paduvankarai in Batticaloa district and it was carrying out rigorous checks on all vehicles transporting fuel and food. The ban on transporting food and fuel to Batticaloa had brought more hardship to the Tamils in the district.

lai, Chunnakam, Thaiddy and Myliddy. Several buildings were damaged and people injured.

Temples, hospitals damaged: The Varuthalavilan Pillaiyar temple and another temple were damaged. So were the government and co-operative hospitals at Tellipalai.

An ambulance carrying the injured persons was also fired upon. Three LTTE militants were killed: they were Balamogan, Nelson and Gillete. The fighting ceased at 8-30 p.m.

Fighting was recorded in the same areas on Sunday too. Transport to these places ceased. Officials were not able to go there to provide relief to displaced families, numbering nearly 4,000.

In the context of heavy fighting occurring around Tellipalai over the past few days it is felt that the security forces seek to establish a camp at Tellipalai junction.

Meanwhile the official Media Centre said in Colombo that 16 terrorists were killed in Kadduvan, three security men died and another 10 were wounded. The safety of the civilian population had been ensured by the security forces.

In northern Vavuniya, 12 persons were arrested by the security forces on Saturday. The forces went on a search on Friday in Sarnamadu and Nochikulam and the operation lasted till Saturday evening. Those arrested in the 18 to 40 age group were taken to the Vavuniya joint security forces headquarters camp.

This morning the Army went on a search in Vairanvappuliyankulam Bazaar road and railway station area.

Our Madras Staff Reporter writes:

Fifteen Sri Lankan soldiers were killed, 21 seriously injured, an armoured car was destroyed and a helicopter damaged in the heavy fighting in Jaffna on the second day today between the LTTE men and the troops, according to an LTTE press release issued here today.

Besides three LTTE men, three civilians were killed and several injured and about 50 houses were damaged in the heavy mortar and artillery bombardment by the armed forces.

Three villages were severely affected and thousands of people fled from these areas for safety. Heavy fighting still continued till late in the evening, the press release said.

4-G

Heavy fighting in Jaffna

From D. B. S. Jayaraj

COLOMBO, March 1.

Heavy fighting between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil militants, lasting from dawn to dusk occurred in the northern Jaffna peninsula on Saturday.

According to reports reaching this correspondent from Jaffna three militants and seven security men were killed. Seven security men were badly wounded, 25 civilians injured, over 50 houses and three temples damaged.

Nearly 4,000 families from villages in north Valigamam have sought refuge elsewhere.

The reports said three groups of soldiers left the base camp at Palaly and the adjoining camp at Vasavilan at about 5-30 a.m.; one group from Palaly walked to Thondamanaru camp through Valalai. Two soldiers were killed when a landmine exploded. Then there was exchange of fire after which the security men returned to Palaly.

The other left the Vasavilan mini-camp for Tellipalai via Kadduvan and Kurumbasiddy by road. Another detachment tried to approach Tellipalai by venturing through the countryside, comprising paddy fields, gardens and palmyrah groves. LTTE militants resisted the security men at Kadduvan.

Aerial strafing: The forces going through the countryside were checked at Varuthalavilan (the hometown of PLOT leader Umamaheswaran) near a Pillaiyar temple. At one point an armoured scout car and a bulldozer got bogged in the sand.

The Tamil militants surrounded the security men who were trying to get the bulldozer out. Two helicopters and a "spy" plane indulged in heavy aerial strafing to facilitate the retrieving of the vehicles. The fury of aerial attacks was felt in different degrees in many places like Vasavilan, Kadduvan, Kurumbasiddy, Tellipalai, Ert-

THE DIABOLICAL PLAN FOR TAMIL ETHNOCIDE

SRI LANKA is enmeshed in a guerilla type civil war with no end in sight. A situation similar to that of the occupation of Cyprus which occurred a few years ago where a powerful neighbour in the North imposed a military solution and the partition of a small island in favour of a minority cannot be ruled out altogether. In fact it is an awesome possibility, and the existence of Tamil Nadu with over 50 million Indian Tamils is a significant factor in the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict.

It is the pattern of such a war that the guerillas have considerable initiative regarding timing and place of attack, and that a lull of several weeks or months is the prelude to another sudden daring onslaught. With a sympathetic local population as their allies, it is they who control the countryside of Northern Sri Lanka, especially at night, after check-mating the armed forces with their most effective weapon - the remote controlled landmine.

It is not the objective of this Paper to analyse the manifold causes of the present situation, as all the Sri Lankan governments since independence have contributed their share. The roots of this conflict are ancient, but they have been exacerbated by a disastrous educational policy - Sinhalese for the Sinhala children and Tamil for the Tamil children - creating two nations without a link language over the past three decades. The cultural void was filled by South Indian films and media that have led to the emergence of a thoroughly alienated Tamil youth in

whose minds it was instilled, from childhood, that an Eelam was their only salvation.

That, all post independent governments of Sri Lanka did not anticipate the seriousness of the looming ethnic conflict and evolve a suitable strategy is a tragedy (with the exception of the limited objectives achieved by D.S. Senansyake and C.P. de Silva). It is imperative at least at this late stage, that we anticipate developments and evolve appropriate strategies - both political and military - the latter to deal with the immediate grave situation and in order to buy time as well as to strengthen our hand when the negotiations eventually take place.

It is the intent of this Paper to highlight some issues for consideration and discussion. The ideas put forward are only suggestions which may be developed or modified depending on the circumstances and further developments.

Effective and complete naval blockade of the North of Sri Lanka from South India appears vital to control the war. It may also be advantageous to deploy the Sri Lankan armed forces and the armed police on the coastline and the sea encircling or bordering the fringe of the Tamil heartland - with naval air and communication bases located at strategic points. Some of the smaller islands surrounding the Jaffna Peninsula, the Indian end of the Mannar island and important strategic locations on the North and East coast of the Jaffna Peninsula and the Northern Province should be

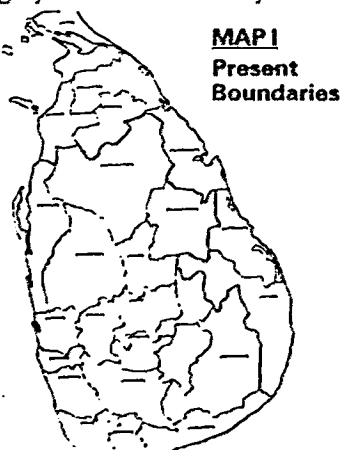
made into permanent naval/military bases (and Nagadipa should be linked to this chain though not for military purposes). At present transport to this region across the area appears safer than over land. Total control of the sea by an expanded Sri Lankan navy may be a key to an eventual negotiated settlement.

However, as the experience of Northern Ireland and the Basque region of Spain reveal, all modern military hardware of a sea blockade may not be able to eliminate guerilla war as long as the rebels have local support. An eventual negotiated political settlement with the TULF politicians in the North achieved with the active cooperation of the central government in New Delhi should be our main objective. The crucial stumbling block to a settlement may be the level of regional power and the geographical extent of territory demanded by the TULF.

Giving up a large segment of the North and East for a Tamil autonomous region is unacceptable for the majority community. There is an inbuilt fear among the Sinhalese of the establishment of Provincial Councils, and the feeling that Sri Lanka is too small for provinces to be included in an autonomous region (federalism is a dead word). Thus it may be a good idea to abolish provinces altogether and search for other units.

There is another potent reason for taking this step.

The existing map of Sri Lanka has often been shown in foreign media with the Northern and Eastern provinces marked as 'Traditional homelands of the Tamils' or as 'Tamil areas'. It is amazing how the



Sinhalese have accepted for so long the presentation of such maps by foreign media to world audiences. These maps do not represent the traditional boundaries of Sri Lanka corroborated by its long history. They are merely those drawn up by colonial administrators to suit their own purposes in the 19th century and were last revised as far back as 1890. These boundaries and divisions into provinces are not sacrosanct and do not obtain support from our historical records. One wonders why the succession of independent governments in Sri Lanka accepted the original 19th century maps of colonial cartographers. Within this mould the Separatists are unhappy that the Trincomalee District has 33.8% of Tamils compared to 33.6% of Sinhalese. It is time that this cartographic absurdity is broken for good.

It is of utmost importance to the Sinhalese and the Muslims and the future security of Sri Lanka that the Northern Tamil Districts should on no account be allowed, either now or in the future, to join up with the Eastern Province Batticaloa Tamils in an extended provincial council for, together, they can control almost two-thirds of Sri Lanka's coastline. The Trincomalee District with its strategic harbour is vital to the security of Sri Lanka and there should not be any compromises over the handing over of this area to a TULF dominated Provincial Council. The area forms an ethnic bridge and colonisation of this region by a Sinhalese population can break this inter-district ethnic link. It is a tragedy that this main seaport of the Polonnaruwa kingdom and an important province of the Kandyan Kingdom (where Robert Knox was captured by soldiers of Rajasinghe I) has been neglected for centuries and remains so after independence.

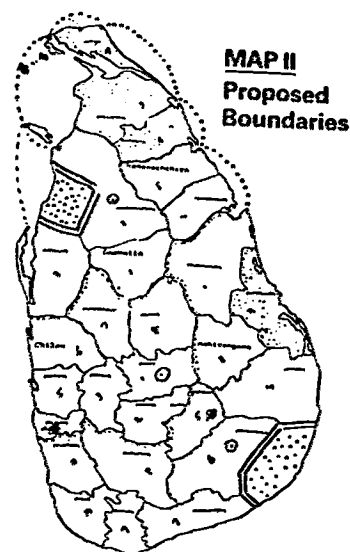
Is colonisation of this region possible at this period of time? Achieving this would be difficult as in the case of the West Bank where all Israeli colonists are part-time soldiers. The new Sinhalese colonists run the risk of being shot at or being blown up by land mines, and there may not be enough volunteers. But by redrawing the traditional maps with newly demarcated district or county boundaries and by their presentation in foreign as well as Sri Lankan media the following objectives may be

achieved which may prove to have a dramatic psychological effect – without the actual transfer of populations.

1. Reinforce or highlight the fact that Tamils form only a minority in the Eastern Province;
2. It would be useful in the psychological and propaganda warfare against the guerillas by raising the question – "Is this small Eelam worth fighting for"?
3. It would boost the morale of the Sinhalese and reinforce the anti-Eelam attitude of the wavering Tamil speaking Muslims living in these areas (who form about 25% of the population in the Mannar district).

As such we urge the Government to:

1. Break the 9 province system completely and erase the outline of the 19th century provinces from the map of Sri Lanka, and make the units of administration smaller districts or 'Disawas' (similar to the English Counties or French Departments).
2. Redraw the boundaries of the present districts similar to the revision of County boundaries carried out in the UK some years ago – enlarging some and abolishing others. The new arrangements should then lead to the westward extension of the Trincomalee District so that the Sinhalese are in a majority. Refer map 2.
3. Extend the Polonnaruwa District eastwards up to the east coast.
4. Create a new district of Medawachchiya to include some areas of the Northern Province, the Sinhalese district of Vauniya etc. This district too should extend to the east coast. These three districts should have a majority of Sinhalese depending on how the boundaries are drawn.
5. If necessary, create other new districts like Dambulla, Chilaw and Mahiyangana and remove other existing anomalies from the district boundaries.
6. Take this opportunity to enlarge the 2 National Parks, Yala and Wilpattu for effective preservation of our wild life heritage as the forest cover of Sri Lanka would decline further in the forthcoming decades. The displaced villagers may be resettled in the Medawachchiya district.
7. Amalgamate the strategic Mannar district to the Anuradhapura district. Full publicity should be given to the fact that the largest unexcavated archaeological mound in Sri Lanka is in Mannar (Mantota), the main seaport of the Anuradhapura kingdom (which traded with Arabia, China and the Roman Empire in ancient times). This amalgamation is thus the revival of an old historical link.
8. (a) Effective political control of the North East and North West of Sri Lanka should enable the Sinhalese to give some concessions regarding autonomy to the Tamils in the Jaffna, Mullativu (and possibly Vauniya and Batticaloa Counties) under the umbrella of military encirclement;
- (b) Consider further enlargement of non-separatist Tamil representation in Sri Lanka's Parliament by the creation of a parliamentary seat for the Colombo Tamils (Colombo South). Granting two or three parliamentary seats for the minority Tamils whose voices can also demonstrate to the world media that Separatism is not supported by a large segment of the Tamil population.
- (c) Consider the creation of the Post of Vice President of Sri Lanka to be held by a Muslim or Tamil. This may alter the attitudes and loyalties of the minorities towards the Sri Lankan State.



WEEKEND SYNDROME

The Sri Lanka Government has never carried out military operations against civilians nor ever will.

That closes the chapter up-to-date.

Thus spake Zarthustra alias J. R. Jayewardene, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at the opening of the 7th Sessions of Parliament on 19th February 1987.

President Jayewardene is, Constitutionally, the Commander of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

On Monday (30th March) Security Forces based at the Jaffna Fort Army Camp (constitutionally under the command of President J. R. Jayewardene, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka) took on not merely the civilians but also the patients warded at the Jaffna General Hospital. (See page 3 for details)

Their shells hit wards No. 19 and 20 of the Jaffna General Hospital run by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Ward No. 19 is a Medical ward where heart patients, for example, are warded.

One such patient had been Warded in Ward No. 19 for bed-rest, much against his wishes. He was a heart-patient who wanted to stay peacefully at home. On medical advice—bed-rest—he was taken and warded at Ward No.19.

On Monday, 30th March around 6.30 a. m., a shell fired from the Jaffna Fort Army Camp turned him into a bloody mess minus the lower half of his body.

This is just one of the instances of the bloody battles that the Armed Forces of the Democratic Socialist

Republic of Sri Lanka is fighting against the civilians in the North and East.

Apparently the Security Forces are not battling merely the patients warded at the Jaffna General Hospital.

They ARE ALSO FIGHTING CIVILIANS. THE BEHAVIOURAL PATTERN OF THE ARMED FORCES SEEMS TO BE TO GO BER-

SERK ON WEEKENDS. AS FAR AS THEY ARE CONCERNED—A LOST WEEKEND; A GORY WEEKEND FOR EVERYONE ELSE.

Round about mid-day on Saturday (28th March), the tranquillity of a seemingly peaceful Jaffna was shattered by helicopters which fired rounds after rounds for nearly 4 hours.

The planes, overflew Jaffna Town in rehearsal runs and one of them released bombs killing civilians in Nallur.

The sortie over, the planes vanished but the people's troubles were just beginning.

Even as the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) started the



Ward No. 19 after shell attack

regular 6.30 a.m. news bulletin, at least 4 bombers swooped down on Nallur and dropped several bombs (fortunately some bombs did not explode—Parliament please note).

A little while later the bombers hit Nerveily.

On Monday morning the Jaffna Fort Camp shelled the Jaffna General Hospital. Commander-in-Chief, how about this? Has someone opened a new chapter?

At the same time the Maudaitivu Army Camp opened up with shell-hitting, killing and injuring people living at the Government-sponsored Gurunagar Housing Scheme on Beach Road, Gurunagar, Jaffna. (Prime Minister Premadasa, please note)

When the Jaffna people thought that the sound of helicopter music was over, bombers suddenly appeared over Jaffna Town round about 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Jaffna Hospital Staff Determined To Brave Shells

(By A Special Correspondent)

Jaffna hospital was shelled for the 7th time on the morning of 30th March. This time the shell fell into the centre of wards 19 and 20 killing 8 patients and wounding several others. A nurse and an attendant were badly injured. The attendant succumbed latter.

Dr. Nageswaran, Consultant in charge of ward 19 showed me the bloodstains of a patient whose skull had cracked. He told me in a broken voice that two of the patients who died had wanted to go home on Sunday. Nothing was left of the ceiling. The wall clock had stopped dead at 6-25 A.M. The long room which was shared by wards 19 and 20 was a mess of broken steel beds, broken asbestos pieces together with remains of thermos flasks, bottles and bathroom slippers, reminiscent of past human habitation. The floor had a hole one yard in diameter where the shell had exploded. The shell then fell into the children's ward below narrowly missing a mother tending to her child. Only two children now remained behind in the ward. Another shell had fallen outside the building disrupting the water main.

Dr. Nageswaran said that details of wounded patients were hard to get as patients had fled home. "They come to hospital because they need urgent care", he said "what can you expect if their chances of dying in hospital are significantly high?" He said that the upstairs building had such a bad shaking that it will have to be demolished. All patients in the hospital have been taken to ground floor wards for the benefit of concrete protection.



"It was a very deliberate and unprovoked act", said Dr. Nachinakinari, the Medical Superintendent. "I had been trying to contact the army by phone since the early hours of the morning on my being told that there was shelling around the hospital. I tried various numbers. In one instance the phone was picked up and was put down after I said who I was when I tried to contact the Brigadier after 8:00 A.M. Capt. Majid answered and took down the details, telling me that the Brigadier was at an important conference. I was asked to ring half an hour later. When I rang around 1000 A.M. Capt. Majid told me that the conference was still on. But he said that he had checked with the Fort Camp and they had said that they had not fired after 6:00 A.M. I told him that it was a damned lie and everything indicated that the shell which hit wards 19 and 20 at 6:25 A.M. had come from the Fort. I also said that my business was also urgent as I had to decide whether to keep the hospital open. When I tried the Brigadier at 2:00 P.M. I was told that he had gone on a tour of Palaly camp. I said that I was going to put all this on record".

Dr. Nachinakinari said that with all their problems they were going to keep the hospital open. Asked about the position of the Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) he said that the GMOA believed them. The GMOA had reported the complaint concerning the shelling by the Jaffna branch to the AIR correspondent asked about the position of the International Red Cross, he said that it was left to the public and the press to make representations to them. Dr. Nachinakinari gave a specific assurance that he had questioned the staff and was satisfied that there was absolutely no provocation to the government forces to shell the hospital and no one had fired at Government forces from the vicinity of the hospital. Asked if communication with the army had broken down, he replied, "not completely".

Dr. Nageswaran and Prof Ganeshwaran referred to the claim by the state television that the army had been fired upon from behind Jaffna hospital. All this they said amounted to a conspiracy to close down Jaffna hospital. This was a case of a government army firing at a government institution and killing government servants. It was they said the consensus of the hospital staff that even at risk to their lives they were going to keep the hospital open. The alternative hospital at Tellippalai and Pt. Pedro were themselves badly affected by military action and were too far away as a result of transport difficulties resulting from the fuel ban. "We feel a heavy responsibility towards those needing medical care," they said, "it will be a breach of our humanity and our professional honour for us to pack up and go home".

(Continued)

Jaffna Hospital....

(Continued)

On a reflective note Dr. Nageshwaran said, "I am very sad for the state of this country. Communal hatred has been allowed to reach such levels that this country is drifting out of control. The violence has now an impersonal character. The army just fires shells and doesn't care who dies. We ourselves are guilty in many ways. When Sinhalese soldiers or civilians are killed, our first impulsive reaction is that some justice had been done. Of course we then check ourselves and are ashamed. But we have all become party to this immoral drift in this country. We were not given to such feelings in the old days. If there were earth-slips or flood disasters in the South, we felt genuinely concerned. Our leaders should never have allowed this to happen. They had the best of education and the wisdom of the world before them. They should have known better ways to tackle problems."

GORY WEEKEND VICTIMS

Saturday, 28th March—shelling from Jaffna Fort.

Dead: 1. Rasathurai Solomon (27), (2) Francis Periyathamby (19), (3) N. Yogam (28)

Sunday, 29th March: Bombing at Nallur and Neervely.

Injured at Nallur:- (1) K. Saratha (13), (2) Sivagnanasundaram Umapiya (2), (3) Markandu Rupasasa (28).

Neervely Injured:- Subramaniam Sivakanthan (29), (2) Ponniah Pooranam

Sunday 29th March (evening)-shelling from Jaffna Fort:- Family of 3 injured—Francis Jebanesan (47), Sathiamalar (38) and Danian Jebanesan (5).

Monday, 30th March:- Shelling of Jaffna General Hospital from Jaffna Fort Army Camp:- Dead- (1) N. Navaratnam (37), (2) Jesuthasan (37), (3) Mohanakumar (22), (4) N. Visvalingam (47), (5) Ponnampalam (64), (6) Rasanayagam (18), (7) Balasundaram (53), (8) Senthivel, (9) Dharmapalan.

Seriously Injured:- (1) Mrs. S. Parasothy, nurse (2) Anpu (24), (3) J. Sylvester (22), (4) N. Ganesan (50), (5) P. Krishnasamy (58), (6) Velu (58), (7) Thambirasa (51), (8) N. Subramaniam (52), (9) Markandu (20), (10) M. Veerakathy (46), (11) S. Sinnady (45), (12) R. Sinharajah (32), (13) P. Suppiah (64).



Here lies the body of Kandiah Balasundaram (52) who was killed at Ward 19 of the Jaffna General Hospital on 30th March.

REF: TIC/PC/1052/870304

6-A

Wednesday March 4 1987

14 LONDON DAILY NEWS

Soldiers in Tamil protest

Sri Lankan torture claims reveal new Whitehall links with mercenary row firm

BRITISH mercenaries in Sri Lanka have walked out after complaining that the Government troops they trained have committed a series of atrocities against the minority Tamil population.

Security sources say the men, most of whom are ex-SAS, were sent with Whitehall's approval. They work for KMS Ltd., the powerful London security company which has been implicated in the contra arms scandal in Washington.

The firm's links with the Prime Minister are being probed by senior Labour MPs who want to know whether she has been secretly helping President Reagan by authorising the company to support the American-backed contras in Nicaragua.

Torture

The mercenaries walked out on their £20,000-a-year tax-free jobs after complaining that the Special Task Force, which they set up for the Sri Lankan Government in 1984, was running out of control and was indiscriminately killing and torturing Tamil civilians.

Amnesty International has gathered evidence that the force has kidnapped Tamil civilians who have never been seen again. Soldiers are also accused of executing detainees after ordering them

who want naval facilities on the island.

Sri Lanka originally asked the Foreign Office for an SAS unit. But the Government declined for fear of alienating the Indian Government, which supports the Tamil separatist movement.

Racist

Instead, say sources, the FO sent a squad of 12 KMS mercenaries, including an ex-SAS colonel and an ex-SAS adjutant.

The Ministry of Defence is also believed to have supplied sophisticated new automatic rifles which have been developed by the Royal Ordnance factory and are not yet available even for regular British Army units.

The mercenaries first got into trouble for indiscipline. One got drunk in a tourist hotel in nearby Kalutara and fired his gun into the ceiling. A group of former Rhodesian SAS men were sacked for making racist remarks to the Sri Lankans they were training and a South African pilot who disobeyed orders was transferred to the KMS operation with the contras in Central America.

But more serious problems followed. The Special Task

Force moved into the island's Eastern Province and the KMS men began to hear reports of atrocities.

The mercenaries, many of whom have long SAS experience of counter-insurgency, complained that this was a fatal error. They wanted the Task Force to win the "hearts and minds" of Tamil villagers to cut off the support they offered to Tamil guerrillas.

They complained the Task Force was making enemies of them all and made a series of protests to the senior mercenary on the ground, an ex-SAS colonel who joined KMS after being targetted by Irish terrorists.

He could do nothing. The mercenaries then pressed to be allowed to go into combat with the Task Force in an attempt to control them. But they were told this was unacceptable to the Foreign Office in London.

Discontent in the mercenary ranks grew. Less-qualified "cowboy" reinforcements were sent from London, including one man who has served a jail sentence for armed robbery.

Then Israeli security consultants arrived on the island

and, unhampered by restrictions from their own Government, began to take over parts of the KMS operation.

Excesses

Now senior ex-SAS men have refused to renew their contracts and others have walked out.

David Walker, who is believed to still be in Sri Lanka, is reported to have sacked KMS teams who had been training other specialist army and navy units for the Sri Lankans, in an attempt to save the contract with the Task Force.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in London, Mr Chandra Monerawala, yesterday confirmed that his Government had hired KMS but said he was not aware that any of its men had walked out.

He denied that the British Government had approved the contract and rejected the reports of atrocities.

"There may sometimes be excesses or civilian casualties, but when you are dealing with guerrillas, anything can happen. They don't wear uniforms," he said.

A Foreign Office spokesman denied that KMS had been given any Government approval for its work in Sri Lanka. Labour's Foreign Affairs spokesman George Foulkes has tabled Parliamentary Questions asking Mrs Thatcher about meetings with David Walker and links between the company and Government departments.

6-B

U.S. nationals helping Sri Lanka army?

TRINCOMALEE, May 25.

Journalists who were brought here from Colombo on Saturday by the National Security Ministry to see the Sinhalese settlement attacked by the Tamil militants on Friday, had a first hand experience of foreign involvement in the island's ethnic crisis. The British-made Bell helicopter, which flew them from Trincomalee air force base to Seruwila village, was piloted by an American national and had a Sri Lankan co-pilot.

While it is already known that the Sri Lankan Government has been receiving the assistance of British mercenaries of the Special Air Services (SAS), the Israeli Mossad and Pakistani military in its fight against the Tamil militants, this is the first time that direct involvement of American nationals is known. It was not clear if they were members of another mercenary set-up going by the name "Keeni Meeni".

Special contract: According to Brig. Harsha Gunewardene, coordination officer for Trincomalee district, there are three Americans on "special contract" with the Sri Lankan air force in Trincomalee area. But he maintained that they were engaged only in "logistics flying", although the helicopter the journalists flew in had machine guns mounted on either side, manned by Sri Lankan air force personnel.

6-C

U.S. mercenaries in Sri Lanka Delhi stands by its charge

COLOMBO, Jan. 13.

India told Sri Lanka today that there was no question of the Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, withdrawing his reported statement in Washington that American mercenaries were assisting Sri Lankan security forces in their fight against the Tamil militants.

This was conveyed to the Sri Lankan Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Tyrone Fernando, by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. J. N. Dixit, when he was summoned to the Foreign Office to receive an official statement by the Government of Sri Lanka condemning Mr. Venkateswaran's remarks. Mr. Dixit informed Mr. Fernando that the Foreign Secretary was articulating his Government's assessment based on the information available to it.

Mr. Dixit told the Minister that the insinuation in the Sri Lankan statement that the Foreign Secretary was working at loggerheads with the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, was just not realistic as the Government of India had a unified policy and all its functionaries worked under the strict disciplines on the policies laid out by the Prime Minister. The attempt to introduce an insidious element of difference between the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister was not going to work.

A Foreign Ministry release said the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in New Delhi had been advised to lodge a protest with the Indian Foreign Office regarding the matter.

U.S. denial: In Washington the State Department officials said that the U.S. had looked into the matter and "we believe there are no American mercenaries in Sri Lanka."

Mr. Venkateswaran had said in New York

that he had taken up with the State Department the reports that there were U.S. mercenaries in Sri Lanka.

State Department officials said, "Mr. Venkateswaran did ask us about these reports and we said we would look into that. We have looked into this and we have been able to uncover no evidence that there are U.S. mercenaries in Sri Lanka. We believe there are none. We told Mr. Venkateswaran that we wanted a peaceful settlement to the conflict and would discourage any such activities."

The Foreign Secretary told a meeting of "India Forum" in New York on Sunday that he had conveyed India's concern to the U.S. over the reported presence of American mercenaries in Sri Lanka.

Routine denials: The British High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr. John Steward has also said that as far as he is aware there is "absolutely no Briton helping the Sri Lankan forces, mercenaries or otherwise." But informed sources described these denials as "routinized" and referred to press reports that the British mercenary group "Keeny Meany Services" was assisting the island's security forces.

The sources said the Americans may have been recruited by the "Keeny Meany" Services.

The American mercenaries might not be carrying genuine passports but false documents to conceal their identity, the sources said.

The sources also pointed out that Tamils in the North and East had repeatedly alleged having seen foreigners leading the security forces. Their presence had been reported during security operations at Thondamannaru in the Jaffna peninsula. —UNI & PTI

6-D

U.S. mercenaries: India's stand vindicated

From G. K. Reddy

NEW DELHI, Jan. 17.

It has been established quite conclusively by the Indian official agencies concerned that there are a few Americans among the 20 odd foreign mercenaries employed by Sri Lanka to train some special units of its security forces and assist in the conduct of anti-insurgency operations.

Despite the spirited denials by the U.S. embassy in Colombo and the Sri Lankan Government, the State Department itself has started conceding privately that there might be one or two Americans with dual passports serving as mercenaries in their personal capacity without the knowledge of the U.S. Government.

When the Foreign Secretary, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, raised this issue in Washington during his recent talks with the U.S. Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Michael Armocost, he was told that the U.S. Government was not aware of the activities of these Ameri-

can mercenaries in Sri Lanka and assured that it would take appropriate action.

Dual passports

The American law permits its citizens to have dual passports, which enables them to travel abroad as nationals of other countries. But the U.S. Neutrality Act empowers the Government to annul the citizenship of any American who violates it by acting as a foreign mercenary for whatever reason.

The cryptic statement put out by the State Department in Washington yesterday that the U.S. policy was to discourage strongly such violations of the law by its citizens has completely vindicated the disclosure made by Mr. Venkateswaran in New York on the subject.

The Bell aircraft company sent some American pilots to Sri Lanka last year to train Sri Lankan Air Force personnel to operate the helicopter gunships it sold for anti-insurgency operations. These pilots left

after a few weeks when the Sri Lankan personnel acquired the necessary capability to operate them.

But more recently a couple of American mercenaries were recruited along with some other foreigners for participating more actively in these operations. The U.S. Government is now inquiring whether these American mercenaries have used foreign passports to conceal their U.S. nationality or agreed to serve as Americans in their individual capacity without bothering about the legal consequences of their actions.

In either case, the Government of India has at no stage accused the U.S. of acquiescing in the recruitment of its nationals as mercenaries by Sri Lanka, either directly or through some foreign organisations. All that India has done is to draw the U.S. attention to the reported presence of some American mercenaries in Sri Lanka and urge it to take suitable action to prevent such unlawful recruitment.

'Active participants, no more trainers'

MADRAS, March 7.

There are nearly 100 British mercenaries in Sri Lanka now and the white mercenaries are no more trainers of the Sri Lankan soldiers but active participants in the combat against the LTTE militants, according to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam sources here.

The rapid expansion of the Sri Lankan Air Force and the massive deployment of Bell helicopter gunships led to the recruitment of the British mercenaries as helicopter and bomber pilots, who are now involved in actual aerial bombing missions of the Tamil areas of the island, the LTTE sources say. Apart from the British ex-soldiers, the Sri Lankan Government has also hired mercenaries from the United States and South Africa, who are also utilised for aerial missions. "Handsomely paid" and "highly respected" by the host Government, they "have involved themselves as active participants in the genocidal war against the Tamils, turning the Tamil homeland into a killing field," they say.

(Two "white" mercenaries along with four Sri Lankan soldiers were killed at Kadduvan in the Jaffna peninsula in a mine-blast set up by the LTTE).

Official approval

The white mercenaries are mainly drawn from the U.K., the U.S., Israel and South Africa with the official approval of the countries concerned, the LTTE sources say. They were

brought into the island soon after the anti-Tamil riots of July 1983, which led to the intensification of the Tamil militant movement. The first mercenaries hired by Colombo were the former British Special Air Service (SAS) personnel in the employ of "Keeny Meeny Services" Limited.

"Keeny meeny" in the Swahili language means snakes in the grass and the term fits the undercover job done by the mercenaries. In October 1984, about 40 ex-SAS mercenaries were recruited to provide commando training to the Sri Lankan Special Task Force (STF) police commandos in the Batticaloa district. Now, there are nearly 100 British mercenaries, who are no more trainers but active participants in the combat against the LTTE militants.

Attack on civilians

Trained by the foreign mercenaries, the STF wrought havoc in Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts in the East, liquidating hundreds of innocent Tamil civilians and rendering thousands homeless. In January this year, the STF men slaughtered more than 200 Tamil civilians at Kokkicholai in Batticaloa. Mercenary pilots participated in bombing and strafing missions from the air, setting aflame entire Tamil villages.

The LTTE sources say that the Israeli agents in Sri Lanka play the most crucial role in the "genocidal annihilation" of the Tamil people. The induction of the Israeli intelligence agen-

cies, Mossad and Shin Bet, in the middle of 1984 as counter-insurgency experts dramatically changed the strategy of the Sri Lankan armed forces. Military operations are no longer confined to militant targets but extended to the Tamil civilian masses. Large-scale reprisals against the Tamil civilians in the form of massacres, the destruction of property and the mass arrest of youth in the "cordon and search operation" of the Tamil villages became their strategy, a strategy described as "collective punishment."

The Sri Lankan Government permitted the establishment of an Israeli interest section in the U.S. embassy in Colombo in May 1984; it later expanded itself into a quasi-diplomatic mission. The Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, had visited Israel. Recently, on December 20, 1986, the Israeli President, Mr. Chaim Herzog, made a stop-over in Colombo and met the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene.

According to the LTTE sources, it is very difficult to assess the number of Israeli personnel in Sri Lanka as they arrive on the island at periodic intervals in constant rotation to avoid their identity being found out. In the beginning of 1986, there was a team of colonisation experts drawn from the West Bank and Gaza, whose expertise Colombo utilised to upset the ethnic balance in the East, by driving out the Tamil population from their traditional villages.



Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Sri Lanka's Minister for National Security, seen with a British mercenary in Jaffna. This revealing picture is being published by arrangement with *Asiaweek*, Hong Kong. According to a report published by the *London Daily News*, several of the mercenaries hired by the Sri Lankan Government from KMS Ltd., London, have walked out of their jobs in the wake of the atrocities against innocent Tamil civilians committed by the security forces, especially the Special Task Force set up in 1984 with the help of the mercenary outfit.

American Mercenaries

6-F

The Government of India has conveyed its deep dismay to the American Government at news reports that the Sri Lankan Army is being reinforced by American mercenaries. Mr. A.P. Venkateswaran, the Indian Foreign Secretary had met with his American counterpart and conveyed his Government's regret. In a speech at a seminar in New York he further stated that the Sri Lankan Government had failed to abide by its undertaking given to the Indian Government in relation to the latest proposals to solve the ethnic problem and thus a stalemate had arisen.

ANNEX 7

FINAL REPORT

EXTRACTS FROM

SRI LANKA

COUNTRY STUDY AND
NORWEGIAN AID REVIEW

Gunnar M. Sørbø

Grete Brochmann

Reidar Dale

Mick Moore

Erik Whist

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES -

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

NORWAY

April 1987

(i)

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

	Page
PREFACE	iv
MAPS	vi
GLOSSARY	viii
INTRODUCTION	1
 PART ONE: THE SRI LANKAN CONTEXT	
1. <u>Economy and Welfare</u>	14
1. Macro-Economic Performance	14
2. Foreign Aid	46
3. Economic and Social Welfare	48
2. <u>Polity and Conflict</u>	66
1. The Evolving Political System	66
2. The Ethnic Conflict	73
3. The Conflict in Batticaloa	96
3. <u>Economic and Socio-Political Context: Summary</u>	103
 PART TWO: NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA	
4. <u>A Brief Summary of Norwegian Assistance</u>	109
1. Bilateral Assistance up to 1976	109
2. Attainment of Status as Main Partner Country of Development Cooperation	109
3. Assistance within the Country Programme since 1977	110
4. Assistance outside the Country Programme	113
5. Summary	116
6. Norwegian Assistance in Relation to Total Assistance to Sri Lanka	117
5. <u>The Components: The Country Programme</u>	118
1. Commodity Assistance and Import Support	118
2. Integrated Rural Development Programmes	133
3. Social Welfare on Plantations	149
4. Development Assistance Directed towards Women	159
5. Rehabilitation for the Victims of Conflict	167
6. Drug Quality Control Laboratory	172
7. Consultancy Fund	173

(ii)

6.	<u>The Components: Assistance outside the Country Programme</u>	174
	1. Assistance through Non-Governmental Organizations	174
	2. Multi-bilateral Assistance	195
	3. Assistance for Commercial Cooperation (Joint Ventures)	197
	4. Assistance for Environmental Protection	200
7.	<u>Norwegian Aid to Sri Lanka - a General Assessment</u>	205
PART THREE: STRATEGIC OPTIONS		
8.	<u>Future Options regarding Norwegian Assistance</u>	209
	1. Some Basic Considerations	209
	2. Continuation under Restrictions	215
	3. The Scenarios	216
	4. The Recommendations	217
Annex One:	Summary Terms of Reference	222
Annex Two:	Foreign Aid to Sri Lanka	230
Annex Three:	The Evidence on Changes in Living Standards and Income Distribution	249
Annex Four:	Conclusions and Recommendations by International Fact Finding Missions to Sri Lanka on Human Rights	262
Annex Five:	A Brief Guide to the Social Development Component of the Medium Term Investment Programme	289
Annex Six:	Multi-bilateral Norwegian-financed Assistance to Sri Lanka.	291

(iii)

LIST OF MAPS

1.	Sri Lanka: Provincial and District Boundaries and District Towns	vi
2.	Sri Lanka: Main Areas of Concentration of Ethnic Minorities	vii

LIST OF TABLES

1.1.a	Sri Lanka's Command over Imports	41
1.1.b	Some Key Indicators of Recent Economic Performance	42
1.1.c	The Structure of the Economy	43
1.1.d	Sri Lanka in Comparative Perspective	44
2.2.a	Population by Ethnic Groups in 1971 and 1981	74
4.3.1	Annual Allocations within the Country Programme	111
5.2.2.a	HIRDEP - Sector-wise Annual Expenditure 1979-86	136
6.1.2.a	Norwegian Support for NGO Managed Projects by Activity Categories 1981-1986	178
6.1.3.a	Distribution of Assistance to Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation	179
6.1.5.a	Norwegian Support for NGO Managed Projects by Principal NGOs	181

LIST OF CHARTS

1.	Import Volumes and GNP Growth Rates 1966-85	34
2.	Infant Mortality Rate in Sri Lanka and Plantations 1885-1985	56

- (a) In case a formal agreement should not so far have been reached, it would have to be substantiated that serious efforts to that effect have been made and that the Government has proved genuine willingness to grant substantial concessions to the Tamil side in order to achieve peace.
- (b) Human rights violations by the armed forces should have been substantially reduced.
- (c) Security for life and property for the civilian population in the North and the East should have been substantially improved.

These three criteria will of course have to be subject to human judgments. Nevertheless, the Team feels that it is very important to undertake this assessment to avoid a continuous non-decision to prevail year after year. It is essential to know why one decides either to pull out or to remain, and to get the arguments for either option out in the open.

8.4 The Recommendations

8.4.1 The Short Term Perspective

The Team's recommendations for Norwegian assistance in the short term are as follows:

1. Terminate, as soon as formalities allow, some of the components of the assistance programme, i.e.:
 - stop Commodity Assistance/Import Support as soon as the present commitments have been fulfilled;

218

- terminate the Consultancy Fund in the Country Programme as soon as the present commitments have been fulfilled;
- finance no new projects from the special allocations for environmental protection, women's development and cultural activities;
- finance no new projects on a multi-bilateral basis;
- render no further assistance for commercial cooperation beyond present commitments.

The argument for terminating Commodity Assistance/Import Support and the Consultancy Fund are that direct budgetary support to the GOSL is not considered to be acceptable in the present situation. The special allocations are intended to initiate activities which may later be financed over other budgets, which makes them not applicable now. Multi-bilateral assistance - in this connection to be basically regarded a bilateral assistance form - is not considered to meet the strict control criteria which should apply at present. Neither is assistance for commercial cooperation considered to meet the target group criteria required for assistance to Sri Lanka in the present situation.

2. Continue assistance to the remaining components of the Country Programme, namely:
 - the Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDPs)
 - Plantation Workers' Welfare Project
 - Rehabilitation through the Ministry of Rehabilitation
 - the Quality Control Laboratory
 - Women's Bureau.

The first three components are considered to be the clearly most important parts of the bilateral assistance programme, as substantiated earlier in the report. The Quality Control Laboratory should be phased out in accordance with the plans. Assistance to Women's Bureau should soon be made subject to renewed assessment (see section 5.4.3).

3. Continue assistance through non-governmental organizations at the same or even a higher level, with priority given to
- relief and rehabilitation work in the North and East;
 - efforts to promote communal harmony and peace;
 - welfare promoting activities and education/training for the estate population.

Arguments in favour of this recommendation have been given in sections 6.1 and 8.1 above.

8.5.2 The Long Term Perspective

The Team's recommendations under each of the scenarios specified under 8.3 above are as follows:

The Conflict Scenario

Unless the study proposed by mid-1988 verifies that the rather modest criteria of improvement specified under 8.3 have been fulfilled, the Team recommends that official assistance to Sri Lanka be terminated.

The Transition Scenario

In case the same criteria are considered to have been fulfilled, it is recommended that assistance for the remaining components be further continued, with the reservations given in section 8.5.1, point 2 above. Any further conditions or checks would depend on the actual situation and prospects at the time of the study.

The Peace Scenario

In case a peace situation (although almost by necessity imperfect and fragile) is considered to have been obtained, the Team recommends that Norway should in principle be willing to increase the assistance again, preferably to even above the present level. This should however also depend on the ways in which peace has been restored and on its potential stability. The arguments for such an increase are (1) that the prospects for substantial assistance in a post-settlement situation is hoped to exert some limited influence on the efforts of the Sri Lankan Government to achieve peace and (2) that considerable experience has already been gained by the MDC/NORAD with development assistance in Sri Lanka and a solid foundation laid for a high quality programme in future.

The entire expansion should be within the existing fields of assistance, in order to maintain the overall quality, target group orientation and homogeneity of the present programme. In the beginning, assistance for rehabilitation in the North and East should have the highest priority. In the longer run, assistance to the war-torn part of the country should, in the Team's view, be rendered within the framework of another Norwegian assisted IRDP.