



News Bulletin

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

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Sinhalese Sri Lanka's Independence Day- A day on which 'Tamil Eelam' vowed to restore its sovereignty under Pirabakaran's leadership

The Sinhalese people of Sri Lanka celebrated the 48th anniversary of their Independence from Britain on Feb 4, 1996. To the Tamil people of this island who live in Tamil Eelam this was a sad day and represented the anniversary of the day on which the departing British colonialists gifted to the Sinhalese the sovereignty of the Jaffna Kingdom and other Vanni regions in the North and East of the country, the traditional homelands of the Tamils which had been ruled by Tamil kings for several centuries.

Ramayana, the Indian epic (estimated by historians to have occurred between the 5th and 10th century B.C) records a Dravidian, Hindu, Tamil civilisation inhabiting the entire island and ruled by King Ravana, a Tamil and a devotee of Lord Shiva.

In 1505 A.D., when the Portugese, the first of the European conquerors landed in the island, there were three kingdoms - the Jaffna Kingdom, the Kotte Kingdom and the Kandy Kingdom. The Jaffna Kingdom was the homeland of the Tamils and the largest and most powerful of the three kingdoms. The Sinhalese lived in the other kingdoms. The Kandy Kingdom was, however, all along ruled by a Tamil King from India who had always taken the lead in propagating Buddhism. Both the Kotte and Kandy Kingdoms were subservient to the Jaffna Kingdom and paid taxes to it.

The Portugese captured the Kotte Kingdom in 1518 but could not capture the Jaffna Kingdom in spite of many wars till June 5, 1619. It was on this date that the last King of Jaffna- King Sangilian was captured and Jaffna lost its sovereignty to the Europeans. The Dutch took over from the Portugese and the British took over from the Dutch. On October 31, 1803, the British defeated the last king of Vanni, Pandaravannian and the last bastion of the Tamils lost its sovereignty to the British. In 1815, Kandy fell to the British when its last Tamil King - Sri Wickrama Rajasingan was defeated. The entire island came under the British yoke since then.

Since the fall of the Kandy Kingdom, the British brought in thousands and thousands of Tamil people from South India as labourers to set up tea, rubber and coffee plantations in the Kandyan Kingdom, thereby displacing the indigenous Sinhalese population who moved over to colonise the Tamil areas from Chilaw to Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Walawa Ganga. Thus began the first Sinhalese colonisation of Tamil lands.

Whereas the Portugese and the Dutch administered the various kingdoms they had captured separately without changing their boundaries, the British, based on the recommendations of the Colebrooke Commission (1832) decided to amalgamate the kingdoms, whose two Nationalities differed by way of language, religion, culture, heritage, administration and jurisprudence. This was to facilitate the ease and economy of administration for the British.

As a consequence, the amalgamated kingdoms were first carved out into five provinces (North, East, South, West and Central) and later, another four provinces (North Central, North West, Sabragamuva and UVA) were carved out.

Since the three kingdoms were amalgamated in 1833, the Sinhalese leadership planned to colonise Tamil lands with Sinhalese in their quest to make the whole Island into a Sinhalese Buddhist country. The Donoughmore constitution which came into effect from 1931 emasculated the once dominant territorial and political power of the Tamils and made them into a minority. That was what Sinhala leaders were waiting for, and between 1931-1943 a massive wave of state sponsored colonisation of Tamil areas by Sinhalese people was carried out under the excuse of developing agriculture. The State had owned nearly 19,000 square miles (75% of the total land mass of the country) most of which had belonged to the Jaffna Kingdom and the Tamil Vanni regions and it was this land that was deliberately colonised with Sinhalese people with the calculated motive of taking over Tamil lands and reduce the Tamils to the state of a helpless minority. These colonisation schemes were given new Sinhalese names. Such colonisation continues to this day.

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The British left in 1948.

Since then various legislations were passed to oppress the Tamils, including a legislation to defranchise well over one million Tamils whose ancestors were brought to the island from South India by the British, 120 years ago.

Moderate Tamil Parliamentary parties negotiated peacefully with the Sinhalese rulers for 35 years to redress discrimination against the Tamils. Pacts were drawn up but were either abrogated (Bandaranaike - Chelvanayakam Pact, 1957) or not implemented (Dudly Senanayake - Chelvanayakam Pact, 1965).

Having failed by Parliamentary means to secure their rights, the Tamil leaders launched Gandhian style, non-violent, Satyagraha campaigns outside Parliament, which were ruthlessly stamped out using the Police and the Army. The Sinhalese rulers unleashed pogroms against innocent Tamils from time to time (1956, 1958, 1977, 1981 and 1983).

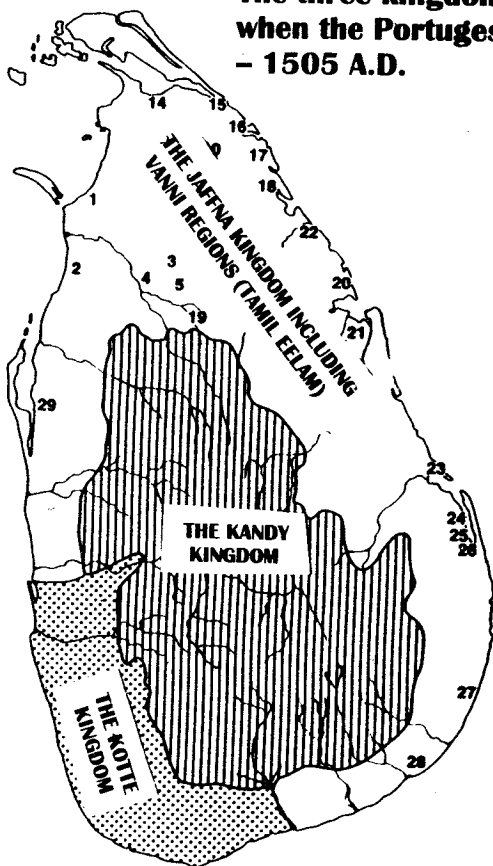
Thus on May 14, 1976, the National Convention of the Tamil United Liberation Front (all major Tamil groups) met at Pannakam and unanimously passed a resolution to 'restore and reconstitute the free, sovereign, secular, socialist state of Eelam based on the right of self-determination inherent to every nation, to safeguard the very existence of the Tamil nation'.

When they went to the polls in 1977, they urged the Tamil voters to treat it as a referendum for 'Tamil Eelam' and won 95% of the seats contested. The Tamil people had given the Parliamentary party a near unanimous mandate to restore and reconstitute a separate state of Tamil Eelam. The horrendous pogrom against the Tamils in July 1983 left the Tamil parliamentarians racing to India to avoid being murdered by state sponsored kill squads. The vacuum was filled by the LTTE.

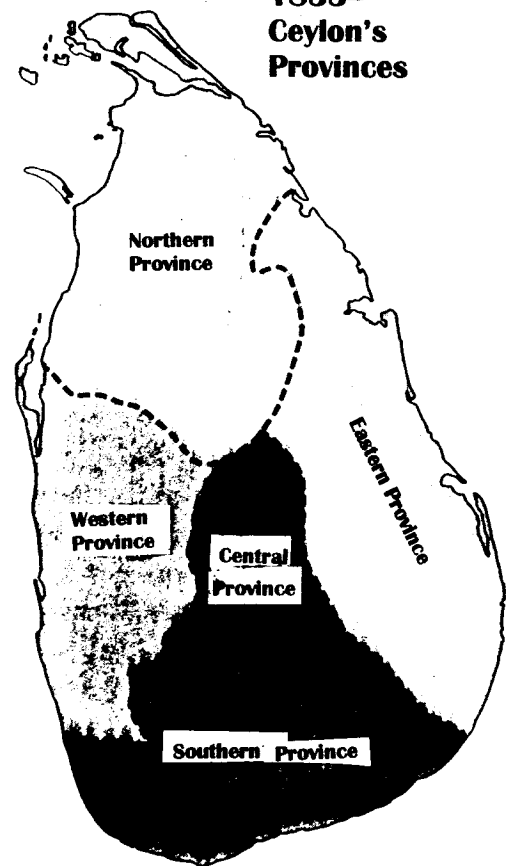
The LTTE has since then been fighting for a separate state, to restore the sovereignty of Tamil Eelam in accordance with the near unanimous mandate given by the people. They are not separatists or terrorists but are the legitimate fighters of the Tamil Nation and their sole and true representatives and Pirabakaran became the ipso facto and the de facto leader of Tamil Eelam.

So, on Feb 4, 1996, the Tamil Nation once again resolved to restore and reconstitute Tamil Eelam. The Tamils were the rulers yesterday. What is wrong with them wanting to rule again today?

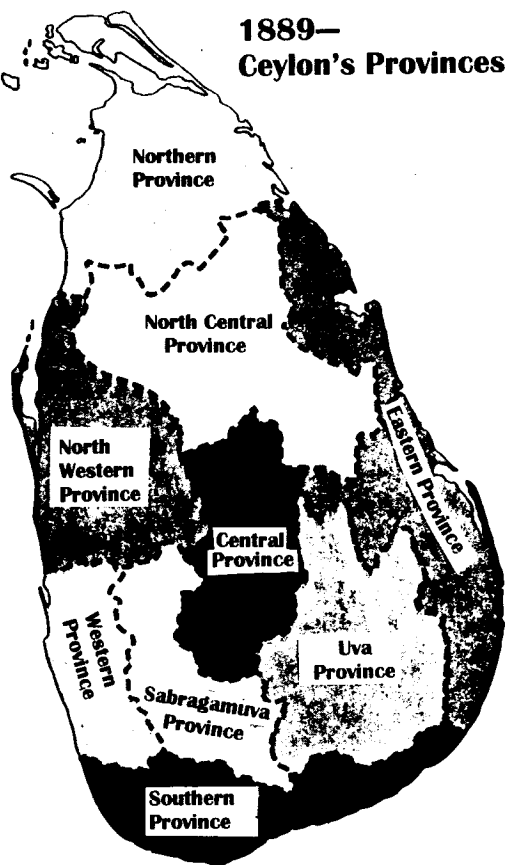
**The three kingdoms in Ceylon
when the Portugese arrived
- 1505 A.D.**



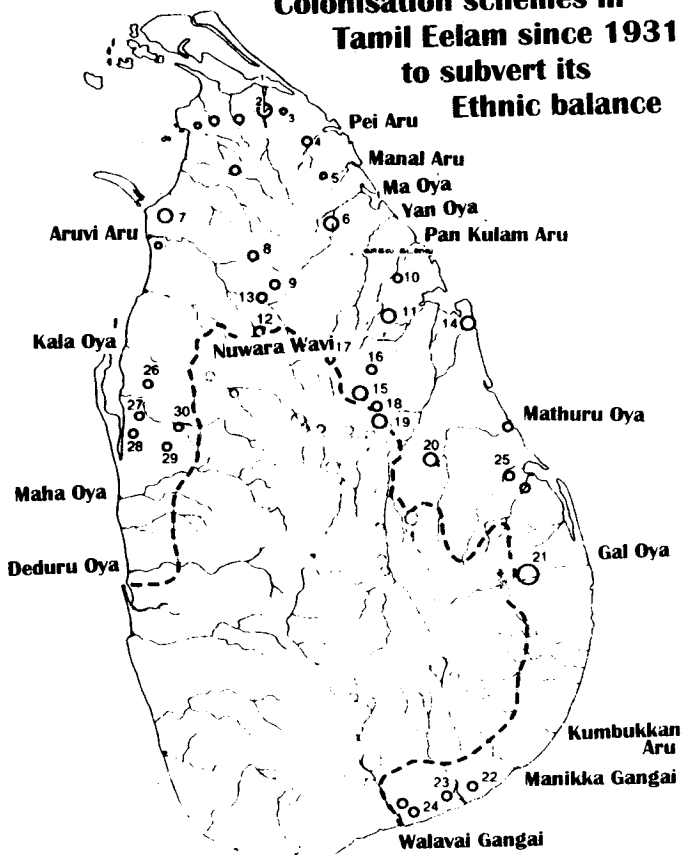
**1833-
Ceylon's
Provinces**



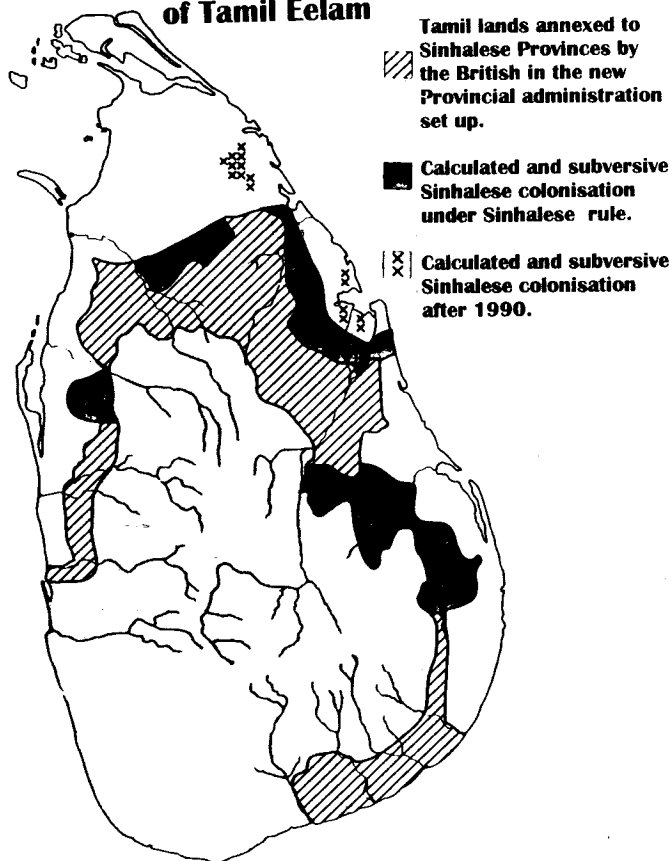
**1889—
Ceylon's Provinces**



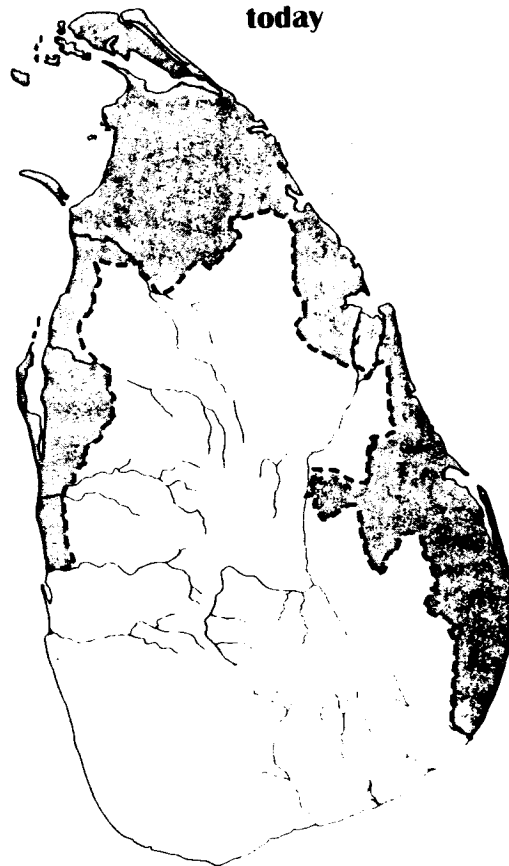
**Colonisation schemes in
Tamil Eelam since 1931
to subvert its
Ethnic balance**



**Sinhalese colonisation
of Tamil Eelam**



**Tamil Eelam
today**



Sri Lanka's Sinhalese owned newspapers incite murder and mayhem against Australian Cricketers

A 'war psychosis' has been whipped up in Sri Lanka amongst the majority Sinhalese population against the Australian world cup cricketers to play Sri Lanka on February. The Sinhalese owned National newspapers have been carrying a spate of rabid appeals directed at 'the red blood flowing in the veins of Sri Lankan manhood' to arise to pelt the Australians with bottles, rotten eggs and ripe tomatoes.

These reports claim that 'the entire Australian cricket team looks like a platoon of Hitler youth. Blonde, blue eyed and sired by bachelors to a man'. Shane Warne is described as a fellow who wears ear rings and lipstick. Sri Lankan umpires have been urged to no ball Warne for 'chucking'. A political columnist had wanted Australian umpires murdered and buried and had made it a point to assure the country that he would take his spaniel for a walk over the grave every day (and excrete on it).

Any Australian youngster who desires to become an umpire when he grows up, is described as 'a shifty - eyed bouncer of a brat, replete with a cauliflower ear, cleft palate and hair lip' and belonging to the criminal class.

All Australians are vilified as 'convicts', 'criminals', 'cattle thieves' and ' a bunch of misbegotten racists'. 'What I say is, next time you meet that Keating fellow who passes for their Prime Minister (you know, the one who makes a habit of fingering the posterior of H M the Queen), you just tell him where he gets off', screams a political columnist.

Another newspaper quotes a Sri Lanka Cricket Board official as saying that all precautions were being taken to protect all participants in the world cup from physical harm. However, no security measures could be found to curb psychological harm to the Australian players.

The reasons for all these appeals for 'murder and mayhem' is that when Sri Lanka played Australia, the unofficial world champions of cricket, Down Under recently, Sri Lanka received a thorough drubbing. Sri Lanka was accused of 'illegally tampering' a ball, an allegation which was later withdrawn. A number of Sri Lankan bowlers had suspect actions and in consultation with the International, Council the Australian umpires had no balled one of the bowlers for 'chucking'.

Test cricket is played for well over 100 years and Sri Lanka were admitted to it about 15 years ago. It is a pity that they have brought into this 'gentlemen's game' a hitherto unheard of brand of rowdiness and fanatical nationalism. If the Sinhalese people call out for blood and murder in response to trivial sporting debacles like this, the question arises about the degree of brutality and barbarism they would have inflicted on the Tamil minority in that island who are fighting for the restoration of their 'Tamil Eelam' State. The cricketing nations of the world would no doubt form their own conclusions.

President Chandrika dancing to the tune of the fanatical Buddhist monks- says Douglas Devananda

The well publicised tour to the Western countries of the gun carrying Member of Parliament, Douglas Devananda was a humiliating fiasco for the Chandrika government. From the funds allocated by the government for anti-Tamil propaganda work, sums were invested on Douglas Devananda to carry out a three months long tour to Canada, USA and UK to win sympathy and support for Chandrika amongst the expatriate Tamil community. During his stay he managed to meet only a handful of Tamils who were mainly the anti-LTTE activists, representing the quisling groups in Sri Lanka.

Douglas Devananda is the leader of EPDP, a quisling militant group, now fighting the LTTE side by side with the Sinhalese army. Its MPs are amongst those who prop up Chandrika's government in Parliament. The LTTE decided to boycott the last general elections and this facilitated Douglas' men to enter Parliament with an unbelievable handful of votes.

Behind the heavily guarded hotels, where he was meeting his friends, Douglas Devananda accused Chandrika and the Buddhist clergy for fermenting anti-Tamil feelings in the country. He told that unlike the former President Premadasa. President Chandrika was unapproachable even by her party ministers, MPs and activists. He went on further and accused her of living in 'a different world of her own' in the evenings. He emphatically stated that the President was giving too much prominence to the Buddhist monks and was always dancing to their tune. Devananda compared the Chandrika administration to Premadasa's one and said that Premadasa was a better and hardworking President than Chandrika. He regretted the death of Premadasa.

In one of the meetings, he praised the Jaffna people's courage for moving away from the advancing army. Devananda has admitted privately when meeting his close friends that the attempt on his life in Colombo was the work of the government security forces to teach him a lesson for voting against a bill in Parliament to extend the 'State of Emergency'.

Sri Lanka's economy: on the path of decay

The actions of the Chandrika government embarking on the path of destruction and declaring the 'mother of all wars' against its minority Tamils has resulted in the down fall of the economy. The foreign investors have crossed off Colombo from their map. Two leading fund managers said: 'No one is interested seriously in the stock market. The money market offers no investment alternative, nor does the government securities market hold any promise of return worth the trouble of investment.'

The Chief Executive of a prominent Investment Trust company commented: 'The war continues with a shift of location; general economic trends continue to militate against investment and development. **Even the Government is keeping development projects, whatever they are, on hold.** The scenario has perhaps never been so bleak.'

The confidence among the business circles is running very low and one businessman observed: 'We are in it, so we're just continuing. Guess we've somehow lost control of even our business.'

When meeting the Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents, the Secretary to the Ministry of Shipping, M N M Junaid had promised that he would inform the Minister of the grave situation faced by shippers following the recent hike in war risk insurance.

'The Sunday Leader' (21.1.96) simply asserted: 'God knows what tomorrow holds.'

The bigoted Buddhist monks now learning Tamil !

It was reported in the 'Sunday Leader' (14.1.1996) that the Official Languages Department of the Ministry of Education in concurrence with the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress (ACBC) has organised educational programmes to teach Tamil language to the Buddhist monks. The programme was officially launched on January 10, with the blessings of Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) MP, Dr Neelan Thiruchelvam.

Commenting on this report an expatriate Tamil who was the victim of violence instigated by the fanatical Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka said that if the Buddhist monks practice what the great Lord Buddha had preached there is no special need for the monks to learn Tamil. He said that the Tamils are not expecting the monks to learn Tamil language but are praying to them to keep away from politics to help the politicians achieve a lasting solution to the problems plaguing the country.

Barbaric acts of the Sinhalese army in the Batticaloa District

More and more information about the acts of barbarism committed by the Sri Lankan troops operating in the Eastern Batticaloa district are now emerging.

A reporter from the Sinhalese owned 'Sunday Leader' newspaper recently visited Batticaloa and interviewed Mr Anthony Martin, President of the Batticaloa Peace Committee.

In the interview (published on 28.1.1996) he has referred to arbitrary arrests of Tamil civilians by the army when Brigadier Hewage was the Commander of the East. Civilians would suddenly disappear and the Army and the Police would not give any information about the arrests to their kith and kin or to the Peace Committee. **The suspects were subjected to the most inhuman methods of torture like severe lashings and pulling out of toe nails.**

Referring to the infamous 'motor cycle brigade' of the armed forces that was bringing death and destruction to the civilians, Mr Martin had said that the brigade had been either disbanded or immobilised, after suffering heavily at the hands of the LTTE. Two months ago the LTTE had confiscated 50 bikes through ambushes at Kiran. Around 50 commandos had also been killed.

He also said that the army does not expose tortured detainees to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC had told them that they could only attend to detainees shown to the ICRC by the Army and not those who are kept away.

Mr Martin had also accused the army of using innocent civilians as human shields during an LTTE attack at Puthukudiyiruppu. Forty civilians were killed on that occasion.

TELO, EPRLF, EPDP quislings fleece innocent civilians. 'The cloak and dagger mission' of the EPRLF

In the same interview quoted above Mr Martin has said that cadres of the erstwhile Tamil militant groups-TELO, EPRLF and EPDP-are now co-operating with the armed forces.

'..... We have received a number of complaints that these groups are fleecing money for various activities and when victims fail to comply they inform the army and the Police that they are LTTE sympathisers,' Mr Martin had said.

The 'Sunday Leader' reporter whose main mission to Batticaloa was to interview the LTTE Deputy leader, Karikalan, has expressed surprise that no sooner had her party arrived at hotel 'Lake View' and even before they could settle down in their rooms, than an EPRLF member called Ratnam arrived and told her 'in a confidential manner' that Karikalan had been arrested by the LTTE, following his interview to Reuters just a few days before. Such was the intelligence network of the quisling group in knowing beforehand the purpose of her visit.

She has also remarked that the EPRLF runs an office in Town with the patronage of the Sinhalese army and that as the 'Sunday Leader' went about with Ratnam in town they were waved off without a hum at sentry points.

Though the EPRLF quisling had tried to abort her mission of interviewing Karikalan with the 'red herring information' of his arrest, the cloak and dagger mission of the EPRLF failed to succeed. She did manage to meet Karikalan and obtain an interview, the first of its kind given to a Sri Lankan English newspaper (carried 28.1.96).

LTTE Deputy Leader on why the 'Peace talks' failed

We publish below some excerpts from an interview given by Mr Karikalan, Deputy Leader of the LTTE to the 'Sunday Leader' (28.1.1996).

SL: Have you received the President's legal draft of the devolution package?

K: No. The Government did not send it to us nor are we interested. We did not expect her to send it. **When she became Prime Minister she sought LTTE support to make her President through promising to address Tamil grievances and conceded that we are the sole representatives of Tamils.** In pre-election speeches before the Presidential elections, she told us, 'I am a widow and Batticaloa has 10,000 widows. I know their feelings. I am only the Prime Minister and hence I have no jurisdiction over the forces. But if you support me in the coming elections I will fulfil all your legitimate demands.' She became President and she is now dancing to the military tune. Even Gamini (Dissanayake) said she was playing with fire in playing the military tune.

SL: Do you think the government is genuinely interested in solving the ethnic issue?

K: The government is fully aware that the LTTE is essential if there is going to be a solution to the ethnic issue. Since the LTTE is not consulted we don't believe that Chandrika is interested in bringing a solution to this problem. We also had a forward thinking agenda for the Tamil sake and we completely trusted her.

SL: Then why did you initiate the break down of the truce agreed upon by both parties on April 19?

K: We asked Chandrika for a cease-fire. But she agreed to a cessation of hostilities. We too agreed. We reiterate that she must notably settle the three fundamental problems affecting the Tamils: namely, the opening of the Pooneryn causeway for free passage to the civilians, lifting of the economic embargo and allowing our cadres to carry arms in the East to protect them from the armed forces and other Tamil armed groups. **Unlike Chandrika, our leader Pirabakaran always keeps his word. We always listen to him and obey his orders without question.** When we asked for the day to day Tamil grievances to be rectified, she talked of rehabilitation which is a long term goal. Ostensibly, two generators were sent to Jaffna but no cables or wires to set them up. This showed the governments *mala fide* intentions. They were not genuine.

SL: If the devolution package was given to you through a mediator, are you prepared to study it?

K: No. The government should talk to us directly. We will not discuss this package and we do not know what it contains. **Chandrika has talked to all the Tamil political parties and ignored us. Earlier they said we were the sole Tamil representatives.**

SL: Are you prepared to join hands with the other Tamil political parties?

K: No. We have genuine ideals. If they want to join the LTTE on our terms they are welcome. But these political parties are sucking up to the government. They are picking up the bones falling from her table. But the EROS has joined the LTTE and are fighting with us. The others too can follow suit.

SL: Are you at least prepared to scrutinise the proposals?

K: Why should we? As I said earlier, they must first remove the military from Jaffna. Then they have to offer us the proposals for study. Even this has to be conducted through a foreign intermediary acceptable to both the government and the LTTE. They cannot hold us captives and force the proposals on us. We will not have this. First they have to create the right atmosphere. Then we may consider it.

LTTE clarifies misguided allegations made against it

The following is the text of a letter sent to Hon. Jacques Santer, President, European Commission by Lawrence Thilakar, LTTE Central Committee Member recently:

A CNN text dated Feb.6 states:

'The European Commission's envoy to South Asia says there is 'some indication' organised crime is backing Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas. Francine Henrich (Ambassador for the European Union in India) said there were also indications that the guerrillas were involved in drug running in Europe. She was speaking after meeting the country's Foreign Minister and before holding talks with President Chandrika Kumaratunga.'

It is regrettable that Mme. Francine Henrich lent her high office to a serious and damaging comment of this nature based on no evidence other than what the Foreign Minister had apparently told her.

The Foreign Minister had been making similar charges against the Liberation Tigers in the course of his peripatetic visits to various world capitals, but has so far failed to elicit any public response from world leaders. Unfounded allegations made for the purpose of discrediting one party to a conflict situation by the other do not become fact by mere assertion. Law enforcement authorities in European countries are entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring all foreign presences and whatever charges, particularly of such grave nature should emanate from them, on which the governments take suitable action. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister in making such sinister accusation (unfortunately echoed by Mme. Francine Henrich herself) is virtually exposing the intelligence services in European countries to a charge of either incompetence or condonement. The LTTE has always respected the laws of the countries in which they serve the legitimate interest of the Tamil people whom they represent.

The Sri Lanka government is now engaged in using its state resources to wage a malicious propaganda war as well against the LTTE with two objectives:

1. to bolster its case for soliciting western baksheesh on which it is heavily dependant, and without which it can no longer pursue its military operations;
2. to obviate the need for any negotiated political settlement with the LTTE through third party mediation, once the LTTE reputation is tarnished as being behind 'organised crime' and 'drug running'.

Political slander has to be recognised as such, and giving credence to such international forums would only enlarge the conflict and push back the peace process further.

Head of Political Section, LTTE writes to EU Ambassador in New Delhi

The following is the text of the letter sent to Mrs Francine Henrich, Ambassador, European Union in India by S P Thamilselvan, Head of the Political Section of the LTTE recently:

We write to you to express our deep concern and distress over certain comments made by you about our organisation at a recent press conference in Colombo which were highlighted in the local and international media.

Your suggestion that the LTTE is linked to the Mafia and by implication drug-trafficking is grossly misleading and highly slanderous to our organisation. We are deeply shocked to note that a highly responsible diplomatic representative of your stature

could make such allegations without concrete foundation. We wish to state categorically that we have no links with Mafia nor are we involved in drug-trafficking. These false allegations are levelled against us by the Sri Lankan government to tarnish the image of our organisation and to discredit the Tamil struggle for self-determination.

We wish to impress upon you that the primary task of our branch offices in Europe is to seek sympathy and support for the struggle of our oppressed people who are faced with genocidal oppression by the Sri Lankan state. Contrary to the malicious disinformation campaign by the Sri Lankan government, our branch offices strictly abide by the laws of the countries where they operate and do not in any way act prejudicial to the interest of those countries.

While we deeply regret your defamatory comment we feel such misconceptions could be avoided by proper clarification from our sources.

Jaffna University teachers expose the 'University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna)' organisation as a fraud

A report released on 27.1.1996 by the International Federation of Tamils focuses on an open letter issued by six Senior Professors and Lecturers, representing the Jaffna University community. It exposes the so called UTHR (Jaffna), a clandestine Human Rights group operating from Colombo as a fraud. The letter is signed by Prof. S V Parameswaran (Physiology), Prof. K Kunaratnam (Physics), Dr A Navaratnarajah (Animal Science), Dr S Mohanadhas (Agricultural Chemistry), Mr R Vijayarajam (Agricultural Engineering) and Mr S Rajadurai (Agronomy). Here are excerpts from the letter:

We the members of the teaching staff of the University of Jaffna wish to express our anger and resentment at the reports published by the so called University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna) regarding the recent happenings in the Jaffna peninsula. The information contained in these reports are based on hearsay and authenticity of the sources from which they are supposed to have been obtained is open to question. The information does not give a true or complete picture of the events preceding and following the exodus of people from the Valigamam and Jaffna town areas of the peninsula and seems to be intended to serve only one goal, namely to discredit the LTTE. The authors of this report operate under the pseudonym UTHR (Jaffna) with a view to winning respect and credibility from its readers by misleading them into believing that the Jaffna University teachers are associated with their reports. **We wish to deny categorically, once again that any teachers of the University of Jaffna other than these two ex staff members are in any way connected directly or indirectly with this organisation called UTHR (Jaffna) and we challenge the organisation to disprove our assertion.**

The authors of the report have not even visited the north ever since they ceased to be members of the University staff five years ago. They have taken up residence in an area outside the theatre of war and have no first hand knowledge of the conditions here. Whatever they publish has to be based on information supplied to them either by the government or the people travelling to Colombo from the north and such informations and the inferences the authors have made from them are highly selective and suited to their goal of vilification of the LTTE.

The people living in the North, including ourselves, have suffered infinitely more hardships due to military action by the Sri Lankan security forces and the oppressive administrative actions of the Sri Lankan government than due to any human rights violations of the LTTE. Hundreds of civilians have been killed in a gruesome manner and thousands have suffered serious injuries as a result of the indiscriminate artillery shelling and aerial bombing of thickly populated civilian areas by the security forces. A large number of houses have also been completely damaged due to the same reasons. **Under these circumstances the people living in the war torn area needed no encouragement or coercion from the LTTE or any other sources to leave the area and seek shelter elsewhere when there was a sudden worsening of the security situation. In fact, people who valued their lives more than their properties quickly sought shelter elsewhere as they did during the previous military operations in the peninsula, the islands and the Easter Province. Heavier civilian casualties were avoided not because of the sympathy and concern shown by the security forces to the safety of civilians but due to the timely evacuation of the civilians from the area of conflict. Perhaps the authors of the report are not aware that people are still leaving the Vadamarachchi due to intense artillery shelling.....**

Incidentally, the appeal by the government to the civilians to return to the 'liberated area' sounds hollow under these circumstances.

The above human rights violations by the security forces and those of the government in preventing free flow of food, medicine, liquid cash and other essential items to the North, detaining mail and postal articles destined to the North in Colombo for several months, indiscriminate arrests and harassment of Tamil people in the South and detaining Tamils who travel to Colombo in transit camps in Vavuniya irrespective of their age, sex or status, do not apparently seem to the authors as serious human rights violations as those purported to have been committed by the LTTE..... We are surprised that even the BBC and particularly its World Tamil service which has been one of the few dependable sources of news for the Tamil people in Northern Sri Lanka has come under attack by this so called human rights organisation .