

On Wednesday, 18th May, around 4.30 p.m., following a shooting incident, at a Polling Booth in Jaffna district, one soldier was killed and another injured. Two Policemen were also wounded.

Around 5.30 p.m. on the same day, the Army went on a rampage of arson and looting in Jaffna. In a mad frenzy of vile racism, the Army Personnel unleashed indiscriminate attack on the innocent men, women and children, and burnt down houses and shops.

The following incidents were so far reported:-

- One youth, Sriskandarajah Ratnasingham, (age 25), allegedly shot by Army and killed with head injuries.
- About 150 homes were burnt down, and the uniformed thugs looted whatever they found.
- About 15 people were admitted in Jaffna hospital.
- The physical damage is estimated to run into millions of ruppes.
- In the Jaffna Old Market about 50 vegetable stalls were completely burnt down.
- In this hitherto the most outrageous incident, an estimated 1,000 people were made refugees in their own homeland and temporarily accommodated in the Jaffna University.

25 5-1983

## Jaffna a ghost town

(by D.B.S. Jeyaraj reporting from Jaffna)

Jaffna and its environs appeared like a ghost town yesterday as polling at the Jaffna Municipal Council elections and elections to two Urban Councils - Chavakachcheri and Point Pedro - began amidst pressures on the people clandestine group called the 'Tigers' the elections. Polling was very low in all areas while shops in the normally teeming Jaffna bazaar were closed. Government offices and schools were

paralysed as the attendance was very low.

"Most people are keeping to their homes. The reason for this must be a whisper campaign which the 'Tigers' had started asking the people to stay at home on polling day, a Police spokesman said.

From the early hours of yesterday there were nine bomb explosions in the Jaffna municipal area. These were all close to polling booths. There were explosions at Navaturai and Ariyalai while in Jaffna town there were bomb blasts at the Usmani Maha Vidyalaya, Kanagaratnam Maha Vidyalaya and Hindu Ladies' College polling booths.

there were also bomb explosions at the American Mission College polling booth at Velvettiturai and at the bus stand.

In Chavakachcheri there was a bomb blast at the Sanmugananda Maha Vidyalaya polling booth.

On Tuesday night there was a pre-polls skirmish when a band of men on bicycle opened fire on a police party about two miles from Point Pedro on the Jaffna-Point Pedro Road. When the Police retaliated the men had abandoned their cycles and fled, reports say.

Elections officials were hoping that the poll which was very low in the morning would pick up by afternoon. But they were not very optimistic. Wherever I went deserted polling booths greeted me. One of the earliest voters was Jaffna MP V. Yogeswaran who came with a group of supporters to cast his vote.

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## Soldier gunned down at polling booth in Nallur

By D.B.S. Jeyaraj reporting from Jaffna

A soldier was yesterday gunned down at a polling booth in the Nallur electorate reportedly by armed youths styling themselves "Liberation Tigers". Another soldier was injured seriously and two policemen wounded in this encounter, Police said.

Following this incident, several young men had been taken or questioning while sporadic incidents of arson have been reported. Houses, cadjan fences, garages, vehicles and a timber depot have been burnt in what are reported as retaliatory measures.

Nearly 1,000 people have sought refuge at the Jaffna

University as their houses had been burnt down.

Leader of the Opposition A. Amirthalingam, DDC Chairman Nadarajah and Nallur MP

Sivasithamparam have contacted President Jayewardene immediately and DIG Herbert Weerasinghe has been rushed to Jaffna.

At the time of going to Press the situation had been brought back to normal.

## Police on alert in Batticaloa

Batticaloa Police was yesterday alerted against a possible attack by terrorists from the north following intelligence reports.

Following this report all Police stations in the Batticaloa area, including Kalawanchikudi and Valaichchenai Police stations intensified their surveillance.

According to Police sources voting in the Batticaloa electorate was very brisk since the morning for the TULF candidates. Hence this threat by terrorists could even be executed. "We are however prepared to face the terrorists, the sources added.

ATTACKS ON TAMIL STUDENTS IN PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY

The troubles began on Wednesday, 11 May 1983, around 9 p.m. A group of about 50 Sinhala students suddenly attacked the Science Faculty building where some Tamil boys and girls were watching the Tamil film on TV.

Some Tamil girls there were harassed by the thugs and then three Tamil boys were dragged from the canteen and were forced to tar the board at the entrance to the Science Faculty. Then the mob moved to Marra Hall and launched a similar attack on Tamil students watching TV in the common room. The number of the gang (including some outsiders) gradually increased up to 200 and they moved to other Residential Halls : James Peiris, Hilda Obeysekera and Marcus Fernando Halls, etc.

They constantly harassed innocent Tamil Students. Most of the Tamil students were sleeping or studying at that time. The thugs broke open their doors, took them out of their rooms, intimidated and assaulted them.

An Engineering Faculty 1st year student, B. Balasuriam, was assaulted and then handed over to the University authorities, because he possessed some Tamil magazines and two rubber stamps. The truth of the matter is that he is the editor of the Tamil journal 'New' and the materials confiscated belonged to the editorial board of the magazine. Later he was handed over to the Peradeniya Police Station. He is still under police custody and nothing is known about his whereabouts (as on 12 May evening).

At the meeting of the Faculty Deans held on 12 May, the Vice-Chancellor tried to put the blame on the anti-government forces, despite the fact that some students of the UNP Samawadi group led the attack. The Vice-Chancellor wanted to show that this was only a minor incident, although almost all the Tamil students had left the campus when the meeting was held. The University administration did not take any measures to protect the Tamil students who, under threats and harassment of various kinds, did not have any option other than leaving the campus as quickly as possible. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Vice-Chancellor advised all Faculty Deans to carry on regular work (lectures, laboratory practicals etc.) even in the absence of Tamil students.

It was very clear that the situation had not calmed down on 12 May and there was a possibility of a second attack on the 12th evening. The leaders of the mob were at large and no action had been taken against them, although there was enough evidence to identify them. As expected, a second attack was launched on the 12th evening. Since Tamil Students had by then left the campus the Tamil Lecturers were attacked.

- \* Mr Jayantha Kumar, Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Economics, was assaulted in front of Jayatileka Hall.
- \* Mr Rajan Navaratnam, Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Geography, was brutally attacked in front of Wijewardene Hall and was admitted to the Kandy Hospital, Ward No 10.
- \* Mr Selvaraja, Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering, was also attacked.

Some wall posters appeared on the campus with slogans like : 'Separate Tamil State', 'Eelam Rights'. A small group of students, mainly supporters of the UNP, were trying to campaign among the students that supporters of members of the underground Tiger Movement are responsible for the posters and are trying to start anti-Sinhala activities at the University of Peradeniya. On 11 May early morning, an organized group had rubbed off the Sinhalese letters on the Board at the Galaha junction and written the slogan 'Eelam for Ever' on the Galaha Road at the entrance to the campus.