

TAMIL INFORMATION CENTRE
NEWS SHEET

INFORMATION ON THE TALKS IN BHUTAN

The talks in Bhutan so far, has been about 'cease fire' though the delegation for Sri lankan Govt. has referred to various local bodies culminating in Provincial Councils, as a possible political solution.

On Tuesday (8.7.85) it was indicated that there are 1197 detainees under Prevention of Terrorism' Act and that 643 would be released and others may be charged or released after the Attorney General has completed looking into the files. The Govt. has not at any time given the list of people arrested or released. As far as we are able to ascertain at least 10,000 persons were arrested. The estimated number of persons in detention was over 4,000.

There are over 100 persons whose names are known to us who were arrested and missing since then. Admittedly, there was one large massacre in an army camp in Vavuniya. The government's version is that they were killed while attempting to 'escape'. It is now estimated that about 2000 persons may have 'disappeared'.

At the talks, it is expected three other conditions may be discussed.

It is reported today that militants have rejected a proposal of District Councils to devolve power. Today Sri lankan delegation suggested that the meeting discusses the power to be devolved and not the nature of the body. However, the representatives of the Tamils did not wish to do so. Tomorrow the Tamil representatives, including the TULF will reject the suggestions of Sri lankan delegation. It is also expected that the leaders of the militant groups and the TULF will issue statement in Madras rejecting the offer of District Council

At the meeting today a representative of a militant group suggested bodies in the nature of County Councils as a possible solution, but the other Tamil representatives rejected it at the meeting itself.

India has been suggesting that a solution might be the formation of a unit enjoying powers enjoyed by States in India. Indian states are basically linguistic. The North and the East is even now 87% Tamil speaking. The Nuwera-Eliya District has 64% Tamil speaking people.

It is announced by the Sri lankan Govt. today that two boys, Jayakumar and Santhan belonging to EROS were arrested. They are suspected to have attempted to plant a bomb near the Old Parliament, the office of the President.

INFORMATION ON DELFT BOAT MASSACRE ON THE 15TH. MAY, 1985

On the morning of 15th. may, 1985, a passanger boat named 'Kumuthini' was plying between the Delft Island in the North and the mainland, with its normal crew of 6 and 58 passangers. At 8.15 AM two naval vessels had approached 'Kumuthini'. There had been 6 persons in the vessels. All of them had got into the launch with a bag of weapons and had collected the Identity Cards of the passangers. Thereafter they had ordered all the passangers and the crew to get into the front cabin. The passangers were sent one by one into the rear of the launch where they were cut with knives and axes and dumped into a cavity in a heap. Having completed their task the naval men had disconnected the fuel pump of the engine, left the launch to drift and went away.

Around One O'Clock in the afternoon a boat from Kurikadduvan on sighting the drifting launch went for the rescue. The seriously wounded persons were taken to the Jaffna Hospital and the others to the Hospitals nearby.

Old men, women and even children had been mercilessly butchered and the total death toll was 36.

28 persons were seriously injured.