

**SRI  
LANKA  
SITUATION  
REPORT**

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# SITUATION REPORT

*A selection of recent reports from Sri Lankan newspapers, without comment. Readers are requested to form their own conclusions.*

## Army advise to walk!

Walking, instead of travelling in vehicles was the only answer to landmines which are responsible for 99 percent of deaths among the security forces in the North and East. This was said by Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali after he declared open a factory for the production of white coconut fibre under the Export Production Villages Scheme, at Seenimodera, Beliatte on Monday. The Minister said that security forces had studied various methods they could adopt to overcome the landmine hazard, and had found that walking in readiness for combat was the best way landmines could be avoided. It should be done as a battle exercise in combat formation. The effectiveness of such walking was proved only two days ago when 100 soldiers walked from Medawachchiya to Mannar, a distance of 70 miles. Although the terrorists had fired mortars at the soldiers, they were able to repulse the terrorist attack successfully without any soldiers getting even injured ..... (The Island-4th June 1986)

## While defusing a mine ...

One soldier died and six were injured when terrorists opened fire on a patrol while it was defusing a landmine on the Mannar yesterday. The soldier was defusing the mine on the Mannar-Pooneryn road when the bullets hit him, military officials said. Three soldiers in an armoured personnel carrier behind him were injured in the firing. According to military sources terrorists had fired a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) into the armoured personnel carrier. The troops who were on their way to firing practice at Vedithalthivu turned back, but were ambushed again and three more soldiers were injured. The soldiers returned to their base at Thaladi, leaving the armoured personnel carrier at the scene of the ambush, officials said. Later, operations were carried out to recover the vehicle and bring it to the camp. (The Sun-13th June 1986)

## Constitution - 10th Amendment

State Minister Anandatissa de Alwis yesterday announced government's decision to amend the Constitution to enable Parliament

to pass emergency regulations without calling for a 2/3rd majority. This 10th amendment to the Constitution was approved by Cabinet yesterday on a proposal by the Minister of Justice Nissanka Wijeyeratne. The Minister briefing the Press after the Cabinet meeting said that Government would amend the Constitution since it was very difficult to get all the members to be in the House at the same time, when passing emergency regulations. Mr. de Alwis further said that under proportional representation no Government would get a 2/3rd majority in the future. (The Island-5th June 1986)

## Echoes of July '83

A resident in Polhengoda who stood charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act with causing damage to the house and property of a Tamil woman during 1983 July disturbances, was discharged by Colombo High Court Judge H.W. Senanayake. The accused, M. Jinadasa Costa of Kirillapone, Polhengoda, was discharged owing to contradictory evidence at the trial. The charge against him was that he caused damage to the house and property belonging to one Janaki Ranee Marimuttu and that he had been a member of an unlawful assembly the purpose of which was to damage houses and property of Tamils. (The Sun-14th June 1986)

## Honeymooners Suspect

A honeymooning couple who booked in and disappeared mysteriously from a five-star hotel placed strategically close to five key security establishments in the city have triggered off a security alert in Colombo. The couple had booked in the Ramada Renaissance in Fort on Wednesday claiming to be newly-weds, but hotel security staff had double-checked their baggage to find that it contained only one item of clothing and two oil lamps. The internal security men of the hotel had kept a close watch on the couple until they booked out unexpectedly early yesterday morning. Police are investigating whether the couple took note of helicopter movements at the Air Force headquarters opposite the hotel. Sources said movements at the Inland Revenue building, People's Bank headquarters in Fort, Army headquarters and the Elephant House in Slave Island could also be monitored from the hotel. (The Sun-14th June 1986)

## Govt. loses Rs. 20 million

The Northern and Eastern provinces debts to the Ceylon Electricity Board exceeded a

shocking Rs. 20 million this year, and the Board is still to devise a means of recovering its dues. Threatening to cut power supplies to defaulters, officials fear, may not bring results due to doubts whether the threat could be carried out. In the last month, the Board ordered the power supplies to 1,400 users in Jaffna to be cut, with little effect, a senior official said. The Board is also faced with a dilemma over claims from some users that they paid their dues by post, he added. (The Sun-8th June 1986)

## South Korean Mystery

The missing Mercedes Benz of the South Korean Embassy was recovered yesterday in Trincomalee by the security forces. The black Mercedes which disappeared in Colombo last Friday was found at Ganesh Junction, Sivan-kovilady, Trincomalee town at 6 a.m. yesterday. The locked vehicle was not forced open by the forces as there was a possibility of it being a "car bomb", sources said. The chauffeur Young Lack Choi has still not been traced. According to sources, Choi was allegedly caught red-handed by embassy personnel while burgling the First Secretary's office on May 6. The Ambassador had been informed and arrived on the scene soon after, but Choi had managed to escape in the Mercedes Benz 280 SE bearing registration number 98 Sri 4853. Around Rs. 10,000 and US dollars 1,000 were also missing they said. Police are attempting to locate several important documents which are also missing. Choi arrived in Sri Lanka from South Korea two years ago and has been serving as chauffeur in the embassy since then. The chauffeur had been spotted last on Saturday morning by a garage owner in Trincomalee town. He had left the car saying he was going fishing, sources said. (The Sun-11th June 1986)

## Tea prices tumble

Sri Lanka's tea prices this week ousted Indonesia's as the world's lowest plummeting to less than Rs. 25.50 a kilogram, the cheapest in nearly four years. Prices for all grades of tea fell and the trade said the decline was bound to continue with a larger quantity of tea on offer at next week's auctions. The withdrawal of the Soviet Union from the auctions, its second in six months, and the continued non-participation of Egypt did not help in creating a better demand, brokers explained. Monday's prices which were the lowest at the Colombo auctions since August 1982 were at least ten rupees below the cost of production, plantation sector officials said. The decline is attributed by the trade to a low demand for all

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# DIARY OF EVENTS

and

## Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from April 11 – April 26 were carried in Issue No. 12 of Situation Report

### APRIL 27

LTTE lose six of their guerrillas at sea, including Capt. Aruna, an Eastern Province commander, of the Pt. Pedro coast, when a naval patrol blew up the fibreglass boat in which they were travelling. Widespread grief in Jaffna. This news comes on the heels of another incident three days ago - on the 24th - when 10 TELO fighters were reported to have been killed similarly - on the sea. Govt. claims after today's incident that Navy men were able to recover 6 G3 rifles, and 2 Browning mounted machine guns wrapped in cellophane paper, along with medicines and flares. Another Jaffna report puts the boat casualties as 13.

K. Ravindrarejah of the University Science Faculty who was a victim of army fire at Point Pedro given a grand public funeral at Anaivilunthan cemetery, yesterday.

The body of P. Ravi (29) who was believed killed by naval fire brought to Tellipalai Govt. hospital.

A heart patient A. Thurairasa (45) of Thambaschetti collapses and dies following heavy shelling from Pt. Pedro army camp, and another person C. Nadesu (67) admitted to Manthikai hospital with stomach injuries caused by a shell.

Off Colombo, 30 soldiers seriously injured when the truck in which 40 of them were travelling collided with a fast-moving passenger bus and turned turtle. The incident happened yesterday.

Puliampokkanai, a village 7 miles from Paranthan in the Tamil populated mainland, bombed. Casualties not known, but several houses badly damaged.

30 Sinhalese will be charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for being in league with "northern terrorists", says Colombo newspaper "SUN"

### APRIL 28

Demonstration of public grief in Jaffna over the loss of Tamil militants at sea. All Jaffna goes into mourning. Vehicles fly black flags, traditional funeral observances are seen both in urban as well as remote rural areas.

A clash at sea around 2.30 in the early hours of the morning reported off Talaimannar, following confrontation between a naval boat and two other unidentified country boats. Loss of lives on both sides might have occurred, but no details known.

34 men who tried to cross over to India as refugees arrested at sea by naval personnel, and detained at the Palaly army camp for interrogation.

Home Minister K.W. Devanayagam makes brief visit to Batticaloa under heavy security, to give evidence in court in connection with his late wife's property. He flies from Colombo in a special helicopter, lands inside the Kallady army camp, and motors to courthouse, his vehicle sandwiched among 15 others, in armed convoy. He returns the same way.

A sergeant of the Special Task Force W.A. Wijeratne (27) of Dompe killed and several other STF men believed critically injured in a direct confrontation with Tamil militants near Palugamam in Batticaloa. Reporting the same incident, the Govt. owned "Daily News" says: "Five terrorists were killed and 15 others arrested (all members of the LTTE) in an engagement between the terrorists and Special Task Force men at Wellaweli in the Batticaloa district, the National Security Ministry said. It said that Police Sergeant Wijeratne who recently escaped with minor injuries in a landmine explosion was killed and another constable injured....."

TELO announces the names of their 10 members who were killed at sea on the 24th.

Jaffna Trader's Association appeals for the release of 4 of their members who were kidnapped, presumably for ransom, over the past few days.

Two armed robberies reported in Jaffna within 2 days: at the home of sculptor N. Somasundaram at Kondavil West, yesterday, and at the residence of Kanagalingam of 3rd Cross St., the day before.

### APRIL 29

As Jaffna goes into mourning for the second day for 23 militants killed at sea by govt. forces, major fighting erupts between the two groups on land, resulting in heavier casualties. LTTE TELO clashes reported simultaneously in several places, in the afternoon - Ariyalai,

Alaveddy, Kadduvan, Vaddukoddai, Manipay, Kopay, Myliddy, Navanthurai, Mirusuvil... Bombs, submachine guns, grenades are used, while the number of casualties among the militants are not known, at least 7 civilians are reported killed in the cross-fire. Although details are not known, it is believed that TELO suffer very heavy casualties. While the clashes were taking place in the Irupalai, Kaddaipirai and Kalviankadu areas, Govt. helicopters add to the public panic by strafing the areas. In Colombo, the govt. owned "Daily News" reports: "LTTE and TELO terrorists were locked in deadly combat in Jaffna, with the Tigers vowing to wipe out TELO from the peninsula in a battle that has claimed at least 25 lives... Military sources in Colombo said that the fighting had been triggered by a leader of one group being abducted by members of the other... one source said that Sri Sabarathnam of TELO was now in Jaffna and the Tigers are determined to get him at any cost....."

2 Policemen, M. Dhanapala and D.M.B. Bandula Somaratne and an army private M.A. Hemanthala are killed on the spot, four others injured critically and several others injured when the private bus in which a combined Army-Police patrol were travelling hit a landmine at Kattaiparichchan near Trincomalee.

Two Tamil passers-by at Vantharamoolai in Batticaloa who were commanded at gun point by army commandos to dig a specified spot on the road are killed instantaneously when a mine exploded.

### APRIL 30

In Batticaloa, mothers and wives of 175 youths, who disappeared after arrest by armed forces, lead protest procession and present petition to Govt. Agent, Batticaloa, Mr. M. Anthonimuthu demanding to know the whereabouts of their children and husbands. Among those missing is a Sinhala youth from Kiran by the name of Lokkubanda Wimaladasa.

For no apparent provocation, villages of Malakam, Erilai and Chunnakam heavily strafed by helicopter gunships.

Strafing continues at Kalviankadu in the afternoon and in the night. This is the first time that the city came under air attack at night.

Troops from Thondamannaru Camp and

# Diary of Events

## and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Palaly camp march out on foot from the respective camps and meet at Valalai. At Valalai, they open fire at those working in fields killing a child and injuring Subramaniam Neminathan (25) and Jayaratnam Sivakumar (13). Sebamalai Raveendran (28) seriously injured in the firing dies at the Govt. Hospital, Tellipallai.

In Batticaloa, Magistrate Janab M. Kariapper issues open warrant on A.S. Badurdeen, Officer-in-charge, Home Guards, absconding in a case of assault on the principal of a school at Kathankudi.

Security forces out on 'search operations' shoot and kill 17 persons who had returned to their homes at Mutur, Thidiyai from the Batticaloa refugee camps.

Gun shots from Palaly Army camp kill A. Sebamalai of Sillalai a fishmonger proceeding along Palaly road in his push bicycle.

### MAY 1

In Trincomalee, 6 navy personnel injured when their vehicle was attacked with grenades. Heavy firing by navy personnel follows. A civilian, Sinnathamby Thanaratnam dies of gun shot injuries. A jeep coming along the road at the time of the grenade attack, failing to stop when ordered, fired at and driver Premadasa, a Sinhalese, dies on the spot. Assistant Govt. Agent of Seruvila Mr. W. Warnasooriya who was in the jeep injured.

Camp authorities at Kondaivedduvan Army camp refuse permission to parents and wives to see their children and husbands detained there. They were told that the detainees, except a mute, would be transferred to Boosa detention camp where they could meet them.

Navy personnel, in a truck, attack those waiting in front of the Trincomalee post office and seriously injure them. They also enter shops in the area and cause wanton damage.

Armed forces passing through Kanesapuram street in Kilinochchi in 4 armoured cars fire indiscriminately killing one person. Also arrest three youths. Those working in the fields flee for shelter. Bulls tethered to the ploughs run amok.

Over a hundred army personnel come out

on 'street inspection' in Vavuniya Thandikulam area. Vavuniya Railway Station Road too comes under inspection by the forces.

In Jaffna, Govt. announces protection, to militants who anticipate danger to their lives on account of clashes between two militant groups.

Soldiers at Vavettiturai army camp attempt to come out through the southern end, but withdraw when militants launch attack with hand grenades.

Security forces arrest a member of the Trincomalee Hindu youth organization Mr. Krishnapillai Uthayachandran (25).

### MAY 2

Helicopter gunships strafe Vayavilan, Kurumbacuity north and Kadduvan villages after an interval of 4 days.

At Aryampathi, Batticaloa, members of the public undertake a day long fast urging unity of Muslims and Tamils.

Army open a new check post at Vavuniya Railway Station Road. Members of the public using this road subject to security checks.

Urgent surgical operations put off at Batticaloa Hospital consequent to the theft of 41 gas cylinders.

In Colombo, last minute cancellation of discussions between the Indian delegation and Regional Development Minister Chelliah Rajadurai.

Brigadier Hubert Rubasinghe, Army Co-ordination Officer, Northern Region, refuses release of 6 fishermen arrested in the seas off Vadamarachchi coast and detained in the Palaly camp, when approached by the Pt. Pedro Citizen's Committee. Insists that the Grama Sevaka Officer of the area where the detainee lives should come to the camp and give evidence as to the innocence of the suspects. Failure he said would result in the suspects being transferred to the Boosa detention camp.

### MAY 3

In Colombo, bomb explodes ripping apart an Air Lanka Tristar plane killing at least 20 and injuring more than 41 just before the aircraft

capital of Male with 128 passengers. The Tristar "City of Colombo" had arrived at the Airport only 55 minutes earlier from London Gatwick Airport on a flight delayed in Dubai by 1 hour. The ground crew readied the aircraft for its next journey. It was posted on the apron overlooking the terminal building. The crew finished loading the cargo hold and the aircraft was ready for take off when the explosion occurred.

In Karaithivu, Kalmunai, a gang of civilians tears the house of Kulanthaivelu of 3rd division, Karaithivu, kidnap him and his wife after blindfolding them. The house is then set on fire. It is understood that one of his children is under detention having been arrested some-time back.

The Ceasefire Monitoring Committee visit Boosa detention camp and ask the camp officials to provide facilities, to 10 Muslim youths detained there, for observing of Ramadan Fast by them. It is reported that affluent Muslim residents of Galle are to extend all assistance to these Muslim youths in the observance of the Ramadan Fast.

About 600 meters of telephone wires connecting the army camp at Thachchankulam and Vavuniya on the Kandy road, cut and removed under mysterious circumstances. This is right between the army camp junction and the Buddhist Vihare in the city.

Security forces intensify 'search operations' in Kilinochchi district. Minute checking of vehicles passing through Paranthan cause delay to transport. Vehicles leaving Kilinochchi checked both at Paranthan and at barrier at Elephant Pass. Life of the community disrupted consequent to this day and night search operations. At the same time, gang of youth warn people of Puthuvedduwan not to go close to the army camp area at Kokkavil.

### MAY 4

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam deny involvement in and condemn bomb blast aboard the Air Lanka plane at Katunayake Airport. Eelam National Liberation Front comprising EPRLF, EROS and TELO also disclaim responsibility on behalf of its constituent members. Minister for National Security says in Colombo that the bomb blast was timed to thwart Indian peace efforts and embarrass Sri Lanka Govt.

In Eravur, soldiers out on 'search operation' fire indiscriminately killing 3 civilians, a farmer and 2 labourers.

# Diary of Events

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Co-ordinating officer, Batticaloa, informs Batticaloa Citizens' Committee that 40 of the 51 persons arrested in Mandur and detained at Kondaikadduwan camp are being transferred to the Boosa detention camp and that the rest are being kept back for further investigations. He also informs that names of those arrested will be furnished.

Replacing of gutted furniture and renovation work at Poonagari Maha Vidyalayam partly burnt down by unknown persons, is estimated at Rs. 1 1/2 lakhs.

Mr. Ganesan, General Manager of Asbestos factory at Eevinai kidnapped by unknown persons a month back is released.

Mr. Sinnappoo Nadarasa (48), a familled man, on watch duty at a farm at Kalmadu discovered murdered.

Navy shelling at night at Kayts. Many buildings damaged. Rev. Fr. S.F. Kirubanandam Parish Priest of the church escapes as he was in the rear portion of his residence, the front of which was damaged.

Air Lanka Chairman Capt. Rakkitha Wickramanayake says that the bomb which ripped apart the Tristar jet "City of Colombo" was planted in a basket of vegetables meant for the Maldives.

### MAY 5

A helicopter gunship strafes Mallakam, Tellipallai, Ampanai villages about 12.30 p.m. causing damage to 2 mini buses, a "Cool Bar" and several roof-tops of houses at Ampanai. School children returning from schools, re-opened after vacation, stampede and run for shelter. No casualties.

In Colombo, Airport security officials arrest a youth, who enters the tarmac of the Katunayake International Airport impersonating as a Cadet Pilot officer, and hand him over to the C.I.D. He was identified as Satchithananda Sellamuttu Kumaraswamy.

More than 15 vehicles stated to have been captured by LTTE during raids on TELO camps in various parts of the peninsula in the past

few days, returned to the owners on identification. These were displayed at Windsor and Aryakulam junctions for inspection.

Northern Region Ceylon Transport Board sources commend the Tigers for recovering and returning the official car belonging to the engineering staff, hijacked in March 1984.

News comment in Sinhala newspaper "Divayina" poses the question "whether the clashes in the north will become a curse to the south" and adds that the emergence into prominence of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam led by Prabhakaran could prove to be a greater headache to the security forces.

The cost of the Tristar jet "City of Colombo" blasted on the 3rd at Katunayake International Airport is said to be Rs. 360 million.

The Case, in which 13 soldiers were killed in Jaffna in the LTTE ambush of 23rd of July, 1983, comes up for hearing before Colombo High Court Judge Laxman Weerasekera. Viswalingam Jeevaratnam of Alaveddi stands indicted under Prevention of Terrorism Act in this case. Accused Jeevan alias Arul was arrested on 24.4.84. Further inquiry put off for 19th June, 1986.

Special Task Force barricade Akkaraipattu village in the morning and arrest a large number of persons about to leave home for work and at bus stops. It is believed that a number of Govt. servants would also have been arrested. Previously too Akkaraipattu village had been cordoned and several persons including Govt. servants were arrested and a number released later.

### MAY 6

Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO) leader Sri Sabaratnam killed at Kondavil Jaffna, in the course of the on going LTTE offensive against TELO. This was announced over loud speakers in Kondavil, Urumpirai areas. Since the confrontation began between the two groups in the peninsula Sri Sabaratnam and his close associates were in hiding. Their camps in various parts of Jaffna were destroyed, many killed during the attacks, and many others had surrendered.

Armed youths shoot and kill 4 persons at Kinniya. Eleven others receive injuries. 6 of those seriously injured removed to Anuradhapura for treatment while others admitted to Trincomalee hospital for attention. It is under-

stood that this was in retaliation to the Kinniya Home Guards arresting 2 militants and handing them over to the police. Arrested youths are stated to have taken cyanide and committed suicide. The Home Guards concerned were ordered to surrender within a specified time limit warning that those who shelter them will be attacked if the Home Guards failed to surrender. The attack took place consequent to the failure of the Home Guards not surrendering by the specified time. A few shops were bomb blasted during the attack. Immediately following, the Tamil village of Alankerny was shelled by the navy.

Mohan (Thayasekeram-Baruwa) one of the leaders of TELO arrested with gun shot injuries in a village near Jaffna town. Mohan is the brother of the late "Oberoi Thevan".

Members of the public using the Vavuniya Railway Station Road are subjected to minor attacks and also emptying of their pockets, under the guise of inspection, by soldiers at the check post, who also indulge in pranks against school girls.

4 trucks brought by sea in a big cargo vessel unloaded at the Kankesanthurai army camp harbour and taken to the Palaly army camp in the afternoon itself. It is to be mentioned that this is the first time that vehicles were got down by sea.

Gun shots from the Pt. Pedro joint camp seriously injure toddy tapper E. Veerabahu (22) who was in the process of climbing down a palmyrah tree in College street.

Armed gang enters Batticaloa Municipal Council office and takes away Rs. 1600 from the cashier.

Benedict Pathman, a youth indicted under the Prevention of Terrorism Act along with R. Ratnarajah, R. Rajendran and A. Badurdeen and brought before Colombo High Court Judge Vignarajah, submits that neither that court nor the Judges have the power to adjudicate against them, adding that they are not 'terrorists' and that the Sri Lanka Govt. was the real terrorist.

Chitravel (45) and Arulanantham Joseph (34) "executed" at Anpuvalipuram, Trincomalee. A card scribbled "Traitors to the Tamil Race" with the marking EPRLF at the bottom was found lying beside the corpses.

# Diary of Events

## and Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

### MAY 7

A bomb of gelignite explodes at the Central Telegraph Office, Colombo, killing 11 and injuring 114. More than 20 persons reported to be in critical condition. The bomb planted in the bowels of the building goes off at 9.23 a.m. Immediately after the explosion, clouds of smoke billow up inside, and the building is reduced to a heap of rubble, broken wood and splinters of glass. Rescue workers fight their way through a mass of twisted metal, wooden beams and dislodged plaster to extricate the dead and the injured from the debris.

Soldiers from the Jaffna Fort attempt to come out through the Pannai end. Militants fire and stall attempt. Army retreats into the Fort. Following this, shelling and gun fire erupts from inside the Fort. Tension in Jaffna city. Militants retaliate and fire back. Arising from these incidents 7 die including militants. More than 15 receive injuries. Shops, houses and motor vehicles are damaged. All activities the city come to a standstill. Colleges, Schools and business establishments are closed.

Lorry transporting sand from Allaipiddy fired at by the army from inside the Fort and Sivapathasunderam (Kokuvil), Kanthiah (Velanai) and Bhaskaran (Kaakaithivu) are killed. Their bodies were found lying in the shallow waters of the sea, having been shot at when they jumped and ran into the sea from the lorry. P.Ranjan (21) of Inuvil and V.Rasathurai (30) of Punguduthivu who too jumped from the same lorry and ran into the sea seriously injured in the firing. Both are admitted to the Govt. hospital, Jaffna for treatment.

Soldiers from the Palaly army camp go out on foot to the Kankesanthurai army camp walking off either sides of heavy armoured vehicles moving at slow pace. It is understood that they went to the Kankesanthurai army camp to bring sundry items and other articles needed for their use.

Secretary of the Sri Lanka Anna D.M.K. Pon Mathimugarajah kidnapped by unknown persons sometime back, is released. It is to be mentioned that a number of organisations made fervent appeals for his unconditional release.

Blaze of fire causes severe damage to a motor garage at Sankathanai, Chavakachcheri. It is reported that the garage caught fire when something was dropped from the helicopter that was overflying at that time.

In Batticaloa, armed forces engaged in intensive 'search operations' assault and arrest 30 youths in agricultural farm lying within the jurisdiction of Vellavali Police. These youths were blindfolded before being taken away.

In Trincomalee at Thanganagar armed forces out on 'search operations' fire and kill Arunasalam Chandrasekaram (39) father of 5 children, Nagamany Suryapalan (27) father of a child and arrest Veerakutty Veerarathnam (29) father of 3 children.

### MAY 8

In Trincomalee, Home Guards shoot and kill Attorney P. Renganathan (53) and severely assault Attorney Chandrapalan who were returning in a car from Kantalai Circuit Courts. Mr. Renganathan's wife, a retired School Teacher, is a Sinhalese. It is to be mentioned here that Mr. Renganathan was handling most of the cases (in courts) of those who had suffered at the hands of the Home Guards.

Arumugam Chelliah, Partner, Jaffna Kugan Stores and Vinayagam Stores, Jaffna, kidnapped a month back, is released.

In a statement in Jaffna, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS) claims responsibility for the blast at the Central Telegraph Office, Colombo on 7.5.86. The statement adds that the blast was undertaken as the Government failed to take note of the five conditions laid out by them and the continuing atrocities of the army.

Rs. 75,000 payable as wages to the employees of the Ceylon Transport Board Depot at Akkaraipattu robbed at gun point. When this money was being brought from the Kalmunai People's Bank by the Depot Manager and 2 other officers, travelling in a bus, the bus was intercepted by armed youth at Karaithivu and the money was taken away.

### MAY 9

In Thondamannaru, devotees express deep grief on this fiftieth day of cancellation of poojas and prayers at Sellasannathy Hindu Temple.

In Jaffna, Health Services staff take over medicine urgently required in the North and flown to Palaly by security forces at the request of the Jaffna GA Panchalingam.

In Colombo, customs officers detect a car attempting to enter Harbour with explosives. Harbour Police detain car and driver for investigations.

In Batticaloa, armed forces engaged in 'search operations' in Kithulwewa, arrest 12 persons but release 3 of them on their identifying themselves as Muslims. 3 of the balance 9, are brothers from one family. A few others engaged in ploughing at Mullamunai too arrested and their Tractor and Tractor removed. President Batticaloa Citizens' Committee lodges complaint regarding these incidents with the army co-ordinating officer.

Large army convoy from Vavuniya and Eeraperiyakulam camps proceed towards the North via Omanthai, Mankulam in 20 trucks and buses, carrying Rice and other provisions, fuel, camping material and other field equipment. Continuous firing heard as the convoy approaches Omanthai.

Peaceful hartal in Jaffna peninsula in response to a call by EPRLF protesting the killing

of Sri Sabaratnam Leader of TELO and one of the front line leaders of ENLF and other freedom fighters and civilians who lost their lives in the recent clashes. All business establishments, Colleges, Schools and markets are closed. Public transport comes to a halt. Very poor attendance in Government offices and banks.

### MAY 10

Trincomalee police investigating the shooting and murder of well-known Attorney P. Renganathan (53), arrest 2 Home Guards and throw a dragnet for the arrest of 2 more who are absconding. Firearms given to another 2 Home Guards, reported to be involved in this murder, are withdrawn.

At Puliankulam army establish an instant check post and stop all public and private vehicles plying between Colombo and Jaffna for inspection. Whilst in the process of inspecting and clearing, a van is fired at and S. Krishnamoorthy, Asst. Medical Officer in charge of Iranani-Illuppaikulam hospital, who was in one of the halted buses is injured and admitted to the Vavuniya hospital for treatment.

House of Rathinasamy Karunanathan at Veerapathirar Street, Mallakam robbed by unknown persons, of jewellery worth Rs. 50,000/-. The robbers enter making an opening in the roof whilst the inmates were fast asleep.

In the very early hours, shells are fired from inside Jaffna Fort. Number of houses in 2nd Cross Street damaged. More rounds of shelling continue around various parts of Jaffna town and cease on the militants, firing back.

On information that a land mine is buried in the Trincomalee esplanade area, army moves out on frantic search. No clues surfaced even after 3 hours of close examination.

### MAY 11

Army passing through Ramanoor, a hamlet adjoining Puliankulam, on their way to the North, fire and kill Murugesu (65) and seriously injure a youth aged 22, who is admitted to the Nedunkerny hospital for treatment. Five houses in this tiny village set on fire and burned down completely by the army, who order the inmates to vacate their dwellings before setting fire. This is believed to be a reprisal following recovery of a land mine buried by the militants in this locality.

Continuous helicopter activities in and around Valvettiturai army camp pointing to arrival of more troops, also continuous firing from within the camp premises, possibly indicating intensive training to new arrivals. A plane too circles the air space twice.

Two fairly big gun boats augment the fleet of gun boats already stationed off the Myliddy coast between 200 and 500 yards away from the Tuberculosis hospital there. Because of these movements, there are only 5 in patients in this hospital where hundreds could be accommodated.

Direct confrontation between militants and security forces at Oddichuddan. Details not known.



# SITUATION REPORT

(Continued from page 2)

categories of tea. In addition, a trade spokesman said, several countries were hesitant in purchasing Sri Lanka tea as their own authorities had imposed stringent procedural checks on these tea imports. These measures, imposed after terrorist propaganda claimed Sri Lanka teas to be poisoned with cyanide, have resulted in a decline in prices for Ceylon tea even at the London auctions, the trade said. The price decline in Sri Lanka has continued in contrast to a recent global revival of tea market prices, they added. (Sun - 11th June 1986)

## Forced Sinhala settlements in the East: Sinhala woman goes to Court

A victim of a terrorist attack at Dehiwatta, who sought refuge back in her ancestral home at Hambantota has filed a petition in the Supreme Court alleging that she and other victims are being forced by the authorities to go back to the terrorism affected areas. K.A.K. Kusumawathie in her fundamental rights petition has prayed for a declaration of court that she and the other refugees are free to live anywhere in the island, specially in the Hambantota district as it is safe and her relatives are living there. She has also sought an interim order restraining the authorities from taking any action to send her back to terrorist affected area. According to the petitioner she a resident of Dehiwatta and her ancestral home was at Hambantota. In May 1985, terrorist had attacked her village including her house and looted her belongings. During that period about 50 families including hers were taken to Agrabodhi refugees camp. On June 9 she was compelled by authorities to return to her village by vehicle without being given adequate security Kusumawathie complains.

Thereafter on June 11 the village was attacked again by terrorists and many people were killed. She was brought back to Agrabodhi camp by the security forces. She says living conditions in the camp were harsh due to shortage of essential food, malpractice and corruption. The girls were unprotected and vulnerable to sexual harassment. She and several others found accommodation in the camp of an organisation helping refugees. Later they decided to go back to her home at Ambalantota ... (The Sun-10th June 1986)

## Air Lanka: No takers

IT'S A WASTE of paradise for Sri Lanka's national carrier Airlanka. Faced with mounting losses and declining tourist traffic that has now slowed to a trickle it planned a mission of image building. In association with the Ceylon Tourist Board the air line offered a free holiday for the survivors of the May 3 bomb blast aboard its Tristar "City of Colombo". But, airline officials now find after sending letters to all survivors there are no takers. Hence the first of a series of promotional measures Airlanka hoped to undertake in collaboration with the Ceylon Tourist Board has been abandoned before it got off the ground. (Weekend-15th June 1986)

## Survived plane bomb, killed by bus bomb

A man who survived the bomb explosion on Airlanka's Tristar on May 3 died in the explosion on the Colombo bound bus in Trincomalee on Wednesday. Abdul Hameed Jenudil was coming to Colombo to claim compensation from Airlanka for the injuries he suffered in the plane blast, a relative told an inquest yesterday. But he never reached Colombo. Jenudil had received a letter from Airlanka asking him to collect compensation and also a new ticket. He had left Mutur by ferry. From Trincomalee he had boarded the bus to Colombo. Seriously injured he was taken to the Anuradhapura Hospital in a helicopter but he died there, Jenudil's uncle told the inquest..... (The Sun-14th June 1986)

## Panic in Pettah

Pettah was plunged into panic and confusion yesterday morning when an anonymous caller warned of a bomb at the central bus stand. Within minutes hundreds of people ran for safety disregarding a police request for calm, an eye witness said. Commercial activity ground to a halt as many shopkeepers fled the area leaving their business unattended. Pettah Police rushed a squad of officers to the scene to evacuate the bus stand. All buses were ordered out of the area and the yard was searched thoroughly, police said. A bomb being placed at the bus stand was ruled out by police after investigations with the assistance of the army bomb disposal unit. Meanwhile in Kotahena, parents forcibly removed their children from a Junior School following rumours of a bomb threat. This led to the early closure of the school, Kotahena Police said. (The Sun-13th June 1986)

## Prof. Buultjens talks on Indo-Sri Lankan relations

I do not think we can expect India to be an

objective mediator in the ethnic conflict. It is a participant as well, said Professor Ralph Buultjens on Wednesday. He was speaking at the SLFI on "Indo-Lanka Relations and India Today". He spoke under the auspices of the Institute of Fundamental Studies, of which he is a Senior Fellow. It is a fact of global geopolitics that large countries have always had problems with small nations and vice versa. India was no exception to the rule. From its birth it had problems with its neighbours. So, anyone could have predicted that Indo-Lanka relations would also hit the rocks. Unlike Pakistan, we can't go to war with India. In any case, war with India divided Pakistan into two and militarised it and killed democracy in Pakistan. We had to use our own approach within the context of big state small state relations, he said. He identified five areas here:-

That we increase our knowledge of India. That we develop a constituency in India to support us. That we sharpen our wits and develop our diplomatic skills and reach out to policy makers in India and Tamil Nadu. That we adopt a realistic attitude towards India; since we should know that Mr. Gandhi does not depend on the support of the Sinhalese. That we realise that while India can ruin us, we cannot ruin India. The ethnic issue, said Prof. Buultjens, was a manifestation of the deterioration in relationships along other fronts between the two countries. The Indian government was concerned about Sri Lanka long before the ethnic question of 1983. But today, the agencies of North India were willing to lend material support to the Tamils, including terrorists. It was for the first time willing to interfere in Sri Lanka affairs. The Indian Government must be concerned about the inconsistencies of its Sri Lankan policy. It was anti-terrorists as far as the Sikhs were concerned but tolerates terrorist bases in South India. In the past they tried to pretend there were no bases but the present government acknowledged it. But, he said, criminal militant elements had made life difficult for the Tamils in Tamil Nadu and misused Tamil Nadu hospitality, so it was now time for them to make overtures. He said there were four things to be done. We should seriously engage India's allies in assisting us; if anybody could influence India it was the Soviet Union, so the President's impending visit there should be watched. We should have a joint government-opposition position on the ethnic issue; this would have a remarkable impact on the militants, India and the world. There should be a meeting between President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Gandhi like the camp David summit; they should sit together till the issue is resolved. There should be nation to state diplomacy; and outreach to policy makers in Tamil Nadu.... (The Island-13th June 1986)

# SITUATION REPORT



## Obituaries

*In a land where Death by Violence is a common occurrence and the names of the victims rarely get obituary notices, here are some "fortunate" few who passed away into the void, duly noticed by Sri Lankan newspapers:-*

**CANAGARATNAM** - Rukmani, wife of late Arunasalam Canagaratnam, mother of late Nadarajapathy, Mrs. Pons. Paranthala, Tharmarajah (retired Supdt. Police), late Yogeswary, late Dr. P. Canagaratnam (Former Fisheries Dept.) Dr. R. Canagaratnam (Eye surgeon) mother-in-law of late Paranthala, Magaluxmy, Arunthathi, Thanavathy. Funeral 4th June, Navalar Road, Jaffna.

**VELAYUTHAM** - Saraswathi, wife of S. Velayutham mother of Dr. Devendra (UK) and

Gowri, mother-in-law of Kulavaratharajah and Shyamala. Cremation at Kanatte (Hindu Section) on 7th June. 41, Wifera Mawatha, Colombo 7.

**KANDAIYA** - S.S. (SEGA) Attorney-at-law Colombo. Husband of Parimala Kandaiya (nee Sivagurunathan) father of Shiranee (U.S.A.) and Prathab, father-in-law of K. Sriram (Engineer U.S.A.), son of late C.T. Kandaiya and Mrs. Kandaiya, brother of Mrs. Vettivelu late Mr. N. Kandaiya, Mrs. Sathivel, Mrs. Kumara swamy, late Mrs. Arulambalam late Mr.

Parajasingham. Cremation at (Hindu Section) on 9th June. 6, Kotalwala Terrace, Off Ashoka Gardens, Colombo 4.

**SABAPATHY** - CHARLES ANTON SABAPATHY, son of late C.J. Sabapathy and Presida Sabapathy, husband of Rajini, father of Damayanthi, Chelvakumar, Ranjithkumar and Kishorekumar, brother of Teresa Alexander Carmel Sarvesvaran, Rita Alwis, Christopher, Albert, Magdalene Peter, Hillary, Francis and Patrick. Funeral 11th June. 211/1, Main Street, Jaffna.