

Fortnightly
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SRI
LANKA

SITUATION
REPORT

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Published by the Tamil Information & Research Unit (TIRU),
3rd Floor, No 61, Velankanni Church Road, Besant Nagar, Madras 600 090, India,
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3rd Floor, 24-28 Clapham High St., London SW4 7UR, U.K

SITUATION REPORT

Note to Readers :

This issue of Situation Report was printed late. Although it is dated March 15th, we have availed of the delay by incorporating more recent news reports.

Soldiers selling grenades ?

(The Island International, April 22, 1987)

Several hand grenades of the same type issued to servicemen have been found in the suburbs and in areas close to Army camps during the past few weeks leading to speculation that they may have been pilfered from military establishments or sold by soldiers, police said.

They said it was known that soldiers serving in the operational areas in the North and East were disposing in Colombo grenades issued them for operations after erasing the markings.

Both hand grenades and ammunition were being disposed of in this manner by soldiers. This practice, one senior police officer said, amounted to "misappropriation."

Police said the modus operandi was for the soldiers to go out on operations and on their return to account for more ammunition than they had spent

The unused ammunition was kept with them and brought to Colombo once their period of service in the operational areas was over, they said

Recently one grenade was recovered by police on a tip-off in Kiribathgoda and handed over to the Army who identified it as one of theirs, police said.

Earlier, abandoned hand grenades were traced by police in Godagama.

Police are also investigating a case where a 36 M hand grenade issued to an infantryman was sold in Colombo's underworld, reportedly for Rs. 750 they said.

Even U. S. despairs

(Sun, April 27, 1987)

Violence-wracked Sri Lanka, once regarded by Washington as a model

developing country, is now a source of despair for a US government that says it is powerless to help.

US officials and private analysts told Reuters that an explosion of major violence in recent days that killed several hundred people there had made it difficult to see how a solution could be reached to the ethnic violence.

"The events of the past few days have discouraged everyone. We are back at square one", said one official..."

German charters suspended

(Sun, April 27, 1987)

A major West German tour operator in Hanover today announced that it was suspending charter flights to Sri Lanka at least until the end of May.

Touristik Union International said the move was taken out of concern for the safety of tourists even though the situation was reported as being quiet in the Island's holiday resorts.

Aussies advised to keep off

(Sun, April 27, 1987)

The Australian Government has issued a warning to Australians planning to travel to Sri Lanka, because of continuing civil unrest in that country.

Visitors were advised by the foreign office to avoid travelling to the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, which include the cities of Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa because of bomb attacks.

"Australians who visit Sri Lanka are advised to exercise care as the situation can change rapidly," the official said.

They should avoid confined or crowded places and night travel in country areas. Public transport in Sri Lanka had been a particular focus of militant activity.

Bomb detected

(Sun, April 27, 1987)

On a tip-off by two Tamil labourers, Nuwara Eliya police discovered a bomb hidden under a culvert hardly two and a half miles from the police station on Saturday evening.

The bomb contained a bundle of gelignite, 500 grams of black powder (explosives) a fuse wire and a cardboard target with 25 bullet holes. It was found under a culvert at Top Pass, on the Kandy - Nuwara Eliya Road....."

More speed boats

(Sun, April 28, 1987)

Government will soon purchase another fleet of high speed patrol boats equipped with the latest weaponry to more effectively guard the Northern and Eastern coastal areas.

This has become necessary in view of the use by terrorists of high powered speed boats to travel from India to these areas.

The purchase would help strengthen the present naval patrols in the region Government officials said.

65 missing after bomb

(Sun, April 28, 1987)

The number of those reported missing without a trace after last Tuesday's Pettah bomb blast rose to 65 yesterday as more complaints were received at the Headquarters of the Colombo Crime Detective Bureau.

The majority of the persons were reported missing since April 21.

Officials at the Crime Detective Bureau said that although the missing persons were strongly believed to have been in the vicinity of the blast their exact whereabouts at that time could not be confirmed.

D. Ranawaka a young man from Deniyaya was among several hundred who called at the CDB Headquarters during the past few days to ascertain if his sister, Amaralatha Ranawaka (30) missing since April 21 was among the photographs displayed in a glass cabinet.

He said that for the past few days he had searched all the city hospitals including the morgue, but still there was no trace of his sister, an employee of a garment factory in Kohuwela for the past five years.

84 bodies have been identified and claimed so far while colour photographs of 25 bodies of the victims yet to be claimed are displayed in a glass cabinet at No. 50, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7.

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and

Human Rights Violations & Ceasefire Violations

Events from March 3 - March 17 were carried in Issue No. 30 of the Situation Report

MARCH 18

A number of soldiers are killed in a landmine blast between Murikandy and Kokkavil. Armoured vehicle they were travelling in also badly damaged. Landmine laid by LTTE guerrillas. Later army recovered the damaged armoured vehicle with great difficulty and heavy security precautions.

S. Ramalingam (69) of Kachcheriyadi shot at by army as he was going over the railway bridge at Navatkuli and injured. Hearing his cries, a few young men about the place go to his assistance and get him admitted to Jaffna hospital.

A Tea Factory of Kandy Galaha group go ablaze in a fire accident. Losses run into several millions. Reasons for the fire are not immediately known. Investigations are afoot.

LTTE salutes Second Lt. Kethees (Jeeva) who fought bravely and lost his life in resisting the Navatkuli armed forces from coming into civilian areas.

MARCH 19

Heavy shelling from inside Navatkuli army camp towards civilian areas in Ariyalai. Explosions heard for miles. More than 20 shells fired commencing last night for 3 hours. Several houses including those of Jeevan, Packianathan and Tharmalingam damaged. Fortunately no casualties. Militants retaliate firing mortars aimed at Navatkuli camp.

Soldiers from the mini camp at Murunkan fire at a private van going along Mannar - Murunkan road. N. Selvalingam (51), of Adampan and C. Paramanathan are killed and 4 others injured. As the driver brings the van to a halt, soldiers come up to the van and check the passengers. After checking, they declare that the van had been fired at by "terrorists", video film the dead and the injured and return to camp. Injured admitted to hospital.

In Mutur civilians proceeding to work in the morning shot at by soldiers who wait in ambush in vacant houses lying close to the Mutur army camp. Three are killed.

A new army camp is opened at Pulipainthakal in Batticaloa.

4 teachers on their way to Jaffna from Delft arrested in Nainativu by the navy. Reasons not known for arresting these teachers only. Sent to Palaly camp.

MARCH 20

A Tamil Engineer arrested at Kaluwanchchikudi on 17. 3. 87 on suspicion of harbouring LTTE Batticaloa commander Kumarappa.

Residents from Ariyalai Maniyanthoddam, Semmani and Kaithady evacuate their homes and move interior because of continuous shelling from Navatkuli camp at nights.

Three new army camps are opened in Mahiladitivu, Manalpitty and Ambalathady in Kokkaddichcholai.

STF commandos attack farmers who were in the act of sowing their fields in Velamaram in Akkaraipattu and cause damage to their utensils and tractors.

LTTE guerrillas mount offensive on STF commandos coming out of camp at Pulipainthakal. After a gruelling gun battle commandos retreat leaving behind cartridges, helmets and tinned food. It is believed that STF suffered losses.

Strafing from helicopter has become a routine affair in Navatkuli region. In the helicopter gunship firing today Kumar (27) is injured and admitted to Jaffna hospital.

MARCH 21

LTTE women fighters and male guerrillas open fire and succeed in chasing 3 helicopter gunships flying low and strafing Kopay, Kaithady, Navatkuli areas, Also from landing

inside Navatkuli camp. Infuriated at this, helicopter gunships attack passenger vans, lorries and other vehicles passing along Kaithady - Kopay road. Simultaneously shells are fired from Navatkuli camp towards Navatkuli, Ariyalai, Kopay and Neerveli. Lorry driver P. Suppiah (46) and 2 others are killed. Several are injured including N. Ponnar (59), S. Subramaniam (36), Allen Poopalasingam (30) and S. Jegatheeswaran (26). At Kaithady a house and a car belonging to C. Sankar is damaged. Inmates in the house injured. Kalaivani Vidyalayam, a number of houses and a temple also damaged. At Kopay junction, a coconut palm is hit and is truncated. Houses around the area are damaged.

Soldiers waiting in ambush, in the early hours, to capture LTTE fighter Periyarajan (Rajan) of Sonthakarankulam, Omanthai, fail as he commits suicide taking cyanide on being surrounded. LTTE salutes him.

Shells are fired from inside the Fort right through last night. Details of damages are not known.

None turn at Palaly, Kankesanturai, Harbour View Hotel, Fort camps to collect fuel distribution coupons.

MARCH 22

Thousands of people join in a procession demonstrating against the fuel embargo. The procession starts from the Jaffna University at 10 a. m. goes through Palaly Veethi, Hospital Veethi Hospital Road and Kandy Road and winds up at the Jaffna Secretariat where a public meeting is held attended by several public organisations. Processionists included mostly women. Students, farmers, workers and others also participate. Bullock carts lead the procession with placards depicting the impact on essential transport services because of the fuel ban. Processionists also carry placards condemning the fuel embargo with such slogans as "Economic development in South whilst crippling the economy in the North", "Remove the fuel ban

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and let the poor live" "It is not fuel that is burning here, it is people's belly".

Three helicopter gunships strafe Navat kuli, Neerveli, Kopay areas to day too. A Sinhalese driver W. A. D. Patrick (40), employee of a private transport organisation, injured and admitted to the Jaffna hospital succumbs to his injuries.

Santhakumar (Santhan) and Pararajasingham (Para) of EROS are killed by soldiers waiting in ambush near Thevipuram on 21. 3. 87.

MARCH 23

Pannai Police Quarters mini camp with several soldiers stationed there is attacked by LTTE guerrillas at 1. 15 a. m. Four soldiers are killed and 8 are captured. Rest withdraw and run for safety abandoning their weapons. Kinman, Rajmohan, Pandithar and Arun of the LTTE are killed in the battle. Another 10 fighters are injured. Buildings heavily damaged. In the morning, guerrillas return to their positions with captured arms.

In retaliation, Jaffna town and suburbs are shelled from inside Fort. Planes drop bombs and helicopter gunships strafe indiscriminately. This exercise at the expense of innocent civilians goes on for nearly 5 hours. Sections of Jaffna hospital hit by shells. A shell that alighted on Ward No. 19 fails to explode and recovered. Several windows and glassware items shattered to pieces. Hospital in-patients alarmed and panicky. Office of the Superintendent of Health Services and Regional Branch of Bank of Ceylon, Hospital Road, hit by shells and damaged. Jaffna town looks a battle zone with Tharmalingam (60) and Ravi (21) killed and more than 50 injured.

Unkncwn armed youth enter Sevinuwara, a village 20 miles from Horowpotana towards Trincomalee in the early hours and kill 28 persons including all Home Guards stationed in the village. Following the incident armed forces arrive at the village and conduct search operations.

Security forces on patrol outside Welikade jail move inside as Tamil

detenues notice the Supdt. of Prisons their decision to fast unto death commencing from 25th with Fr. Aparanam Singarayer joining them.

MARCH 24

Latest army casualties in the Pannai Police Quarters incident put the toll to 14 killed. 12 seriously injured. 2 bodies recovered from the well in the Pannai veterinary Hospital.

Joint Operations Command meet in Palaly and review the situation following the Pannai Police Quarters incident. General Cyril Ranatunge presides.

Fishing boats off the coast of Chemmalai, Mullaitivu are attacked by naval guards. One boat goes up in flames.

Military sentry opposite Mullaitivu hospital and another sentry at another post withdrawn to camps following the Pannai Police Quarters incident.

MARCH 25

South African made "Buffel" personnel carrier smashed and 15 STF commandos are killed in a landmine explosion set off by LTTE guerrillas near Palugamam in Batticaloa. These commandos are from the newly opened camp in Sammanturai region.

The 8 armymen captured by LTTE guerrillas are brought to Muththirasanthi and lined up for public view. Thousands turn up and move in queues to see the captives (handcuffed) and the captured arms and ammunition.

It is reported that the watch tower of Thoppur Army camp was attacked by EROS with R.K. 155 commando mortar last night and 5 soldiers were killed on the spot. According to EROS, Home Guards and soldiers attached to this camp were actively engaged in creating dissension between the Muslims and Tamils living in this village and also caused heavy destruction, under the guise of search operations. In retaliation, soldiers went on a rampage killing 10 Muslims and destroying 5 houses and 2 shops belonging to them.

LTTE fighter John Balendra ("Arafat" -Nallur) keeping watch over Navatkuli

army camp is killed when a shell fired from inside the camp hits him.

Yesterday, helicopter gunship flying low over Sangupitty jetty in Pooneryn strafes passengers awaiting transport. 5 seriously injured and admitted to Chavakachcheri hospital. 10 received minor injuries.

It is understood that all officers and men of the Sinha Regiment now at the Fort garrison are transferred out. They are to leave by week-end and replaced by a new Regiment. An army spokesman said that Col. Silva and Capt. Kotelawala belong to the Sinha Regiment.

Shells are fired from Thondamannaru army camp towards Valvetthurai in the early hours. M. Ratnavathy (29) seriously injured. Several houses are damaged.

S. Suhantini (19) from Atchelu and another girl student seriously injured in helicopter gunship strafing of Neerveli, Kaithady, Kopay, Ariyalai areas and admitted to Jaffna and Kopay hospitals.

Death fast of Tamil detenues commences at Welikade jail. It is reported that this is to proceed in stages and finally 72 detenues will go into the fast from 5th April. Fr. A. Singarayer is spearheading the fast.

Police constable T. Rajaratnam (29) from Manthikai attached to the Jaffna Police shot at by Fort sentry and seriously injured and admitted to Jaffna hospital. Following this incident, the police post comes to be closed at 2 p.m. and the police numbering 25 who reported for evening duty go to the Jaffna hospital and sign on at the hospital police post.

MARCH 26

Rev. Siyambalaguswela Wimalarasa Thero incumbent of a Buddhist Vihare in Vavuniya seeks the permission of LTTEs Jaffna Commander Kittu, via the media, to visit Jaffna to see the 8 soldiers captured at Pannai. It is reported that he intends to come along with prominent peace-loving citizens from the South and relatives of the captives.

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Thousands of men, women and children join in a mile-long procession organised by the Eelavar Munnani. The processionists carry placards requesting the Indian Govt. to recognise the Eelam Liberation Struggle and accept armed movements and the freedom fighters as reflecting the aspirations of the Tamil people. The procession originating from Nachchimar Amman Temple winds up at the Jaffna Kachcheri passing through Kankesanturai Road, Sivankovil junction, Kannathiddy Road, Kasturiar Road, Windscr Theatre junction, Stanley Road, Pt. Pedro Road, Hospital Road and Kandy Road. A meeting is held opposite the Secretariat.

Material loss in the army operations from 28th Feb. to 3rd March in Myliddy South, Kadduwan, Varuthalavilan, Kurumbacitty and Tellippalai is estimated at rupees ten millions. Several houses, household furniture, rice mills, temples and schools damaged. Crops destroyed. Details of losses have been made available to Brigadier Jerry Silva and the Asst. Govt. Agent, Tellippalai.

In the early hours, shells are fired from Kankesanturai Harbour View Hotel camp towards Alaveddy South, Kantherodai, Sanguveli and Masiapitti. At Alaveddy, seventy year old Eliyathamby is killed. A Rasiyah (64), P. Sakunthaladevi (19) and V. Rasa (50) are seriously injured. Number of houses are damaged and trees cut down. Eye witnesses say that a few shells came down in the form of ball flames. In one of the shrapnels "AMERICA 17-VM 85" marking is found.

Ten civilians (including five from one family) are killed in the shelling from the Palaly and Vasavilan camps, strafing from helicopter gunships and bombing over Kurumbacitty, Kadduwan and Kuppilan villages. Twelve seriously injured. Following this brutal attack, over 300 soldiers in 2 separate units attempt to infiltrate into civilian areas through Kurumbacitty. LTTE guerrillas mount offensive and stall the advancing troops killing at least 3 soldiers. Unable to withstand militant fire, soldiers retreat carrying the dead with them and leaving behind arms and ammunition. LTTE fighter Mano (Manoranjan, Pungudutivu) is killed in the encounter.

Engine oil in 11 barrels and grease for the Northern Region Transport Board, Kondavil Depot brought in a bus confiscated at Elephant Pass army camp. Officials at the Kondavil Depot are in contact with military high-ups, to secure the release of these items.

Army on patrol duty shoot and kill three farmers on their way to Adampan from Uyilankulam in a tractor. The dead are S. Murugananthan (47) driver, S. Sivalingam (42) and V. Kanesalingam (48).

MARCH 27

LTTE guerrillas set off land mines near the Kankesanturai Police station and Kankesanturai American Mission School on convoy of over 300 soldiers on the way to Kankesanturai Harbour View Hotel camp from Palaly camp accompanied by armoured vehicles, trucks and lorries. A truck is smashed and 12 soldiers are killed. Following this incident, three helicopters and a bomber strafe and bomb the area indiscriminately. Number of civilians are injured and admitted to Tellippalai hospital. Residents of Oorani and Kankesanturai move out and seek shelter in Thurkkai Amman Temple and a school in Chunnakam. Kankesanturai Maha Vidyalayam, Bank of Ceylon Branch building and several shops are damaged.

Navatkuli, Kaithady and Ariyalai villages strafed and bombed for over an hour. Several houses including Home for the Aged at Kaithady are damaged. Fortunately, no casualties as the residents had moved out to safe areas in time.

Helicopter gunship fires at a passenger van going along Neerveli main road. Mrs. Yogeswari Rajasekeram, teacher at Somaskanda Vidyalayam, Puttur and another young boy are injured and admitted to Jaffna hospital.

Bank and Post office within the Jaffna Fort remain closed as the staff are keeping away since the firing incident of 25.3.87 where a constable on his way for lunch was shot at by sentry at Fort and seriously injured. The Police, however, resumed duties at their posts within the Fort, whilst the minor staff are out.

In Kadduwan, passengers of a van, on seeing a low flying helicopter gunship alight from it and seek shelter under a tamarind tree. The gunship comes down further and fires at them and two are injured including the van's driver E. Kathiravelu (60). Branches of the tree crackle down and the van is damaged in the gunfire.

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry official has reported that Sri Lanka purchased a million dollar (more than 25 million rupees in Sri Lankan currency) worth of arms from his country. He also stated Pakistan is providing facilities for military training to Sri Lankan soldiers.

Parents of I. Sivakumaran (17) transferred to Anuradhapura hospital from Vavuniya hospital by official Ambulance for treatment for brain fever find him missing at the Anuradhapura hospital when they call over there to see him. They complain to the Vavuniya Citizens Committee and the Co-ordinating Officer.

A fishing boat adrift in the seas for 7 days carrying A. Murugan (30), G. Selvarasa (31) and G. Joseph (24) from Tamil Nadu is washed ashore at Pt. Pedro. Residents of Pt. Pedro who rescue them, treat them and feed them and then hand them over to Citizens' Committee for sending them back to Tamil Nadu in consultation with the Government Agent.

MARCH 28

Eight civilians are killed as Sri Lanka armed forces savagely shell Jaffna town from air, land and sea for the second time within a week. More than 25 are injured. Private residences worth several lakhs is destroyed. Jaffna town in deep panic with men, women and children in hysterical frenzy screaming, stampeding and running helter skelter for shelter. Shelling from inside Jaffna Fort, strafing from helicopter gunships and firing of mortars from gunboats anchored off Mandaitivu mini camp go on for nearly 5 hours. LTTE guerrillas chase helicopter gunship firing with 50 calibre machine guns mounted on moving vehicles. In the onslaught, grazing cattle are killed, trees are truncated, telephone and electric wires are severed with 6" deep ditches on roads shells had alighted.

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The historical Kandasamy Temple shrine at Maviddapuram shelled in the early hours yesterday. More than 20 shells alight on the temple and areas around it and are reported to have been fired from Palaly camp. Sections of the temple, Pilgrims Rests (madam), houses and shops are damaged. Loss is estimated at Rs. 6 lakhs. Vaidyanatha Kurukkal and his family members are injured and removed to hospital. Area surrounding the Temple deserted. All poojas stopped. Age old mango tree within temple premises is cut down.

Ramasamy (50) passing the Kankesan-turai playground shot at from helicopter gunship dies on the spot. Following this incident, people of the area flee their homes.

Shell fired from inside Jaffna Fort hits St. Nicholas Church, Navanturai. A room is badly damaged and 2 persons are injured.

Over 500 refugees from Kankesan-turai, Maviddapuram, Veemankaman and Palaly accommodated at Thurkkai Annan Temple is being looked after by the Thevasthanam.

Hundreds of soldiers arrive at Jaffna Fort garrison. Brought by sea to Mandaitivu, they arrive at Pannai bridge in gunboats and then march into Fort.

Vadamarachchi strafed for nearly 1/2 an hour. Pt. Pedro, Puloli and Thambacitty come under attack and several houses are damaged. Simultaneously, shelling is also carried out from Thondamanaru camp towards civilian areas.

Vallaiveli comes under helicopter strafing. Innocent cyclists passing along Muniapper Kovil under the Vallai bridge hit and injured. Two mini vans also hit and damaged.

MARCH 29

Jaffna Municipality sanctions from its Relief Fund Rs. 1000/- to each of the bereaved families of those killed in the shelling and strafing within the municipal limits yesterday by the armed forces.

Jaffna peninsula is bombed and strafed for second day. 4 bomber planes and 2 helicopters participate in the attacks on civilian population.

Nallur and Neerveli hit badly. In Nallur, Annaledchumy Rasathurai and an elderly man are killed. More than 10, including young boys, are injured. Over 35 buildings including a school, a library, a workshop and several houses are damaged. Number of trees including coconut palms are struck down. Communication wires snap. It is believed that 55 kg. bombs were dropped, as 2 such unexploded bombs were recovered after the raid. In Neerveli, a Roman Catholic School, Kamadchchi Ambal Community Centre, Kamadchchi Ambal Elementary Hygiene Centre and several houses and shops are destroyed. Cattle also killed. A developed section of the village completely razed. Here too 53 kg. bombs had been dropped. Loss at both places is estimated at over 50 lakhs.

Shell fired from inside Jaffna Fort hits a house, in 4th Cross Street. Mr. Francis Jebanesan, owner of the house, his wife Chandramalar and son Saseetharan are injured and admitted to hospital. House badly damaged.

More than 60 persons take shelter in a trench during the raid. This trench dug in 'W' shape is in a compound at Muthuvinayakar Kovil Veethi in Nallur-Kachcheri Road.

Naval guards confront fishing boats off Casuarina Beach at Karainagar, forcibly remove outboard motors and fling them into the sea. The fishermen are warned not to fish in the seas and chased ashore.

Army patrolling and checking intensified in Pooneryn. An abandoned plastic boat lying along the beach picked up by the army and taken to camp in a truck.

Theiventhiran (45) who visits his deserted home in Kurumbacitty, to collect items of articles left behind, is shot dead by armymen who were in hiding inside the house. Because of constant shelling from Palaly camp, none has dared to approach the area to fetch the corpse.

MARCH 30

Jaffna Teaching Hospital staff headed by Dr. Natchinarkinian take out a "silent" procession protesting and condemning the shelling of the Jaffna

Hospital by the armed forces from the Jaffna Fort garrison. The procession starting from the Hospital premises visits Temples and Churches and offer prayers and return to work.

Despite the loss of lives of patients and severe damages to the Hospital buildings (Wards 19 & 20) in the shelling, the hospital staff to a man remain at their posts and continue to provide treatment and succour to the in-patients transferring them to other wards with great difficulty. The public of Jaffna are all in praise of their selfless services to the community at a time of untold hardships and crisis.

Jaffna Traders' Association launches a "Black Band Week" condemning army atrocities and bereaving for those killed in the shelling of the Jaffna Hospital. A hartal to be observed at the end of the week.

Continuous shelling from inside Jaffna Fort the whole of last night. One of the shells hits the Hindu College Science Laboratory lying close to the college hostel and causes heavy damage. It is to be mentioned here that the Regional Science Stores is too housed in this building. Had the shell hit the hostel, casualties would have been very high.

Tamil political detainees continue their death fast at the Welikade jail.

More than 500 Sinhalese youths from Galle, Matara and Hambantota are arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and detained. They have been suspected of conducting anti-govt. classes and engaged in collecting arms to fight the Govt.

The Govt. Agent and other high officials inspect the damages caused to the Jaffna Hospital in yesterday's shelling from inside Jaffna Fort. The shelling yesterday is said to be the seventh on the Hospital.

All telephones within the municipal limits of Jaffna are disconnected. It is reported that this has been done by those who are occupying the Telecommunications Buildings.

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Estate workers on bail

(Sun, April 28, 1987)

Eleven estate workers remanded earlier in connection with causing damage to the official residence of the Superintendent of the Lindendale Estate in Ragala were ordered bail in a sum of Rs. 400 each by Nuwara Eliya District Judge A. A. M. Farook yesterday.

Ragala police early last week produced the suspects before court on charges of causing damages running into Rs. 85,930 to the Janatha Estate Development Board owned building by attacking with stones and clubs, theft of a loud speaker valued at Rs. 5000 and causing of damages to a motor vehicle.

The Judges postponed further hearing to May 11.

Police quiz woman

(The Island, May 4, 1987)

Criminal Investigation Department sleuths probing the Pettah bomb blast are now questioning a female Tamil employee of a state bank who it had been found applied for short leave and left the bank premises three hours before the explosion which killed 113 people and wounded over 250.

The Tamil employee, sources said was now under intense grilling.

Meanwhile 24 youths suspected to be from the bomb unit of the EROS are also being detained in the 4th floor of the CID. The arrested men it is believed, had come to Colombo from Batticaloa to help in the attack,

Reports of some Tamil shops in the vicinity closing hours before the blast and the employees leaving earlier than usual were also been investigated, sources said.

The CID is also looking for two other key suspects.

Undergrads baton - charged

(The Island, May 4, 1987)

A group of undergraduates of the University of Colombo were yesterday baton charged by police as they defied orders to halt shouting anti-government slogans in an outside the university premises.

Inspector Sabarathnam, Shanthikumar OIC, (Crime Detective Bureau) Cinnamon Garden police, said nine undergraduates, including four Buddhist monks, were arrested in this connection and produced before the Additional Magistrate (Colombo) N. Mahendraraja, who remanded them until May 15.

One undergraduate received minor injuries during the incidents..."

4 students arrested

(The Island, May 4, 1987)

Four advanced level students of two leading Colombo schools have been arrested by the Dematagoda police for the alleged possession of a large quantity of anti-government hand bills printed by the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, police said yesterday.

Inspector Gamini Wijesuriya, OIC, Dematagoda police, said around 3.00 p. m. on Saturday police Sergeant S. J. Fernando who was on beat duty with two Police Constables at the Mount Mary Junction questioned four youths who were between the ages of 18 and 21..."

Colombo University drama

(Sun, May 6, 1987)

University students held five of their lecturers hostage for eight hours demanding the release of their colleagues from custody but freed them last night after a Police contingent surrounded the campus for an rescue attempt.

The drama at the Colombo Campus began last morning when over 300 students stormed a section of the Science Faculty and forcibly confined four lecturers Professor N. de Ranjan Fonseka head of the Department of Botany Dr. H. N. de Silva, lecturer in Botany Dr. D. P. R. Chandrasena lecturer in Botany B. K. A. W. Wickremasinghe senior lecturer in Sinhala and Dr. Shariya de Soysa lecturer in law.

To set the five lecturers free they demanded the release of nine of their colleagues arrested by the Police on Sunday for allegedly painting anti Government slogans.

For eight hours student crowds swelled as the day grew. The captors

sent out a demand to the University authorities which later led to a meeting between the students and the Vice Chancellor, Professor Stanley Wijesundera.

Police Chief, Cyril Herath told 'Sun' last night he received written intimidation from the University authorities about the situation in the campus and asked the Police to take appropriate action.

The climax to the drama came at dusk when heavily armed policemen who had been deployed throughout the day began preparing for the final thrust into the campus in a bid to free the hostages.

The police then began to break down the barricades put by the students while their special riot squad armed themselves with tear gas and other equipment.

It was at this stage that the student captors released their female hostage who was sent Dr. Shariya de Soysa to negotiate with the police, positioned at the Thurstan entrance of the University.

The students wanted the police to disperse or keep a distance so that they could leave the premises. SP Colombo south Roy Gunawardene who met the hostage at the gate refused to give in to the students request but assured her that they could leave the premises in groups of five but not until the hostages were freed.

At 7.00 p. m. later word reached the police that the hostage who had been threatened with death at one stage by their student captors were freed and after a final confirmation the first batch of students began to leave the premises under the watchful eye of the police who numbered more than 100.

At 7.10 p. m. the hostages who appeared to be tired emerged from the campus premises and were escorted under police guard to nearby cars that later drove them to their homes. One of the hostages who wished to remain anonymous said that the student captors had served him lousy food and abused him in foul language.

Police also said that the release of the hostages was made after the university authorities and the students group met for talks and that police played no hand in the release whatsoever.....



Indian Express May 11, 1987

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 :-

JEYANAYAGAM, Annie Ramabai - Wife of late S. J. Jeyanayagam (Rtd. Electrical Engineer), father of Suthan (U. S. A.) and Ariya (Toronto). Cremation at Kanatte on 22nd April, 1987. 10, Charles Circus, Colombo 3.

RASANAYAGAM, X. J. S. - (Rtd. Principal of Schools). Husband of Selvaranee, father of Angelo (Geneva), Indrani, Manohari, Lakshman (Australia) Vasanthi (U. K.), late Nirmalan and of Chandiran, Soundari and Amali (Canada) Interment at Kanatte on 23rd April, 1987. 84, Rajasinghe Road, Wellawatte, Colombo 6.

VADIVEL, N - (Dir. of Org. C.W.C). Husband of Balamani, father of Sathiyandanan, Nithiyandanan and Kantha. Cremation at Madampitiya Cemetery on 26th April, 1987. Block 4, F24, Bloemendhal Flats, Kotahena.

RAJARATNAM, Fancy - Prop Studio



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Fancy, Badulla. Husband of Maheswary, father of Yoga, Jaya, Logeswary and Jothi. Cremation at General Cemetery on 27th April, 1987.

KRISHNAPILLAI, A. V. of Urelu East, Chunnakam. Husband of Ponnamma, father of Atputhajothy, Rabindrasothy and Thavasothy (U.K). Funeral took place on 29th April, 1987.

JEGANATHAN, Sunderam (Rtd. Shr-

off). Husband of Pathmavathy, father of Rajaluxmy, Sundereswaran, Krishnaveni and Balasunderam. Cremation at Kanatte on 1st May, 1987. 26 Police Park Avenue, Colombo 5.

CHANMUGAM, PROF.P.K. - Husband of late Soundramani (Mani), father of Ganesar and Pramila. Cremation at Kanatte on 2nd May, 1987. 37/33, Bullers Lane, Colombo 7.