

LETTER FROM EELAM. WHAT FUTURE FOR TAMILS

Trincomale

Eelam

02/ 10/ 1985

Dear Comrades & Friends,

We bring greetings from our people to you at your conference, from a far-away and forgotten Land - EELAM. As you would have gathered from your News-papers, Radio, T.V, etc, as people of this nation, our people are driven into taking desperate actions, in order to save ourselves from virtual extinction.

We know you all have your own problems about the conflicts between power and principles, winning the next election in your country. Unfortunately, we haven't got such intellectual issues to shout about but, to think how to escape the next massacre we will face any minute organised by the Sri Lankan security forces. Yet, we appreciate that you all took some time off to talk about our comrades in Nicaragua and in South Africa and further still about those starving millions in the THIRD WORLD. However, we are saddened by the fact that you forgot the heroic Palastinians and us - struggling masses of the Tamil speaking people in Sri Lanka.

Your forefathers, as our colonial masters, thought us obedience and brought Tamils from South India to slave in their Plantations- which they created by distroying our forests and our paddy-fields and joined our Tamil Nation with that of our Sinhala brothers, for their own convenience. As a result, Sri Lanka imports rice, rain-fall over the Island has gone down and worse still, the two nations find themselves progressively in acute conflicts. Of course, we are still grateful for those miles of rail tracts and Tea, eventhough it was our Plantation Tamils' blood & sweat, poured into their existance.

Comrades & friends, when you return to your homes, please take this letter & the facts attached on it's back, to be discussed among yourselves about our tragic situation. May be, when you all meet next time around, we would be lucky enough to see ourselves, with the Palastinians and all other oppressed people of the world in your agenda for the next conference.

Your's Fraternaly,

Comrades from Eelam.

தமிழ்த் தேசிய ஆவணச் சுவடிகள்

TO THE EYES OF THE CONSCIOUS WORLD

SOME INFORMATION ON CEYLON (SRI LANKA)

Tamil speaking people in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) are a nation. They are not a minority like the immigrants in Britain.

That is, they have:

- A traditional homeland in the island with a history of thousands of years;
- A socio-economic set-up in unity with that land;
- A distinctive language and culture;
- Reached the awareness that they are a nation.

The traumas of the island are not that of 'terrorism' or minority problems, but rather that of the unresolved national question, Sinhala-Buddhist chauvinism, Sri Lankan state-terrorism and imperialism.

Why?

- Since 1948, all successive Sinhala governments have played the anti-Tamil card to win elections;
- The plantation Tamils, who initially elected their own representatives were disenfranchised. Now they are stateless, without any civil or democratic rights as enjoyed by our Sinhala brethren. Worse still, they live in Bantustan style slave-labour camps to produce 60 per cent of Sri Lankan foreign income;
- Colonisation of Tamil homelands by armed Sinhala chauvinists has been an official policy of all the governments since 1948, in order to make demographic changes as the Zionists do in the West Bank and Gaza;
- More than 4,000 Tamils were chopped, burnt or hacked to death during the anti-Tamil pogroms of 1958, '61, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81 and 1983;
- Since 1983 more than 5,000 Tamils were massacred by the Sinhala forces in 'retaliation', and thousands have been held in torture camps without trial;
- Tamil political prisoners, including Christian priests and Gandhians were butchered within the prison walls and detention camps;
- More than 400,000 are refugees.

Tamil speaking people in Ceylon are a peace loving nation

- Until Black July 1983, their resistance was projected through elected representatives, who are now exiles in India, and through Gandhian methods, even though they had already suffered several pogroms;
- Their history is one of many broken promises by Sinhala governments, e.g. The Banda-Selva pact (1958), Duddly-Selva pact (1965), All Party Conference (1984);
- They are now participating in a process of negotiations with the Sri Lankan government in Butan;
- Since agreeing to a ceasefire to create a congenial atmosphere for the negotiations, there have been 153 serious violations of those agreements by the Sri Lankan government:
building up of its armed forces in the Tamil areas with new camps, weapons, etc;
attacks on the Tamil civilians in the Eastern Province;
arrests of many without a magistrate or local officials;
denial of information on the missing 2,000 Tamils;

not releasing the Tamil detainees (a much publicised announcement of the release of 625 Tamils still has to be implemented); continuing Sinhala colonisation of the Eastern provinces.

These are just a few of those violations.

- Tamil militants, in resisting oppression, attack only armed Sinhala forces. Not a single Sinhala person was killed by a Tamil before July 1983.

Some undisputable facts.

- There are more than six million Tamil speaking people on the island, more than one third of the population;
- Islam, Christianity and Hinduism are their major religions;
- Plantation Tamils are a major component among them;
- The majority of them live in North-Eastern Provinces and in the districts of Nuwaraellia and Baddlai;
- Tamil militants are not terrorists but resistance fighters.

Tamils are not just defending themselves against Sinhala chauvinism, but are also facing powerful anti-democratic forces such as the MOSSAD and SAS.

- The British connection does not stop with the SAS. Sinhala troops have been trained in the British isles; they supply Sri Lanka with gunboats, weapons and cash for the purchase of arms elsewhere.
- South Africa is used as the transit point for these shipments of arms.
- These foreign elements are involved in initiating inter-communal violence in the Eastern Province.

For further information, please contact:

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