

Statement made by Mr.H.W.Jayewardene, Q.C., Leader
of the Sri Lankan Delegation on 9th July at the
evening sessions - Thimpu Talks.

For the purpose of the cessation of violence and in order to create a congenial atmosphere for an acceptable political solution, it was agreed that there would be a series of steps implemented by both parties in three phases over a period of several weeks. This period was agreed upon recognising that it was not practicable to complete all these steps in a shorter period. The original date for holding of talks was expected to be in or about the middle of August. It was later decided that this should be advanced to a date commencing on 8th July. There was, however, no agreement reached in respect of any variation in the periods originally fixed for the completion of the three phases. The Government of Sri Lanka, however, did take action with a view to accomplishing the various steps that have been envisaged within a shorter period.

Accordingly, restrictions on the use of roads and vehicles were completely lifted. However, restrictions relating to access to security installations only were continued, but this did not interfere in any way with the public right of the use of roads and vehicles. The Akkaraipattu barrier falls into this category.

Enforcement of the regulations relating to prohibited zones have been completely suspended.

Reciprocal obligations on the part of the Tamil militants to stop using the prohibited zone as a staging area for carrying men and material have not been complied with. Several instances of such violations have occurred.

There have been no new settlements in the North and East.

Reciprocal obligations of the Tamil militants to stop attacks on civilian Tamil and Sinhalese in the North and East have been flagrantly violated.

There have been 17 killings of civilians since the 10th of June 1985. The most conspicuous instance is the murder of the Principal of St. John's College, Jaffna, on the highway. This

violation....

violation is particularly significant because it was a direct consequence of the meaningful steps taken by him towards reconciliation between the civilian population and the army stationed in the north.

Doubts have been expressed this morning that the Government of Sri Lanka is not making a bona fide attempt to arrive at a peaceful settlement and to create a congenial atmosphere for these talks. It is ironical that this allegation should have been made by EPRLF. We have sufficient evidence that EPRLF and LTTE organised demonstrations against the peace talks. On 8.7.85, the militants belonging to the EPRLF and LTTE had organised five demonstrations in Jaffna. Each demonstration had over 2000 people. Armed militant had directed traffic and had also forced vehicles off the roads; also students were forced to walk out of schools. These demonstrations have been the direct result of acts of intimidation by militants who have forced unwilling civilians, including school children, to participate by force of threats and armed intimidation. In the course of one of these demonstrations, a grenade carried by one of the armed militants exploded causing the death of two of the militants. This exercise was to stall the peace talks.

In accordance with the understanding, the security forces have not carried out any cordon-and-search operations after 18th June 1985.

Reciprocal obligations of the Tamil militants to cease attacks on economic targets and private property have been violated. Widespread robbery of such items as motor cycles, tractors, trailers and trucks which are clearly intended for future use by the militants groups have taken place.

In view of the numerous violations of the reciprocal obligations on the side of the militants, ^{the} Government of Sri Lanka has proceeded cautiously in regard to the lifting of the Surveillance Zone, and as a first step, has permitted fishing to take place within the three mile limit.

There has been a continuous flow of men and weapons from Tamil Nadu as well as continuous violations of the cease fire. Over 110 incidents have been reported so far, including 17 murders.

Further relaxation of the Surveillance Zone has not been possible on account of continuing violations by the Tamil militants of the reciprocal obligations to refrain from bringing in men.....

men and material from outside Sri Lanka.

In respect of the understanding that the Government would stop infusion of further resources to the armed forces and the police, it was the Government's understanding that this would apply to the armed services and police stationed in the north and east and would not extend to the normal inflow of equipment, etc. required for the defence of the Island.

The only complaint made against the Government in this respect is the delivery of six aircraft and the alleged arrival of 50 R.A.F. personnel. These six aircraft were delivered after 18th June in connection with a contract entered into 6 to 9 months earlier. There is no truth in the allegation that 50 R.A.F. personnel were brought into Sri Lanka. In terms of the contract for the supply of aircraft, the services of two pilot trainees were obtained for training Sri Lanka pilots.

In respect of the steps envisaged under phase 2, these were not intended to be completed during the 3 week period which ends today - 9th July. Accordingly, there was no obligation to suspend the curfew till today. However, the Government has lifted the curfew in the north and east with effect from tonight.

In respect of the obligation on the part of the militants to refrain from carrying arms, we had an admission this morning that two fully armed members of the LTTE carrying grenades were apprehended by Forest Guards. This conduct on the part of these two members of the LTTE therefore constitutes a clear violation of their obligations.

On the 24th of June, Army personnel who had gone out to seek medical treatment were fired upon by militants of the EPRLF and they returned fire. In consequence one militant was killed and 2 S.L.R.s were recovered.

Complaint has also been made that the Government is not acting in good faith in that detainees have not been released in sufficient number, in accordance with the agreement that those in custody against whom charges have not been filed would be released. The number of detainees in custody is 1197. During the next ^{two} days, the number to be released is 643. Cases against 554 have been referred to the Attorney-General. He may recommend the release of a few more in due course.

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The obligation in respect of detenues is related to Phase 3 and, therefore, there has been no breach by the Sri Lankan Government on this matter. The Government of Sri Lanka is taking steps to ensure that its obligations will be fulfilled in the course of Phase 3.

There is no restriction on visitors to the plantation areas.

There had been no mass rounding up of youths in the plantation areas.

The two main trade unions, i.e. C.W.C. and J.S.S., are monitoring activities in the plantation areas.

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