

REPATRIATION: Refugees at risk

MEMBER of Parliament Joseph Pararajasingham told a visiting three-member Swiss government delegation in late July that conditions in Sri Lanka were not conducive for the return of asylum seekers from other countries. According to the delegation which was on a ten-day visit, the Swiss government intends to begin returning Tamil refugees in the next two months. There are over 25,000 Tamil refugees in Switzerland and they are to be repatriated in stages.

The Swiss government says that conditions in north-east Sri Lanka have returned to normal and Tamils could go back to home areas in safety. The return of refugees from India is said to indicate that normalcy has been restored. Observers say that the decision is not based on the situation in Sri Lanka, but on conditions in Switzerland and the political climate in Europe. The Swiss government wishes to send the Tamils away and the returns have to be justified. Reasons have to be found for repatriating the refugees so as not to be accused of *refoulement*. The delegation arrived in Sri Lanka to "find" those reasons and not to observe actual conditions.

Tamil refugees are coming under increasing pressure in other western countries too. Germany has decided, according to reports, to return Tamils whose asylum applications have been turned down. The French government has made several changes in administration to make it difficult for Tamils to gain refugee status.

The Sri Lankan government propaganda that civil administration has been restored in Vavuniya, the islands west of the Jaffna peninsula

and the East has provided an added advantage for the Western governments. In reality the army controls only the major urban centres. These towns are under military command and the civilian administration has no power to make decisions. In July the army suffered heavy losses in LTTE attacks in the East and the Vanni.

Refugee organisations in Tamil Nadu say that at least 8,500 refugees have been returned forcibly to Sri Lanka. These organisations have no access to the refugee camps and the refugees were not informed of real conditions in home areas. Many of the 24,000 refugees repatriated from Tamil Nadu since January are still living in refugee camps in Trincomalee, Vavuniya and Mannar under difficult conditions. They are unable to return to their homes because of the fighting. In some areas houses have been completely destroyed and in others soldiers are occupying people's homes.

In the Pesalai refugee camp on Mannar Island controlled by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), thirteen Tamils were arrested in March. After interrogation only 12 persons were released. Four other refugees who returned from India were also arrested by the security forces in Mannar and Vavuniya and their whereabouts are not known. The Vavuniya arrests have been brought to the notice of President Premadasa by Member of Parliament K R Kuganeswaran. Abductions from refugee camps by the army continues. According to human rights group the Parents and Family Members of the Disappeared (PFMD), 6,400 persons have disappeared in the East in recent times.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mrs Sadako Ogata wrote to Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in early May expressing concern over the unstable security situation in Sri Lanka and India's refusal to allow UNHCR to monitor refugee returns in Tamil Nadu. The Indian government temporarily suspended the repatriation programme. Following negotiations, India and the UNHCR exchanged letters on 28 July agreeing for the UNHCR to set up a token presence to monitor a cross-section of the refugees. UNHCR, keen to become involved in the repatriation programme and to establish a presence in Tamil Nadu has changed its policy towards Tamil refugees although the "security situation remains unstable".

UNHCR says it will not object to return of rejected asylum seekers from other countries 'provided basic safeguards of a fair determination procedure have been observed and the possible consequences of return have been assessed taking into account the relative risk of a changing mosaic of safe or unsafe areas'. The international refugee agency adds that 'in general terms, situation in Sri Lanka is marked by continued and protracted civil war and the absence, in the opinion of all observers, of any realistic expectation for a political settlement'. UNHCR recommends 'a fair determination procedure' by dividing Sri Lanka into four areas:

- 1) Areas not generally affected by the armed conflict. eg. Colombo, Kandy, Anuradhapura, that is south and centre of the country.
- 2) Areas under government of Sri Lanka but where situation is not back to normal and sporadic skirmishes

still occur. eg. Mannar Island.

3) Areas affected by armed conflict and only partly controlled by the government. eg. Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Amparai.

4) Areas essentially under LTTE control. eg. Jaffna, Mannar mainland

UNHCR recommends that refugees originating from category 1 areas, namely south and central parts, could, return in safety and dignity. Rejected cases from the other three category areas should be allowed to stay for humanitarian reasons. UNHCR further adds that to determine whether an 'internal flight alternative exists for those refugees originating from south and central areas factors such as presence of close relatives, duration of previous residence and past employment must be taken into consideration'.

While making these recommendations UNHCR has admitted that it lacks adequate monitoring capacity in Sri Lanka. UNHCR recommendations are based therefore not on the real situation in the island UNHCR also suggests that there are delicate and fragile attempts by the Sri Lankan government for a political solution.

The Sri Lankan government has made it clear in recent statements and by its military action that it will continue to pursue a military solution. It has consistently refused to devolve power and the ruling United National Party has not submitted any peace proposals to the Parliamentary Select Committee. Further, the Tamils have no confidence in the government and expect greater intervention by the other nations and the UN in order to bring the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table.

UNHCR speaks of the repatriation of rejected asylum seekers. This would involve the majority of the Tamil refugees. In Britain for example only 75 persons of over 15,000 applicants have been granted refugee status.

The situation in the south and the central areas remain dangerous as far as the Tamils are concerned. Those returning from abroad are specially at risk An observer visiting Sri Lanka

recently found that many Tamils returning voluntarily and those deported from other countries had been arrested at the Katunayake Airport. For example on 12 December 1991 thirteen asylum seekers deported from Greece were taken into custody by the police. Sri Lankan human rights activists say information on arrests at ports are not provided to anyone and there is no facility for monitoring returning refugees. According to Tamil residents in Colombo a number of Tamils arrested at Katunayake Airport have disappeared-

In the past five months, the Sri Lankan press has reported over 600 Tamil arrests in Colombo and Negombo. These arrests were made on 23 different occasions during this period. In April 50 Tamil youths from the North-East who came to Colombo to celebrate the Tamil New Year with their parents were arrested. A number of Tamil youths arriving in Colombo to travel abroad have been detained. Even those who came for medical treatment are being held. In July four students from the north who came for an examination at the North Colombo Medical College were taken into custody. The owners of the house where they were staying in Negombo were also arrested. Our sources in Colombo say 1000 of Tamils have been arrested and many arrests are not reported.

Further, Tamil youths in the Colombo refugee camps have been allegedly taken away by Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP). Press reports in June said the son of the private secretary of a senior Cabinet Minister was arrested by police for abducting at least six Tamils and demanding ransom. There are also gang members, particularly at the Colombo Fort railway station and Pettah, who pretend as criminal investigation officers and demand money from Tamils. In the south there is often rumour about LTTE infiltration. The Colombo newspapers are usually full of reports of LTTE bomb squads, discovery of arms stockpiles and imminent attacks in Colombo. The bomb explosions at the head quarters of the Joint Operations

Command in June 1991 and the Colombo suburb of Maharagama in April 1992 have been attributed to the LTTE. In the guise of apprehending LTTE members the security forces have arrested a large number of innocent Tamils.

Those arrested are held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and are subject to torture and ill-treatment. Under the Act a person may be held incommunicado without trial for 18 months. Many parents and relatives are unable to make *habeas corpus* applications because of the huge legal costs.

Tamils entering the Colombo District from other areas are required to register their names and place of residence at the nearest police station. Some of those who went to register names have been arrested. The police while conducting search operations my with them lists of Tamil residents. People whose names are not on the list are liable to be arrested.

In the Hill Country arrests and disappearances of Tamils continue. A Tamil arrested by police in Badulla had been severely tortured in custody and died later in hospital. Around 50 Hill Country Tamil youths are held in the Colombo Magazine prison, including the president of the Up-country People's Front P Chandrasekaran on allegations of LTTE links. Member of Parliament Muthu Sivalingam has demanded their release as charges have not been filed against them. In May the Ceylon Workers Congress wrote to President Premadasa requesting investigation into the disappearance of fourteen Tamils in the Hill Country.

In these circumstances UNHCR's assertion that Tamils could return to south and central areas in safety and dignity is untenable. The recommendation that in deciding whether an internal flight alternative exists factors such as presence of relatives, duration of previous residence and past employment should be taken into consideration has no basis. If UNHCR believes that these factors would save the Tamils, we must emphasise that this is a misconception

and recommendations have been made for political reasons without any regard for people's lives and understanding of the Sri Lankan conflict- Tamils are liable to be persecuted anywhere as history has proved time and again As stated by us on earlier occasions, only a lasting solution to the Sri Lankan national problem will ensure the safety of not only the Tamils but all communities+

NIGHTMARE AT PALAI

A Tamil who travelled on a motor-cycle from Jaffna to Vavuniya on 1 July described his experiences:

"I began my journey on a motor-cycle at 6am from Jaffna and arrived at Palai at around 8am. A helicopter spotted me and was flying over me. In fear I went into a village and resumed my journey in the night. At Palai there was a bus with 30 passengers and a plane circled above. The passengers rushed out of the bus and ran towards the Vinayagar temple. The plane dropped a bomb which exploded about 400 yards from the bus. Some of the passengers fell into the temple tank in panic We resumed the journey after darkness".

Reports said that three buildings were damaged by airforce bombing at Palai. Five buses inside a coconut estate were destroyed. Iyakachchi, Uriyan, Murasam oddai, Kandavalai and the Jaffna lagoon were heavily bombed. Barrel bombs were also dropped and helicopters strafed the area. People fled to other areas seeking safety+

MILITARY TRAINING FOR POLICE

Policemen in the North-East are to be given military training according to a recent decision by the Ministry of Defence on the request of the Police Department. The request follows frequent LTTE attacks on police stations and policemen. Training to the policemen will be given in army camps+

TIC ACCESSION LIST

A Selection of documents received by TIC in July 1992

SHR 991

Abeyssekera, Vernon

Images of Jaffna: a Government Agent's Recollections

Australia: SLAM Publishing Service; 1989.

56p.

DESCRIPTORS: Arts / Politics / Religion / Caste / Temple Entry / Campaign

GFL 262

Arumugam, s.

Stone sculptures in Colombo Hindu Temple.

Dehiwela: Creative Hands (Pvt) Ltd; 1990.

36p.

DESCRIPTORS: Hindusim / Arts / Places of worship

GFL 263

Anumugam, S.

Ancient Hindu Temples. 2nd ed. Colombo: Ranco Printers & Publishers Ltd; 1981.

86p.

DESCRIPTORS: History/Culture/Architecture /Places of worship

SHR 983

Law and Society Trust: fortnightly review

Colombo: Law and Society Trust; 1-16 July 1992

29p.

DESCRIPTORS: Constitutional Reform / Human Rights/ Politics/South Asia/Sri Lanka / Development

OHR 115

Refugees: An Information Pack for Staff: Draft

London : Newham Council Social Services Department: March 1992

47p. ; maps.

DESCRIPTORS: Refugees/ Political Asylum Welfare Rights/ Housing

SHR 981

Towards the Emancipation of Women: Notes on the National Conference of Tamil Women

compiled by Adele Ann. Jaffna: Women's Front of Liberation Tigers; 1992

24p.

DESCRIPTORS: Women's Rights / Liberation Struggle / LTTE

SHR 978

Malaiyaka Makkal Munnaniyin Uthayam; Oru, Vatalarru Nirppantham (text in Tamil) by P. Canthirasekaram. Colombo: The Kumaran Press; 1992.

DESCRIPTORS: Trade Union \ Politia \ UP-Country Tamils

SHR 992

Thirty Fifth Anniversary Celebration of Sri Shanmuga Home.

Trincomalee; Sri Ganesha Press, 1992.

56p.

DESCRIPTORS: Orphans / Children's Home / Eastern Region /Self-Help Projects-

OHR 120

The Kuwait Crisis: Self-Determination, Self-Defence and the New Global Order

London: Polytechnic of East London; 1992

20p.

DESCRIPTORS: Self-Determination / Politia / United Nations / International Law / Security Council

SHR 993

Sri Sarada Sevashrama Point Pedro, Sri Lanka: a spiritual and Humanitarian Organization in the North of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka: Ranco Printers & Publishers. Ltd.; 1992.

6p.

DESCRIPTORS: Homeless / Orphans / Self-Help / Tamils / Children

OHR 121

The Emerging Right to Democratic Governance by Thomas M.Franck

The American Journal of International Law, 1992.

Vol.86:46, 46p.-91p.

DESCRIPTORS: Self-Determination / National Governments / United Nation's / Freedom of Expression / Electoral Rights / Human Rights

JULY DIARY

JULY 1

PEACE OFFER REJECTED:

Seven Tamil parties and the Ceylon Workers Congress rejected a political peace package initiated by other parliamentary groups. The Tamil parties said that any solution without the merger of the North and the East would be unacceptable.

JULY 2

HINDU COUNCIL DEMANDS INQUIRY:

In a letter to President Premadasa the Hindu Council demanded an inquiry into the airforce bombing of the Tellippalai Thurkaiamman temple in June. Six Tamils died in the attack and over 125 were injured.

JULY 3

FIGHTING RESUMED:

Fresh fighting erupted shortly after Sri Lankan troops broke out of their forward lines at **Vetrilaikemi in the Jaffna peninsula** to advance north-west. Reports said troops were making slow progress because of landmines.

JULY 4

ARMY CAPTURE TERRITORY:

The army backed by air cover captured Periyapachchilaipalli, according to reports. Officials said that security forces took two days to capture the same area in a similar offensive last year to lift the siege of the **Elephant Pass camp**.

PLANES HIT LTTE VEHICLES:

According to a military spokesman airforce planes bombed three LTTE vehicles allowing helicopter-borne troops to land at the edge of the Jaffna lagoon.

JULY 5

AIRFORCE PLANE

EXPLODES: A Chinese-made Y-8 aircraft carrying ammunition, fuel, barrel bombs and rations for troops in Jaffna exploded in mid-air and crashed north of Elephant Pass. All nineteen people aboard including six airforce officers were killed.

JULY 6

SLFP REJECTS PEACE PLAN:

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party rejected the four-point plan drawn by the Tamil parties for the 'resolution of the national problem. The SLFP parliamentary group said that permanent merger of the North and the East was unacceptable.

JULY 7

ARMY TAKES LTTE BASE:

Intense fighting was reported in Tenmaratchy. A military spokesman said that the army captured an LTTE base with several underground bunkers and recovered arms and food.

THREAT TO PEACE: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha said that so long as LTTE is active, threat to peace and normalcy continues and the only solution was the eradication of the militant movement.

JULY 8

NOTICE ON LTTE: The Tamil Nadu government issued notice on the LTTE under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 to explain why it should not be proscribed. The Indian government order banning the LTTE has been referred to a Tribunal for adjudication.

JULY 9

TROOPS CAPTURE JUNCTION: After intense fighting the army announced that the Iyakkachchi junction north of Elephant Pass had been captured. Troops were supported by airforce bombing. The army and the LTTE were reported to have suffered heavy casualties.

JULY 10

LAWYERS THREATENED:

General Secretary of Lawyers for Human Rights Kalyananda Tiranagama complained to President Premadasa that the staff of the organisation had been threatened by armed men and told to stop filing fundamental rights applications in the Supreme Court.

JULY 11

ATTACK ON ARMY CAMP: A well-fortified army outpost at Katupotha, north-west of Anuradhapura was overrun in 'a predawn raid by the LTTE. Fifty two soldiers including Lt. Pethiyagoda and two non-commissioned officers were killed. Eleven others were seriously injured. Large quantities of arms, ammunition and communication equipment were taken by the LTTE.

JULY 12

JVP ESCAPEES ARRESTED:

Seven members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) were m-arrested after they escaped from the Pelawatte detention centre. Police said three others were still at large. According to human rights organisations many among the 7,000 JVP detainees released had been rearrested or have disappeared.

JULY 13

INDICTMENT ON TAMILS: The Colombo High Court served indictment on six Tamils in connection with the bombing of the Colombo head quarters of the Joint Operations Command in June 1991.

JULY 14

ARMY DESERTERS TO BE PARDONED: Military sources

announced that the 4,000 army deserters would be taken back in view of the losses suffered at the hands of the LTTE. The same sources said that in the last two years 2,300 soldiers were killed and 7,300 wounded.

CURFEW IMPOSED: Indefinite curfew was imposed in Kandaveli

AGA Division in Kilinochchi District and Pudukudiyiruppu AGA Division in Mullaitivu District. Civilians were advised by the army to move into a milk collecting centre and a school.

JULY 15

MUSLIMS MASSACRED: Armed men fired on a bus at Kirankulam in Batticaloa District killing 19 Muslims and injuring five others. Defence officials accused the LTTE who have denied involvement.

JULY DIARY

JULY 16

HELICOPTER FIRES ON

BOAT: An airforce helicopter fired on a boat carrying civilians crossing the Jaffna lagoon near Kilali.

Passengers, including women were forced to **jump into the** water and swim for the shore. Military sources said curfew was imposed to destroy any boat attempting to cross the lagoon.

JULY 17

COMMITTEE INTO KILLINGS

APPOINTED: The Ministry of Defence appointed a three-man Committee to inquire into the massacre of Muslims at Kirankulam on 15 July. The Committee members are retired District Judge CGL de Alwis, Commander Ravindran Arunthavanathan and Superintendent of Police MA Majeed.

JULY 18

NEW GUN BOATS FOR NAVY

Three Chinese-built gun boats were added to the navy's fleet operating in the North against the LTTE. These boats which earlier had technical problems were repaired by Chinese technicians. Each boat cost SL rupees 150 million (f 1.88 million).

JULY 19

MUSLIM CONVENTION: The

National Convention of Muslims convened by the Muslim Information Centre in Colombo resolved that the North and the East should be delinked permanently. The Convention was attended by Parliament Speaker MI-I Mohamed and Muslim Religious Affairs Minister AHM Aswer.

JULY 20

GA URGES FUEL SUPPLY TO

NORTH: Jaffna Government Agent K Manickavasagar said that the number of displaced persons in the Jaffna District had increased to nearly 350,000. There is an acute shortage of kerosene, coconut oil and **soap in** Jaffna and urged Additional Rehabilitation Commissioner Charitha R-matte to take immediate

steps to send these items. According to the GA kerosene was essential in Jaffna because of the total cut in electricity supply.

JULY 21

PASSENGERS KILLED: Ten Muslim passengers travelling to Colombo were killed by gunmen near Sithandy in Batticaloa District. The LTTE was blamed for the attack.

BUDDHIST PRIEST KILLED: The

chief priest of the Tantrimalai Buddhist temple in Anuradhapura District Ven. Kuda Wimalagama was killed by a bomb. The temple is situated **between two army camps.**

JULY 22

KILLED BY ARMY: At Pulipainthakal in the East two Tamils alleged to be LTTE members were shot dead by the army.

JULY 23

ARRESTED ON ANONYMOUS

PETITIONS: Member of Parliament T V Sennan said during a debate on the extension of the emergency, that several of the Hill Country youths held in the Colombo Magazine prison had been arrested by police on anonymous petitions.

JULY 24

MEDICAL STUDENTS ARRES-

TED: Four Tamil medical students were arrested by the police in Negombo. The police said one of them was the brother of Batticaloa LTTE leader Newton. The students had come to Colombo to sit for an examination at the North Colombo Medical College.

JULY 25

NEW PLANES FOR AIRFORCE:

Military sources said that the airforce would acquire a new squadron of attack aircraft to provide support to troops in operations against the LTTE. The new aircraft could carry double the weapons load of the SIAI Marchetti aircraft currently used by the airforce.

JULY 26

TELO URGES TALKS: The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO)

urged the government to begin talks with the LTTE in the interest of the people and to avert a holocaust.

JULY 27

MUSLIM ARMY UNIT DEMAN-

DED: Sri Lanka Muslim Congress leader MHM Ashraf demanded the setting up of a separate Muslim unit within the army to fight the LTTE. He said Muslim youths were prepared to die in the cause of destroying the LTTE.

JULY 28

REFERENDUM POSTPONED:

The referendum to decide whether the Northern and Eastern provinces should remain merged permanently, to be held on 28 August was postponed to 5 March 1993 by a presidential proclamation.

SOLDIERS KILLED:

Four soldiers were killed in a LTTE landmine attack in Iyakachchi. Four others were injured.

JULY 29

AMBUSH IN BATTICALOA:

Thirty five security personnel were killed in a LTTE ambush on the Polonnaruwa-Batticaloa road between the villages of Navaladi and Meeyakulam.

ATTACK IN TRINCOMALEE:

Two police stations, one at Sambaltivu and the other at Athimoddai in Trincomalee District were simultaneously attacked by the LTTE at 1.00am. Four policemen and a Home Guard were killed.

JULY 30

TAMILS DISAPPEAR:

Seven Tamils in the Valaichenai area of Batticaloa District **disappeared.** They are from Kannakipuram, Union Colony and Pudukudiyiruppu.

JULY 31

TAMILS ABDUCTED: CWC

Passara representative said that three Tamils from Canavarelle Estate were abducted by armed men. The men said that they were from the **police.**

COLONISATION: A grave threat to peace

RECENT reports suggest that the Sri Lankan government has intensified Sinhalese colonisation in the North-East, particularly in the Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Amparai Districts.

Under the Manal Aru (Weli Oya) colonisation scheme, began as part of the Mahaweli Development Programme in the Mullaitivu District, 5140 acres of land has been colonised and upto May 1992 Rupees 3.4 billion (₹ 425 million) has been spent on the scheme. Around 17,000 Sinhalese people have been settled by the government in Manal Aru. The **purpose** of this particular colonisation scheme, apart from dilution of the Tamil population resulting in reduction of representation in Parliament and other elected bodies, is to create a zone between the Northern and Eastern provinces that would permanently divide the Tamil Homeland

Seven Tamil parties and the Ceylon Workers Congress have said that any solution to the national problem without the permanent merger of the North and East would be **unacceptable**. In a recent interview former Airforce chief Harry Gunetilleke said that a political solution to the national problem should be **pursued** and the demand by the Tamils for the permanent merger of the North and East should be taken seriously. The government requires more time to continue colonisation in Manal Aru, so that when the area is concentrated with the Sinhalese it could tell the Tamils that the merger of the two provinces was now impossible. Victory in the war in the North would consolidate this position. This appears to be one of the reasons for the government rejecting peace initiatives and the apparent dependence on the Parliamentary Select Committee which now appears doomed to **fail**. The failure by the ruling United National Party to submit proposals to the Select Committee also seems to be intentional and part of this strategy.

In Trincomalee District, Sinhalese colonisation is planned in 13,009 acres of land and in the Tamil areas of **Eechilampathai, Dehiwatte, Thoppu, Kilyveddi** and Seruwila. A large number of Sinhalese have already been settled in these areas. Within the Trincomalee town under a "Town Development Scheme" Sinhalese are being settled. Areas such as Nilaveli and Kuchchaveli where Tamils were displaced following intense fighting and bombing by the airforce, colonisation is taking place.

Trincomalee is regarded as a place of strategic importance by the government, particularly because of the harbour which could accommodate large fleets. Therefore it is the intention of the government to make Trincomalee a completely Sinhalese area. There are 157 security force camps and military posts in Trincomalee and Manal Aru and over **30,000** troops are stationed in these areas.

The **Amparai** electoral district in the East was renamed Digamadulla in Sinhala a few years ago. The Administrative District of Amparai was carved out of the Batticaloa District in 1963 to create a Sinhalese majority area after intensive colonisation. This District had an ethnic mix with the Sinhalese numbering only 2394 as voters in 1947. But by 1982 the number swelled to 78,378 with the total number of Sinhalese in the District reaching a staggering 146,371.

The Digavapi Sacred Area Project played an important part in **reshaping** the ethnic mix of the District. Ten thousand acres of land occupied by Muslims were distributed under the Project to the Sinhalese who moved in from other districts. State aid in the form of housing projects, model villages and loan benefit schemes were provided. Such benefits were denied to the Muslims and Tamils in the District.

In **Amparai** the population of Muslims fell from 46.4% in 1963 to 41.5% in 1981 and the population of

Tamils slumped from 23.8% to 19.9%. Tamil militancy has been sized upon as the excuse for the government to drive out the Tamils. Tamils flee villages when violent incidents occur fearing reprisals from the army. Most Tamils have fled to refugee camps in Batticaloa and are unable to return. Often Tamil villagers are driven out **by the army**. In these circumstances colonisation continues in areas vacated by Tamils.

There is a proliferation of security establishments adjoining Tamil and Muslim villages. Twenty nine Special Task Force camps, 5 army camps, one naval base, 9 police stations, 6 Sinhala Home Guard camps and 26 Muslim Home Guard camps have **sprung up**. **These are quite apart** from the army camps and the **police stations** in the predominantly Sinhalese villages.

It has been a long-standing demand of the Tamils that government sponsored colonisation of Tamil areas must end. This was recognised as a major stumbling-block for the resolution of the national problem in the 1977 election manifesto of the ruling United National Party. The Tamil **parties** and militant groups now aligned to the government have consistently expressed their concern over colonisation. But the government continues without any regard for the opinion or the safety of the Tamils+

FINANCE IRREGULARITIES IN MAHAWELI MINISTRY

The Sri Lankan Auditor General has revealed that funds had been mishandled by the Ministry of Lands, Irrigation and Mahaweli Development. The Ministry also failed to comply with regulations relating to finance in village Irrigation Rehabilitation Programmes funded by the International Development Association in 1990. According to the Auditor General, among other irregularities, items to the value of over rupees 40 million in accounts could not be verified or vouched in audit due to the absence of relevant documents+

Situation Report

LAW STUDENT CHARGED

The Attorney-General filed charges against two Tamils for alleged support given to the LTTE in Colombo between 1.1.88 and 1.8.89. John Bosco Iruthayanathan of Thalady and third year law student at the Colombo University Miss Indraganarani are charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act+

BAN ON FISHING AFFECTS FISHERMEN

As a result of the ban on fishing in the Jaffna lagoon the livelihood of over 10,000 fishing families has been affected. Shelling and bombing of coastal areas by the security forces have added to their misery. The ban has caused a steep rise in the price of fish in the Jaffna peninsula+

TRANSPORT OF CHEMICALS BAN-NED

Joint Operations Command (JOC) has once again banned the transport of chemicals to the Medical Faculty of the Jaffna peninsula. The earlier ban had been lifted following representations and special permission granted for transport of chemicals to the Faculty. University sources said the shortage of some of the chemicals required by the Faculty had affected the courses+

BATTICALOA BUS DEPOT UNDER THE ARMY

The army is using three buses belonging to the Batticaloa Bus Depot for several months. Depot officials say that the depot requires 70 buses, but only 21 are available and of these three buses have been commandeered by the army+

TAMILS REFUSED MEDICAL TREATMENT

Reports say that doctors at the Trincomalee government general hospital are refusing to treat Tamil patients. Tamil doctors and nurses have been transferred to areas in the South. Refusal of treatment by the new Sinhalese doctors and nurses is causing concern among the Tamils+

SELECT COMMITTEE FOR ELECTION COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

A Parliamentary Select Committee will be appointed to examine the Election Commissioner's report on the general election held on 15 February 1989. The government has not allowed debate on the report, which is said to be very critical about the conduct of the elections, despite repeated demands and protests within and outside Parliament by the Opposition+

DISAPPEARANCES COMMISSION VISITS POLICE STATIONS

According to the Disappearances Commission there are 5,875 detainees in five detention centres and nine rehabilitation centres. The Commission is making unannounced visits to police stations to meet detainees. The Commission has already visited police stations at Wellavaya, Tissamaharama, Hambantota, Tangalle, Matara and Oalle. On earlier occasions when visits had been announced allegations were made that detainees were removed to other locations during visits of the Commission+

TAMIL ABDUCTED IN RAGAMA.

A Tamil travelling from Vavuniya to Colombo was abducted at the Ragama railway station on 1 July by two persons who said that they were soldiers. These persons had said that T Anantharajah was being taken for inquiries. T Anantharajah who at the time had Rupees 50,000 with him has not returned to Colombo+

HINDU SCHOOLS TO BE CLOSED

Twenty eight Hindu schools in the Batticaloa District are to be closed because of the lack of funds. Financial provision for these schools had been earlier made by the Hindu Affairs Ministry. But the funding has been stopped for the last three years. Sources say Batticaloa schools are being discriminated in the provision of funds by the Ministry+

ANOTHER MASSACRE AT KOKKADDICHOLAI

Batticaloa MP Joseph Pararajasingham has complained that ten Tamil civilians were killed by the security forces during search operations on 26 and 27 June in the Kokkaddicholai area. The killings took place at Nellikkadu, Samanthiaru and Pulukkunamadu. Vellachi Malipody, Thangamma Malipody and Malipody Pathmanathan all of the same family were killed in helicopter attacks while working in their paddy field. Mylar Sinnathamby his wife Theivanai and son Sinnathamby were shot dead and their bodies were burned. Kannappar Sinnavan and his wife were burned alive in their hut. According to the MP thirteen Tamils were also arrested in the area+

Tamil appeal to Canadian government

THE Tamils of Canada are requesting expatriate Tamils in other countries to address a petition to the Secretary of State for External Affairs urging appropriate action to ensure that Tamils are granted their legitimate rights in Sri Lanka and their safety is ensured. The draft petition of the Canadian Tamils is given below. The letter need not be in this form. However, the facts referred to in the draft are relevant and we urge that points raised are included.

**Hon. Barbara J. McDougall
Member of Parliament
Secretary of State for
External Affairs
House of Commons Ottawa
Ontario K1A 0A6
Canada**

Honourable Minister,

On the 9th anniversary of the July 1983 genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka, I write to express my grave and urgent concern at the continuing war waged by Sri Lanka on the Tamil people.

On 28 July 1984 British parliamentarians and prominent men and women who love humanity, such as David Alton MP, Paddy Ashdown MP, Norman Atkin MP, Prof. John Barret and Sir David Lane made a public appeal which was published in 'The Guardian' on the same day. They said:

'The ethnic violence which erupted in Sri Lanka in July 1983 brought untold misery to the Tamils. They were beaten, hacked and burnt to death in a frenzy of racial hatred. Their houses and businesses were selectively looted and destroyed. The Sri Lankan government admitted that the violence was pre-planned and well organised and even sections of the security forces joined in the attacks

against the Tamils. Fifty three Tamil detainees held in a maximum security prison were brutally killed on July 25 and July 27. Yet to date no impartial enquiry into these violent attacks has taken place'

The above appeal like so many appeals by independent and impartial observers, has gone unheeded by the Sri Lankan government. Upto now, no inquiry leave alone an impartial me, has been held into the planned murder of thousands of Tamils in July 1983.

Canadian Human Rights Mission to Sri Lanka (January 1992) after its fact-finding visit has made 43 recommendations. Among these, recommendations 1 and 4 are as follows:

1. "The Sri Lankan government and the LTTE must agree to an internationally monitored cease-fire leading to a negotiated political settlement. The international community must apply pressure to achieve these objectives".

4. "Canada should take the lead to facilitate international mediation of the conflict through the United Nations, the Commonwealth or another appropriate multilateral body".

The Prevention of Terrorism Act which was described by the International Commission of Jurists in 1984 as "an ugly blot on the statute book of any civilised country continues to remain on Sri Lanka's statute book today.

The Sixth Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution which virtually disenfranchised the Tamils by the ban imposed on Tamil political parties in which Tamil Members of Parliament lost their seats in Parliament.

The Sixth Amendment is repugnant to Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and a death-knell to democracy.

Today Sri Lanka's army, navy and airforce seek to invade the Tamil Homeland and Sri Lanka's State Minister for Defence has given public expression to the government intent of a military solution.

The conclusion is inescapable. The attack by Sri Lanka has the clear intent of bending the Tamil people to the will of the Sinhalese majority within the confine of a unitary state.

Sri Lanka's refusal to recognise the Tamil right of self determination and to enter into negotiations for the establishment of political structure within which all communities may live in peace and freedom must surely be condemned by the international community. Foreign aid to Sri Lanka feeds the unjust war against the Tamils.

I earnestly request,

- 1) to save the Tamils from genocidal massacres and help to bring peace through international mediation;
- 2) to lift the economic blockade of the Jaffna peninsula and help in sending immediate food relief and urgently needed medical supplies;
- 3) to stop the colonisation of Tamil areas with Sinhalese people thereby prevent Tamils from being reduced to a minority in their traditional Homeland.

Yours sincerely,

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