



TAMIL EELAM INEVITABLE IF WAR CONTINUES

THE Sri Lankan military assault on the Jaffna peninsula launched in May continued throughout June. Iyakkachchi and Paranthan areas north and south of Elephant Pass came under intensive aerial bombardment and shelling from camps devastated other areas. The government **appears** to have decided to pursue a military solution.

Political analysts in Sri Lanka say that there are two broad opinions in the island relating to the resolution of the national problem. There is a section of opinion which advocates that all efforts and resources must be consolidated and aimed at achieving a lasting political solution. They say such a course of action will save lives, improve the economy and bring about the goodwill that is so necessary to prevent the country from disintegrating.

The other section of opinion comprising the majority of the Sinhalese and the government favour a military solution, according to these analysts. This section believes that the backbone of the L'ITE must be broken before considering a political solution. Weakening of the LTTE would mean a political solution on **their term**. In other words they will not allow substantial devolution which would satisfy the **aspirations** of the Tamils. The Thondaman proposal, which was said to form an acceptable basis for negotiations is a case in point. Racial tension was whipped-up by vehement protests against the proposal, particularly by elements within the Buddhist clergy.

The preference of the military option is believed to be the reason for

the replacing of Hamilton Wanasinghe with the hard-line Cecil Waidyaratne as the army commander. Hamilton Wanasinghe's preference of immediate action for a political solution, led to his downfall.

General Waidyaratne has been given full powers to conduct the War. However, the army seems to realise that the LTTE cannot be eliminated because of the fact that they have become a powerful military machine in the pursuit of an independent state of 'Tamil Eelam'. The government strategy therefore is to marginalise the LTTE militarily and politically. Military marginalisation takes the form of killing as many LTTE cadres as possible and preventing arms **supplies** to the LTTE, effectively seizing the **opportunity** provided by Indian measures to curtail movement of the LTTE in the Palk Strait

Meanwhile, various other methods have also been adopted to marginalise the LTTE within the Tamil community. Firstly, imposition of the economic blockade has resulted in the lack of food and medicine causing immense hardship to the people. Secondly, strict control of travel into and out of the Jaffna peninsula, the danger of air attacks and prohibition of travel during military operations have severely restricted movement. Thirdly, continuous bombing and shelling of the Jaffna peninsula and the dropping of leaflets by the security forces ordering people to vacate areas within a very short period of time creates an insecure climate and drives **the people** to psychological breakdown.

These methods chosen by the army

have no doubt caused frustration among the people, but have failed to achieve the full results intended by the army. Consequently, the military has adopted a new strategy of continuously bombing and shelling the coastal areas of the Jaffna peninsula completely destroying the infrastructure in these areas so that the people will have no other alternative but to move to the centre of the peninsula permanently. Large number of people have already moved in this manner. Earlier, during airforce bombing raids, the people took shelter in bunkers and thereafter went about their normal business. But this would become impossible with the complete destruction of the coastal areas. Only the LTTE would be able to move about in these areas and vehicle movement could be easily detected from the air. Furthermore, when people move to the centre of the **peninsula**, the airforce drops leaflets threatening that the army was preparing to advance on these areas, thus creating panic among the people. These pressures are brought on the people so that they will in turn pressurise the L'ITE.

Earlier blockades had not prevented people from moving in and out of the peninsula. Despite military measures people were able to cross the lagoon at Uriyan and Kilali and travel to Vavuniya to buy food. People adopted over a period of time to the new difficulties brought about by the economic blockade. The 45 items banned by the government from being **transported to the north**, were available in shops in Jaffna, although at a high **price**. The reason was that army personnel were involved in

accepting bribes at Thandikulam and allowing these items to the north and the government had no control over such army involvement. Currently extraordinary measures are being taken to prevent people from moving out or into the peninsula. Movement of the people to the centre of Jaffna will undoubtedly create congestion and the consequent inevitable social problems will anger the people and force them to turn on the LTTE. This is another of the army strategies.

Analysts say that even if the military

captures Jaffna, it will never be able to retain it. Furthermore the analysts contend that the army strategy of massive-scale destruction and killing of the people will only serve to strengthen the LTTE. People who desired to leave the north have already left. Those who remain are those who cannot leave and those who do not wish to leave. Those who suffer are those who are poor and the defenceless. The Sinhalese people who would even die to maintain the unitary state are in fact contributing

to the division of the country by preventing devolution and encouraging a military solution. In such circumstances nothing more can guarantee the success of the LTTE and the formation of "Tamil Eelam". Therefore it is time for those who wish to preserve the integrity of Sri Lanka to choose the other option: **'Expend all energy and resources in the pursuit of a political solution'***

New Attempts at Discrimination in Education

Attempts are being made by education authorities in Sri Lanka to introduce further standardisation in university admissions. The GCE (Advanced Level) examination for the 1991/92 university admissions was held in August 1990. Fighting between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan security forces had broken out two months earlier and it was not possible to hold the examination in the North-East.

A special examination for the North-East Tamil-medium students was held in April 1991. Many students travelled to Colombo from the North-East with great difficulty and amidst danger to sit for the examination.

These students are shocked to learn that the "cut-out marks" (the minimum total marks required in the four subjects to qualify for university admission) designated for April 1991 is higher than for the August 1990 examination. For example the cut-out marks for admission to the Engineering faculties was 280 at the August 1990 examination. But for the April 1991 examination conducted for the Tamil students, it has been increased to 3M. This would mean that less Tamil students will qualify for university admission.

A similar attempt at standardisation was made in 1980/81. But in a legal action courts ruled that the two examinations held in respect of university admissions for 1980/81 should not be treated separately.

University admission on the bases of merit came to an end in 1970 when newly elected SLFP government introduced mediawise standardisation under which qualifying marks for Tamil students were higher than for Sinhalese students. The difference in qualifying marks between Tamil and Sinhalese students for admission to the Engineering Faculty of the Peradeniya University for example was 23. In 1974 a 'district quota system was introduced in university admissions in addition to mediawise standardisation, allocating a quota in admission for each district, based on the population of the district. This further reduced the number of Tamils admitted to universities.

The government appointed Keuneman Committee in 1975 recommended the abolition of mediawise standardisation. The Committee also recommended that 70% of the vacancies in universities should be filled on merit, 15% on district quota basis and 15% should be reserved for backward areas.

An all-Sinhalese group of officials which assisted the Keuneman Committee opposed its recommendation and made its own recommendation that 70% should be on district quota and 30% on the basis of merit. Curiously, the government disowned its own Committee and accepted the recommendations of the government **Officials.**

In its 1977 election manifesto the United National Party said that the lack of solutions to the numerous

problems such as education, colonisation, language and employment, confronting the Tamil-speaking people made them 'support even a movement for the creation of a separate state'. The UNP promised to take all possible steps to remedy the grievances of the Tamils when it gained political power.

But all was forgotten when the UNP came to power. The new government, decided to perpetuate standardisation and in 1979 announced that in future admissions to universities only 30% would be on merit., 55% on district quota system and 15% reserved for underdeveloped districts. This turnaround by the UNP government shocked the Tamils and the militant movement began gaining ground.

The educational facilities available to Tamil schools in the plantation areas is the poorest in the island. In the 1960s a rule was introduced to determine whether a school was a Sinhala school or a Tamil school on the basis of the number of citizens studying in the schools. Most plantation children were not citizens and large number of Tamil and Muslim schools became Sinhala schools overnight.

Standardisation badly affected the plantation Tamils. In 1970/71, 18 plantation Tamils had gained admission to the Peradeniya University. In 1971/72 after standardisation the number fell to 11.

The plantation Tamil schools are

discriminated in the supply of equipment. Recently in the Gampola District, the Sinhalese schools received large amounts of educational and sports equipment and musical instruments while each Tamil school received a clock and a few tennis balls.

In Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Mannar and Jaffna a large number of voluntary teachers were teaching in schools, particularly in rural schools.

In some areas without the voluntary teachers it is extremely difficult to run the schools. These voluntary teachers have all been interviewed by the Education Department. But except a few teachers in the Vavuniya District others have not received their appointment. Furthermore, a large number of teachers in the North-East who retired before their age of retirement on a scheme introduced by the government, have so far not received any retirement benefit.

The government claims that business is conducted in all three languages. But in reality correspondence from the Department of Education to schools is always in Sinhala. There are over 350 Tamil schools in the Kegalle District. The Principals of these schools say that all Department circulars are received only in the Sinhala language.

In the North-East the airforce has bombed a number of schools. A school was bombed during an examination recently and a number of students were injured. In the East schools are often searched and many students have been taken into custody. The economic blockade has had a devastating effect on students in the North. Students are unable to study after 6 pm because there is no electricity. This has been compounded by the restriction on kerosene supply to the North.

Standardisation is one of the reasons that made the Tamils to intensify their campaign for rights and lack of solutions to many long-standing problems led to the Tamils taking up arms. Further experiments with standardisation will swell the ranks of the LTTE*

TIC ACCESSION LIST

A Selection of documents received by TIC in June 1992

GFL 254

Navam

Vippulananthar.

Tirukkonamalai: Sri Kanesa Achchakam, 1992. .

50p.

DESCRIPTORS: Biography / Literature / Culture / Education / Music

SHR 945

Suriyakumaran, C.

The Anguish of "83": Sri Lanka's Ethnic Crisis and the way out: Articles & an Epilogue 1983-1989.

Colombo: KV.G.de Silva: 1990.

XII,135P.

DESCRIPTORS: Ethnic conflict / District Development Council / Provincial Councils.

SHR 946

Singh, Depinder

The IPKF in Sri Lanka.

Noida: Trishul Publications, 198?

207p.

DESCRIPTORS: Politics / H- Rights / India / Tamil Homeland / LTTE

GFL 255

Abeysekera, Vernon

Images of Jaffna: a Government Agent's Recollections.

Australia: SLAM Publishing Service; 1989.

56p.

DESCRIPTORS: Politics / Culture / Caste

SHR 941

Sri Lanka: Deliberate Killings of Muslim and Tamil villagers in Polonnaruwa.

London: Amnesty International, June 1992.

10p.

DESCRIPTORS: Killings / Muslims / Tamils / Eastern Region

SHR 942

Fact-Finding Missions on Sri Lanka 1980-1992: an annotated bibliography.

Norway: Sri Lanka Resource Centre; 2nd April 1992.

31p.

DESCRIPTORS: H - Rights / Tamil Homeland / Refugees

SHR 994

Sri Lanka Chronology of Events 1991 compiled by Anton S. Philip

Norway: Sri Lanka Resource Centre; 1992.

No.1, 95p.

DESCRIPTORS: Human Rights Violations / Refugees / Militarisation / Aid

OHR 77

Report on the Asian, African, Caribbean and Other Ethnic Minority People's Health Conferences 1991.

London: Newham Health Authority.

28p.

DESCRIPTORS: Information / Racism / Women / Specific communities / Recommendations / Training

GFL 256

Miot News

London: Medical Institute of Tamils; March 1992.

No.6, 10p.

DESCRIPTORS: Children / Events / AGM / Education / Computing / Appeal

GFL 257

Vadivel, Ira

Tirukkonamalai konesar kovil vatalaru.

Trincomalee: Hindu Dharma Publications; 1984.

56p.

DESCRIPTORS: History / Trincomalee / Temple

JUNE DIARY

June 1

FIGHT FOR ALAMPIL: Heavily armed Sri Lankan troops backed by aircraft advanced on one of LTTE's key bases in Alampil in Mullaitivu District. Alampil is on the LTTE's supply line to their camps in the interior of the Mullaitivu jungles and is a strategic target for the military.

June 2

ATROCITIES OF HOME-GUARDS: In a memorandum to President Premadasa, Prince Kasinathar, MP accused the Muslim Home Guards of committing atrocities against innocent Tamils in Valaichenai in the Batticaloa District. According to the memorandum though the people have identified to the Police the Home Guards responsible for the massacres of Tamils in these areas no action was taken against the perpetrators by the Police. The memorandum urged the President to take immediate action to stop atrocities against innocent Tamils.

June 3

BUS MASSACRE IN KOMARI: Sixteen people have died in a bus massacre by unknown gunmen in the coastal village of Komari in Batticaloa District. Two of those killed were off duty policemen and most of the others were Muslims. The government claims that the attack was carried out by the LTTE and the LTTE denies any involvement.

June 4

SURPRISE ATTACK ON NORTH: Over 20,000 people from Thellippalai and Achchuveli in the North were made homeless overnight when the security forces attacked these areas from air and land without any warning. Displaced people were accommodated in refugee camps in Jaffna.

June 5

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED : LTTE accused the government of "genocidal intent" for the indiscriminate attacks in the North. Over 100

Tamils have been killed and hundreds more have been maimed by aerial bombardment and artillery shelling of population centres according to an LTTE statement. The statement also accused the government of "paying lip service to the path of peace".

June 6

SHELLING FROM ARMY BASES: Indiscriminate shelling by the army was reported in the areas of Alampil, Kumulamunai and Semmalai in the Mullaitivu District and Achchuveli, Thellippalai and Jaffna in the Jaffna peninsula. Over 2,000 people from the affected areas in Mullaitivu are reported to have fled to Nedunkerni and other surrounding areas.

June 7

SOLDIERS AMBUSHED: Troops were attacked by LTTE in the jungles of Mullaitivu. Ten soldiers were reported killed and many others were seriously wounded. The wounded were brought to the hospital in Anuradhapura.

June 8

FIGHTING IN MULLAITIVU: Heavy fighting between LTTE and the security forces was reported in the areas of Kumulamunai and Andankulam in the Mullaitivu District. JOC claimed that they had killed over 30 LTTE cadres, whereas LTTE has claimed victory in the battle.

June 9

ARMY OFFICER KILLED: One senior officer and 12 soldiers were killed when LTTE attacked an army convoy moving from Kattaiparichan to Mahindapura in the Trincomalee District. Reports suggest that LTTE have taken away large quantities of arms and ammunition.

June 10

CIVILIANS KILLED: Sri Lankan airforce indiscriminately bombed the areas of Thellippalai, Sandilippai, Mahiyapitty and Sankanai destroying many houses and buildings. Seven civilians were reported killed and 15 others injured.

June 11

MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN THE NORTH: Over 5,000 people fled from Valikamam North, Ilavalai, Mareesankudal, Karukampanai, Alaveddy, Mathagal and Mullanai and took refuge in schools, temples, houses and community centres, in the areas of Pandatharippu, Sithankemi and Thoddilady when the security forces attacked these areas from air, land and sea. Over 200 people were reported injured and admitted to the hospital.

AIR ATTACK ON ILAVALAI

Four people were killed and over 20 injured when the airforce bombed Ilavalai. Ilavalai Hindu College, Henri College and Nallayan Girls College were also damaged in the attack.

June 12

MILITARY ADVANCE TO SENTHANKULAM: Over 2000 soldiers backed by tanks, helicopter gunships and naval fire advanced seven kilometers and took control of the coastal town of Senthankulam. LTTE is reported to have offered stiff-resistance to the military advance.

June 13

LTTE ATTACKS JOINT-PATROL: One policeman was killed and one soldier injured when LTTE ambushed a joint military-police patrol at Manaduwa-Aluthwatta road in the Vavuniya District.

June 14

AIRFORCE ATTACKED: LTTE attacked an air force patrol at Morawewa in Trincomalee District and killed 2 airmen and two para military soldiers. Troop reinforcements were rushed to the area and after a 30-minute fight the LTTE was reported to have withdrawn.

June 15

ATTACK ON SOLDIERS: Four soldiers, including an officer were killed by a land mine. The soldiers were on patrol when the mine exploded a few metres from the army's defence lines at the town of Alampil,

JUNE DIARY

the area which the army claimed to have seized from LTTE on 1 June.

June 16

ATTACK ON LTTE: According to a military spokesman, 10 LTTE men were killed by army commandos when they stormed the LTTE camp near Karadiyanaru in the Batticaloa District

June 17

MAJOR FORCED TO FIGHT: Major M Wijesundera's efforts to persuade the Supreme Court to stop his transfer to the North on medical grounds had been turned down. This was the first time a member of Sri Lankan armed forces had appealed a court to stop being sent to the battlefield.

June 18

TRINCO REFUGEES: V. Meharajah, President of Thirukovil branch of the Sri Lankan Red-Cross announced that there were 2224 refugee families in the Thirukovil AGA division in Trincomalee.

ABDUCTIONS IGNORED: Passenger train travelling from Colombo to Batticaloa was stopped at Sathurukondan by unknown gunmen and two passengers were abducted. Reports suggest that security forces guarding the train turned a blind eye to the kidnapping.

June 19

ARRESTS OF PLANTATION YOUTHS: T. Iyadurai, President of National Union of Workers accused that some trade unions were responsible for the arrests of plantation youths. He alleged that competition between trade unions and personal rivalries were the reasons for such arrests.

June 20

VISIT TO MANNAR: A fifteen member team consisting of member of parliament and government officers visited refugee camps in Talaimanna Pesalai, Puthukudiyirupu, Thavapuram and Erukampittiy in the Mannar District. Their main purpose

was to meet the refugees, in particular the returnees from India and to discuss their problems.

June 21

DEATH OF CHILDREN ON THE INCREASE: According to a Hospital spokesman there has been an increase in the number of deaths among infants recorded in the Jaffna General Hospital. The main cause for deaths were fever, bronchitis and diarrhoea.

June 22

REMOVAL OF Tamil REFUGEES: C.N.Ramathas, Regional Co-ordinator for Sri Lanka refugees, announced that 21,126 Tamils had been removed to Sri Lanka and another 6,700 would be returned soon. According to him there were 337 refugee camps in Tamil Nadu in June 1990 and now there were only 163 camps with 88,000 refugees.

June 23

LTTE BASE CAPTURED: JOC announced that after an intense exchange of fire, Police Special Task Force have captured an LTTE base in Kanjikudicharu in the Amparai District

June 24

COMMANDOS KILLED: LTTE ambushed an army patrol in Periya Poraithivu in the east killing four commandos.

SHELL ATTACK BY ARMY: Army fired shells indiscriminately from their camps in Mandaithivu and Vethilaikemi into surrounding villages. A shell fired from Mandaithivu camp destroyed a house in Kalviyankadu.

June 25

PLANTATION TAMILS FORCED TO LEAVE: V.P. Ganesh President of the Democratic Workers Congress accused the Prime Minister of trying to implement the Indo-Ceylon Agreement and remove plantation Tamils to India. According to him the period within which the people should have been removed under Srimavo-Sastri Pact elapsed in 1979. He has urged the government to stop this unfair removal on humanitarian grounds.

June 26

LEAFLETTING BY FORCES: Security forces air-dropped leaflets over the Jaffna peninsula warning people to move away from LTTE camps.

June 27

LTTE CAMP DESTROYED: JOC announced that they had destroyed a LTTE camp at Samanthiyaru in Batticaloa District

June 28

SHELLING BY NAVY: The navy indiscriminately shelled the coastal areas of Keerimalai, Senthankulam and Kankesanthurai in the North. People from these areas fled to interior places. Large-scale destruction of houses, schools, community centres, roads and shops were reported.

ARMY 'MOVE TO ELEPHANT PASS: Security forces launched major air, sea and land attacks on Vetrilaikerni coastal area and advanced to Elephant Pass. Heavy fighting was reported at Kaddaikadu, Mulliyan and Pullaveli. Over 5,000 troops were reported to have landed in Vetrilaikerni.

June 29

CBI ENTRY REFUSED: The government formally refused clearance to the legal counsel of India's Central Bureau of Investigation to visit Colombo to finalise India's request for the extradition of LTTE leader V Prabhakaran for alleged involvement in the assassination of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi

June 30

LTTE URGED TO CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE: M.I.M. Mohidin, secretary, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress urged LTTE to change its attitude towards Muslims. He accused the LTTE of ignoring the true feelings of the Tamils who wish to remain close to the Muslims and respect each other. He alleged that until the LTTE's attitude is changed there would not be any permanent peace in the North-East.

Situation Report

CALL FOR DEMILITARISED ZONES

The All Ceylon Hindu Council has called on the government to declare temple areas in the North-East as demilitarised zones. People are usually advised by army to go into places of worship and schools during military operations. But temples and a number of schools have been bombed. Twenty three civilians died when the army fired shells at the Vatrpalai temple in Mullaitivu in May. In Jaffna, the Tellippalai Thurkaiamman temple was bombed killing five persons who had taken refuge in the temple+

LOSS OF LTTE

Two Thousand Eight hundred and one LTTE members died in fighting between 10 June 1990 and 10 June 1992 revealed LTTE leader Y ogaratnam Yogi*

HILL COUNTRY GRADUATES ASSOCIATION FORMED

The Hill Country Graduate Association was formed recently with the objective of unifying the graduates and involving them in social activities. A large number of organisations which are currently functioning without intellectual assistance will benefit. Earlier failure of organisations og intellectuals is attributed to the fact that these organisations did not understand and adopt to the needs of the Hill country. Hill country Tamils hope that the Association will act in the interest of the whole community without being affected by political differences+

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MOTHERS FRONT

The second annual conference of he Mothers Front was held at the New Town Hall in Colombo on 23 June. The Mothers Front was formed following the disappearance of over 40,000 civilians in the south during the 1988-90 period when a massive military crackdown was launched against the JVP. Opposition leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike participated in the meeting. A teacher from Randy named Subasinghe who had lost his son, collapsed and died during the meeting+

BOMBS CAUSE CANCER

Chemicals exuded from bombs is the main reason for the dramatic increase in the number of cancer patients in the North-East, Professor V.K.Ganesalingam said at a seminar on the environment at the Jaffna University in June. When houses bum as a result of bombing toxic fumes mix with the air. Further, bombing has also caused deafness and shock has led to mental illness. Prof. Ganesalingam further said that extensive bombing caused environmental damage and was comparable to using biological weapons+

COMPENSATION DELAYED

Joseph Pararajasingham, MP accuses that payment of compensation to the affected Tamils in the Kikkaddicholai massacre have been delayed. In his petition to President Premadasa he drew attention to the report of the Presidential commision recommending immediate payment+

SLFP URGED TO STAY ON

T.Sitharthan, Leader of PLOTE appealed to the leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party not to boycott the Select Committee. He requested SLFP not to use the Tamil problem for their political advantage. He added further by saying Tamil people took to arms only because in previous rears the parties in the South were concerned with making political capital without addressing the grievances of the Tamil speaking people*

EQUIPMENT DENIED TO MINORITY SCHOOLS

Tamil and Muslim schools in the E3il.l Country are being discriminated in the supply of equipment. Recently 148 schools in the Gampola educational division were given educational and sport equipment and musical instruments by the Central Provincial Council. Tamil and Muslim schools and estate schools received only a clock and a few tennis balls. These schools obtained equipment using funds allocated by Minister Thondaman and the Swedish International Development Agency in the past years. But this year the Provincial Council has ensured that required equipment is not supplied+

VICTIMS REMOVED INVOLUNTARILY

Joseph Pararajasingham accused the army of forcibly removing 250 displaced Tamil families from surrounding villages of Alinchipothna who fled following the masscre*

Situation Report

EPDP PLEDGE SUPPORT TO MUSLIMS

Douglas Devananda, Secretary General of EPDP visited Muslim refugees in Puttalam and pledged his **group's support** to resettle the Muslims in their home areas. He is reported to have said further that EPDP, would play a leading role in building confidence between the Tamil and Muslim communities and to live in harmony in the country+

MERGER OF PROVINCES RULED OUT

President Premadasa told representatives of the eight Tamil **parties** that the ruling United National Party's stand on the permanent merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces remained the same as stated in the party's election manifesto, which had opposed the merger of the two provinces+

AWARD FOR INFORMERS

Government announced attractive awards for information on 12 LTTE leaders in the Batticaloa District. **Wall posters carrying** photographs of these leaders appeared in public places. Security forces also carried out search operations in a number of villages. Young men and women were ordered to assemble at temples and subjected to **interrogation**+

SARVODAYA ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION

Five hundred and fifty thousand rupees has been misused by a Sarvodaya Branch according to Mr Jeyampathy, Regional Coordinator of the organisation at Anuradhapura*

JUDGEMENT RESERVED

The Supreme Court reserved judgement at the end of a record 527 day trial challenging President Ranasinghe Premadasa's election as the country's head of state. The court heard evidence from 977 witnesses during the trial which opened in 1989. The five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice G P S de Silva however, did not say when the judgement would be delivered+

TAMILS CHARGED FOR JOC BOMBING

Six Tamils namely, Navaledchumi Kathiravelu, Shanthini Sivalganathan, Suganthini Vijeyakumar, Rasiah Nadarajah, Sithamparam Selladurai and Arunasalam Surendran were charged at the Colombo High Court in connection with the bombing of the Joint Operations Command **headquarters**+

MENTAL ILLNESS IN NORTH-EAST

Around 50% of those receiving treatment at the Outdoor Patients Department of the Jaffna hospital are psychologically affected, according to Dr.T.Somasundaram of the Jaffna University. Research has revealed **that** since 1983 large number of people have suffered trauma as a result of deaths, loss of property, grievous injury and refugee situations. Children, particularly young students have been affected by the prevailing violent situation. Reports indicate **that counselling facilities in the North-East are totally insufficient for the large number of patients seeking psychological treatment**+

BAN ON FISHING

All fishing operations from Mullaitivu coast to Talaimannar have been banned by the Navy to facilitate combined security operations in the North. The Naval Headquarters have issued orders for their men in the sea to engage any craft other than those belonging to the Navy. An estimated 500 fishermen would lose their daily living due to the ban+

FIREPOWER BOLSTERED

Since the departure of the IPKF in 1990, the Sri Lankan Army has grown in strength from 70,000 to 85,000 and has been strengthened by the infusion of heavy equipment. According to **military** sources, for the first time, the army is better armed than before with the deployment of the newly acquired Chinese T-55 tanks, on which several cadets have been trained at Indian corps schools.

However, the Sri **Air-force** in reported to be facing problems over its F-7 fighter bombers bought from China because of lack of spare parts and shorter runways. Currently only Katunayake is suitable for its take off and landing. Defence sources indicate that China Bay landing strip in Trincomalee would be extended to facilitate operations of F-7 fighters.

Meanwhile, the navy has increased its fire power by adding to its fleet three new Chinese built gun boats each worth Rs 150 million+

LEGAL AID TO UP- COUNTRY LEADERS

President of the UP-Country People's Front P. Chandrasekaran and two other office-bearers BA. Cader and V.T. Dharamlingam are held in police custody in Sri Lanka for over a year under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. According to information received by TIC, trade union rivalry is the main cause for their detention.

In a fundamental rights application, the Supreme Court declared in May 1992 that their arrest and detention were illegal and ordered them to be released. Despite the order they were not released. Currently another case has been filed against them alleging failure to provide information to the police. Until June 1992 they were held at the infamous "Sixth Floor" of the Colombo police head quarters, where they had been subject to severe torture and ill-treatment

The cost of the bail applications and the cases for the three persons would amount to around Rs 600,000 (£ 7500). Lawyers have assured us that this is the minimum amount required as legal cost It is almost impossible to raise such a large amount of money in Sri Lanka The Up-Country People's Front has appealed to the expatriate Tamils and the International Community to generously contribute to assist them in their cases. If you wish to help, please send the money directly to "P.Chandrasekaran, Bank of Ceylon A/C No.1410, Talawakelle, Sri Lanka.

The Tamil Information Centre is endeavouring to also set up a fund to provide legal assistance to the large number. of Tamils detained in Sri Lanka. If you require more information please contact the Centre+

ADOPT A POOR FAMILY APPEAL

The Dryzone Development Foundation (DDF), a registered voluntary organisation functioning with a North-East province focus in Sri Lanka appeals to expatriate Tamils to adopt poor families in the Tamil Homeland. The family adoption project was begun by the DDF to assist families which have lost breadwinners, young widows and orphans to enable them once again to live in the community with dignity and self-respect as a people. It seeks to reach out to families affected by long years of violence and devastation. The DDF emphasises self-reliance and encourages short-term credits and moral support to pursue vocation as a farmer, fisherman or self-employed artisan.

According to the DDF a person requires around SL Rs. 10,000 (£125) as credit grant for a year. Non-financial institutions which provide credit are not functioning in the North-East and the co-operative sector has become defunct. International NGO input is inadequate considering the very large number of families without breadwinners, widows and orphans. There are 6,000 widows in the Jaffna District alone according to a recent survey.

DDF believe people are credit-worthy. According to them "If the assistance is channelled through established village level institutions and if people are properly motivated they will repay the loan, specially woman borrowers".

DDF has sponsored over 200 saving clubs with over 8,000 members in Jaffna, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Amparai and Mannar Districts. NORAD has provided an initial grant of Rs. 1.2

million (£15,000) to set up a Revolving Development Fund.

DDF requests expatriates to support a family by providing £2 (\$4) per week for a period of one year. Donors may also consider providing some "seed money" to begin with Contributions must be made payable to Dryzone Development Foundation and sent direct to them. Donors may also indicate preference of the target group, which should benefit. For further particulars you may contact -

Sri Shanmugarajah
president
Dryzone Development
Foundation
449/3 Galle Road
Mountlavenia, Sri Lanka
Telephone - 724862

Family Adoption forms are also available at the Tamil Information Centre+

